

The College Crest



The redesign of the College crest reinstates the original form of the Loyola coat of arms, while taking the opportunity to acknowledge the college colours, founding date, and Jesuit ethos within its form.

The previous crest was created in 1962, replacing one Fr. Jeffcoat SJ designed in 1907. The article in the 1962 Belvederian by Fr E. Murphy SJ traces some of the changes to the crest since 1907. This new crest is part of a refreshed visual identity that expresses the history and provenance of the College, while recognising the Christian values that guide our path forward.

1

The seven black stripes reference St. Ignatius coat of arms and the college colours.

The family coat of arms of St. Ignatius combines two ancient and distinguished families, the Oñaz and the Loyola families. In 1321 seven sons of the Oñaz family fought beside their king with bravery and great distinction. In recognition of this, they were awarded a coat of arms of seven red diagonal stripes on a field of gold. These possibly commemorate the seven brothers of the family who fought with distinction in the battle of Beotibar near Tolosa in 1331.

2

The Loyola family's generosity in feeding their soldiers was such that the leftovers in the pot were enough to feed the countryside wolves that came at night. The pot symbolizes their generosity. The name Loyola can be interpreted as the contraction of the Spanish lobos y olla, 'wolves and pot' or 'an abundance of loam'.

3

IHS is a christogram, a combination of Greek letters to represent 'Jesus Christ'. The christogram has had other meanings attributed to it including 'Iesus Hominium Salvator' — Jesus Saviour of Men. St. Ignatius of Loyola adopted the christogram in his seal as general of the Society of Jesus (1541), and thus it became the monogram of the Jesuits.

4

The Society of Jesus founded St Francis Xavier's College in a disused convent on Hardwicke Street with nine students in 1832, three years after Catholic Emancipation, making it the second oldest Catholic college in Ireland for lay students. We share in a long Ignatian tradition of 'Educating Men for Others'. (Men & Women for Others by Pedro Arrupe SJ, Valencia, 1973)

Motto

The motto *Per Vias Rectas* ('By straight ways or paths') was adopted by the College in 1934 by the Rector, Fr Morris SJ.

