The school year of 2010-2011 spreads out like an extraordinary rich tapestry of productive involvement and opportunities for personal growth at all levels. After 25 years the energy, creativity, talent and generosity, it still manages to amaze me that the momentum is still there. Each year requires that we "begin again"

**Though we live in a world that dreams of ending**
**that always seems about to begin**
**something that will not acknowledge conclusion**
**insists that we forever begin**
("Begin" by Brendan Kenneally")

This year leads into our 25th. There were teachers and parents present at the Graduation Mass for Leaving Certs at the end of the year who have had an intimate connection with each of those years.

In 1987 we attempted to articulate our hopes and aspirations for the new school. We reprint the original which was circulated at that time

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Judge for yourself whether the aspirations outlined are still being met. have no reservations at a personal level. Teachers, students and parents and the wider educational community both

challenge us to realise the dream and affirm all involved on an ongoing basis. The school has truly "ticked all the boxes" and none more so than in the past year.

The September 2011 “Nuachtlitir” and other publications during the year could not possibly capture the richness of the school year. They celebrate academic and sporting endeavours and success. The photographs capture something of the colour and talent in evidence in the school musical and drama. The school corridors throughout the year, speak of an arts and music rich environment which along with so much in Coláiste Choilm is acknowledged nationally.

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National and local media pick up on achievement in the Young Scientist and other competitions and it was especially pleasant this year to see the quality of the Science Department being recognised by the Irish Science Teachers Association and their Pharma Industry partners. A perusal of the 150 “away” sporting fixtures speaks volumes but an additional 112 other co-curricular trips during the year cover ventures as varied as ecological studies in Killarney to Choral competition in Wexford, debating & quizzes, Geography, Art, History, C.S.P.E., Journalism, Religious and photography field trips. Whether it was a T.Y. Outdoor Pursuits trip or an L.C.A. venture the common thread was the enthusiasm of students and the willingness of teachers to create the opportunities and to go the extra mile. This was none more so in evidence than in T.Y. 2010-2011. Students and teachers captured the essence of what the school is about. The T.Y. experience truly provides a context in which students grow and develop in a most wonderful way. The majority of the students were awarded the bronze “An Gaisce” award at their graduation. They were central to Arts, Music, Choral, Film & Performance opportunities on a T.Y. basis but also provided the same opportunities for younger students on a whole school basis. Their generosity and enthusiasm for various “causes” at national and local level was both unrelenting and exhausting. Their publication “Ráiméis” gave some sense of the personal development opportunities that the year provided, the skills they acquired and the joy that they gave. Mar a bhí riamh bhí béim ar oidhreacht, ceol traidisiúnta agus teanga i mbliana. Níl amhras ach go líonann luachanna na scoile bearna i n-anamnacha na ndaltaí. A bhuíochas san do múinteoirí agus pobal iomlán na scoile. Ní dóigh liom go bhfuil sé iomarach a rá go bhfuil fealsúnacht agus spioradáltacht an-shláintiúil mar bhunchloch na scoile. In conclusion I quote from a parent whose children finished in the school last year. Her words are powerfully re-assuring:

**I did not get it wrong**
**I chose wisely for my children**
**I know this now**
**Ten years on when all the work is done**
**And this chapter in their lives**

**This chapter in my life**
**Closes**

**How can I honour**
**The keepers of my children's souls**
**The people who walked with me**
**Through my children's adolesence**
**Journeyed with me with a humanity that**
**I could not have foreseen**
**A humanity that embraced me along the way**
**In ways that may forever go unnoticed**
**But will never be forgotten.**

**( A Parent)**

Pádraig Cinsealach (Principal)
September 2011