



# Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed

Tel: 0504-21734 E-mail: [colaistemhuire@gmail.com](mailto:colaistemhuire@gmail.com) Website: [www.cmco.ie](http://www.cmco.ie) Fax: 0504-23166

## Important Dates

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas holidays

**January 6<sup>th</sup>**

School reopening in 2014

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year student testing

**January 15<sup>th</sup>**

Closing date for UCAS (applications in the UK)

**February 1<sup>st</sup>**

Normal closing date for CAO applications

**February 4<sup>th</sup>**

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> years

Parent/Teacher meeting

## Principal's Address

It is that time of year again and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all our students, teachers, staff and their families a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. Students are very busy preparing for Christmas examinations and I would like to wish them the best of luck also.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that from September 2014 First Year students will be able to use iPads. This will enhance the learning process and also reduce the weight of the school bag.

I also wish to announce the new Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Technology Scholarship. Two scholarships to the value of €1,000 for incoming First Year students who can display an aptitude in science, technology, engineering and maths. Winners will receive a free iPad, free eBooks along with many other valuable prizes.

As you read through this newsletter you will see that it has been an extremely action packed and exciting year to date. The year started with excellent Leaving Certificate results and we wish our past pupils the very best of luck in their respective universities, colleges and world of work. The excellent Junior Certificate results followed and well done to all involved. Our newly refurbished canteen was opened by Mr John Kennedy, Chairperson of our Board of Management and Councillor. We also had our musical extravaganza "Grease" which was a tremendous success and was thoroughly enjoyed by a packed house on both nights.

We secured success in Hurling, Soccer, Gaelic Football, Volleyball and Athletics. Our First Year students have settled in very well to life in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed and are involved in all extra curricular activities.

I will conclude by wishing our young scientists Curtis Ryan and Brendan Callanan the very best of luck in the BT Young Scientist Competition in early January and congratulations to Claire Moore, Winner of the Thurles Lions Club Young Ambassador of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

*Denis Quinn, Principal*

*Congratulations to  
6<sup>th</sup> year student*

*Claire Moore who recently won the Thurles Lions Club Young Ambassador of the 21st Century Competition. Best wishes to Claire in the Regional Finals!*



Our First Year Hurling Team pictured with their coaches Mr J Brennan and Mr Paddy Stapleton enjoyed many successes this term to progress to the final of the hurling blitz.



*Best of Luck to Curtis Ryan & Brendan Callanan in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in January.*



## Technology Scholarship 2014

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed is delighted to announce the introduction of its *Technology Scholarship* for two lucky students enrolling in *First Year for September 2014*. The bursary to the value of €1,000 will include an iPad, school eBooks and many more valuable prizes.

This technology scholarship application is based around the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and all incoming first year students can apply for this exciting and very worthy prize.

**Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed has always been about Tech and our Technology has just got better!!**



From September 2014, 1st years can use iPads in class.

### First Year Students “find their feet” in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed

*“I really like first year, the activities and sports are really enjoyable. The teachers are really nice to us and I love P.E.” - Dylan Molumby*

*“I like that we have lockers, I like most subjects and all of the sports. My favourite subject is metalwork.” - Shane Stapleton*

*“It’s different to primary school all together. It’s hard to find the classes at first. It’s exciting and fun and my favourite classes are science, art and metalwork.” Chantelle Dwyer.*

*“The canteen is great. You make lots of friends. I like P.E., Home Economics and Science.” - Ruairí Barrett*

*“Metalwork is class.” - Aaron Hayes*

*“I love first year. Teachers are nice. I love woodwork and metalwork.” - David Kearney*

*“The sport is class.” - Claire McGrath.*

*“I’m finding first year good. I like the sports. I like my new friends and the new subjects. My favourite subject is P.E. I love soccer and hurling because we have good coaches”. - Shane Ryan*

*“The staff is nice. The older students are friendly. There is a variety of extracurricular activities. The canteen is really nice.” - Arnold Arlauskas*

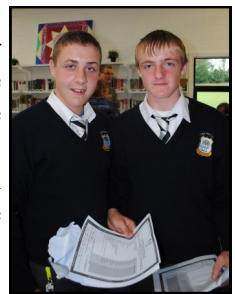
*“1<sup>st</sup> year is really fun.” - Callum Hall*



### Happy Faces all round

Congratulations to the 2013 Junior Certificate students on their excellent results. The management and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish them all the best as they undertake the next stage of their studies in our school.

Pictured are Gavin Dunne, Mary Moynihan, Colm Ryan, Ailish Kelly, Stephen Troy, Milena Rataj, Noel Walsh and Dean Burke receiving their certificates.



### Bake Off 2013

In November, the 2<sup>nd</sup> year Home Economics students took part in a bake off and all participants worked extremely hard ensuring a tough competition. Well done to all the winners - Seán Kearney (1<sup>st</sup>), Aaron Delaney (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Kacie Dorney & Jennien O’Gorman (Joint 3<sup>rd</sup>).



**Artist Zita Reihill inspires our art students**

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, one of Ireland's leading artists Zita Reihill, delivered an educational talk to our senior art students at the Source theatre. The talks gave the students an insight into her personal approach to the work, her life as an artist and her inspirations.



