

Cloaiste Muire

They decided to accept, and Sr. Aquinas was named as Principal; Sr. M. Sacred Heart, as Vice Principal; Sr. Baptist, as Matron; and Sr. Philomena, as Cook. As a new college had to be erected, the pupils and staff went to Rockhill, Letterkenny for three years, and to Talbot House, Dublin for a further six months.

On 2nd February, 1931, the Sisters arrived in *Tuar Mhic Éadaigh* to find the college in a very unfinished condition. They immediately set to work to get the place ready for the pupils. Fr. Loftus was named as Chaplain to the school on 22nd February, and classes were formed. The pupils who came from Rockhill did the Leaving Cert that year and entered the Training Colleges in Dublin and Limerick in September 1931. Twenty-five pupils came each year for four years, as accommodation was available for one hundred pupils. The Sisters worked through holiday time, and during the month of July from 1932 to 1960, teaching courses in Irish, Domestic Science, for Secondary Teachers, Physiology, Hygiene, Art, and Plain Chant. These were run by the Sisters.

In the 1950's the Department changed policy as they believed that a language cannot be revived solely through the medium of the school and it was decided to discontinue the Preparatory Colleges. In August 1961, they ceased to function as Preparatory Colleges. The last of the Preparatory pupils finished in 1964. In May 1966, the College was leased to the Sisters, and Coláiste Muire became a Branch House under Tuam. The College continued to be a Boarding School, and day pupils were enrolled.

The lease expired in 1981 and the Sisters decided to purchase the property for the nominal sum of £1. Due to the availability of free education and the difficulties of running a boarding school a decision was made at leadership level to phase out Coláiste Muire. This decision was extremely difficult for the Sisters, the teachers, and pupils in the area. In August 1987, agreement was reached with a group of local teachers and others to sell the property to them and they in turn would continue to run the College as an Irish co-educational day school. Approval was granted by the Department of Education. In June 1990, the Sisters left Coláiste Muire and on 12th July, 1990, the keys were handed over to the new administration. Coláiste Muire continues to offer education to the pupils in the catchment area.