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Class sizes shrink; city to benefit

By PADDY MORONEY

THE Government has authorised the teacher training college in Limerick to take in 155 first-year students this year.

This is a major reversal of existing policy.

This 55 per cent increase in the intake at Mary Immaculate College will, if continued over the next three years, bring the total enrolment to over 1,000 students.

This has an immediate beneficial impact for the city.

This year's intake is in addition to about 160 who will be joining the BA

course in October, among them about 20 "mature students", i.e., those over 24 years of age.

The 155 B Ed students coming in this year are in addition to seven of the "mature years" category.

The reason for the upping of the B Ed intake to Mary Immaculate College, this year, from 100 to 155 - a similar increase has been authorised for the teacher college at Dromcondra, in Dublin - is the commitment given in the Programme for Government.

This agreed to reduce the pupil/teacher ratio to 22/1 by September 1996, and to have a maximum class size of 29 by the same time.

Welcoming the new measure, the Registrar of Mary Immaculate College, former mayor, Tony Bromell

explained:

"What has been happening is that, over the last three years, we were allowed a first-year entry of 100, and we are increasing this to 155, this year."

He said that, added to the other intakes for the B Ed and B A degrees, the college would be very busy indeed.

"We are delighted with

it," he continued.

He said that the figures for average class sizes could be deceptive, in some instances, as some classes at the present time could be well above this figure, even as high as 40.

Effectively, the new intake would make Mary Immaculate College as active as it was in the early 1980's.



Pictured at the Limerick reception for the 1993 Rose of Tralee participants were Michael Crowley, area manager, Guinness, and the Limerick Rose, Osyth O'Flaherty.

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