Many congratulations to our Thurles Credit Union Poster Competition Winners 2013 - **Joe O'Donoghue (2<sup>nd</sup> year)** won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the 11-13 years category, **Kelly Morris (Art PLC)** and **Roland Santos (6<sup>th</sup> year)** won 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> prizes respectively in the 18 years & over category.

**Geography Trip to the Burren**

In November, the 6<sup>th</sup> year students travelled to the Burren in Co. Clare to undertake a geographical investigation on processes and features of a coastal environment which is part of the Leaving Certificate Geography exam.



The weather conditions were perfect on the day and it aided students to collect all the necessary data for their coursework. The students were accompanied by their geography teacher Mr S O'Crado'g and Ms C Wallace.

**Junior & Leaving Certificate Project Work**

Junior & Leaving Certificate Projects in Woodwork, Construction, Metalwork, Engineering and Art are underway in the school. Students will prepare and make their pieces over the next few months which will be accompanied by a brief explaining their work.

**School Musical**

The musical "Grease" was a massive success and the fabulous cast of students can be really proud of all the hard work they put in since their return to school in September. The performance delighted audiences of primary school students, parents, family and many friends and it had Grease songs such as Grease Lightening, Summer Nights and Hound Dog ringing around the school for weeks. Huge credit and acknowledgement must be given to Ms P Hickey (Producer), Ms H Wallace (Musical Director), Ms C Geaney (Choreographer), Mr P.J. O'Connell, Mr J Dunne and Mr P McCormack (Set Design and Construction) who dedicated so much time and energy in bringing Grease into fruition.



### Transition Year News

A special Céad Míle Fáilte to all our non-national Education First (E.F. and SPIL) students who have chosen our school to undertake their education from such places as Switzerland, Spain, Croatia, Austria, Germany, France and Italy this academic year. Some foreign students are here for one term only and will be leaving our school at Christmas time.

The TY class have had a very enjoyable and rewarding first term experiencing life inside and outside of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.



The class have had numerous educational and recreational trips including a Gaisce Trip to Co Kerry, visits to Cabragh Wetlands, the Four Courts in Dublin and Thurles Garda Station.

Students are participating in new activities and projects such as community care, BT Young Scientist, Gaisce award, Chinese, marketing, creative writing, library research, log on & learn (teaching over 60's how to use computers) boxing and many more.

Earlier this term, the TY class and their coordinator Ms A Conroy undertook a bag packing collection at Tesco in Thurles and raised an impressive €845 for AWARE.

Our foreign TY students are busy experiencing the culture of the GAA, especially the game of Hurling and are being taught the skills of the game by the local TY students in their class. They also noted the skills of the young hurlers when Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed hosted the Premier Hurling Games for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> primary school pupils in the Dome during September. This indoor hurling event was organised by Mr Andy Ryan (Mid-Tipperary GAA Development Officer), and teachers Mr J Brennan and Mr P Stapleton (P.E. teacher).



### TY Gaisce Trip to Kerry written by Korina Lic in TY

The Transition Year class and all the exchange students from Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed went on a trip to Kerry from 30/09/2013 to 01/10/2013. This trip was an important part for the Gaisce Award.

Our mission was to climb Mount Eagle to satisfy the requirements of the venture award. We were accompanied on our trip by Mr Quinn (the Principal), Ms Smith, Michael Walsh and Con Whelan. Michael is a past parent of the school and the former aid de comp of the president. We started travelling at 8 a.m. on Monday. It took us a few hours to arrive at Mount Eagle in Kerry. We climbed through fields of sheep and long grass. When we arrived it was raining but the higher we climbed, the better the weather. It was the most wonderful view that I've ever seen. It took us many hours to climb the mountain but it really was worth it.

That evening we travelled to the youth hostel in Castlegregory and some brave students went swimming in the freezing cold ocean. It was my first time to see the Atlantic and it was just unforgettable! It was the best moment in my life when I ran into the cold water. For dinner we had a very good barbecue and later some of us played pool or were just chatting. After packing our luggage and cleaning our rooms we went shopping to Limerick and this marked the end of our amazing trip.

Thank you to the principal, all the teachers and our guides, Michael and Con, who went with us! We had a really good time!

### Time to say Goodbye

Goodbye, Au Revoir, Doviđenja, Baba, Auf Wiedersehen, Tschü, Tschüss from TY students Pia Voss, Korina Lic, Almut Pascher, Nina Stromberger, Christa Schlaepfi and Sarah Gruber who are sadly leaving us at Christmas following a term in our school as Exchange Students.



We will miss their spirit and enthusiasm and their cultural impact on the school.

### County Tipperary Cross Country Championships

The championships took place on December 4<sup>th</sup> in the Thurles Crokes Complex. The Junior Boys team (Aaron Maher, Bill Hogan, Joe O'Donoghue and Patrick Doyle) finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place and the Minor Boys team (Aaron Fogarty, Brian O'Halloran, James Fogarty and Cillian Donaghy) finished in 6<sup>th</sup> place. Our leading finisher in the Senior Boys (U19) was Peter McNamara and Mark Ivers ran very well in the Intermediate Boys (U17). Well done to all our competitors who ran superbly in their various events and thanks to Mr O'Brien for organising the teams and accompanying the students on the day.



### U19 FAI Munster Quarter Final

Our U19 boys soccer team reached their first FAI Munster quarter final in 5 years and it brought a lot of excitement to Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. The team played against very tough opposition in the preliminary rounds to qualify for the quarter final and this is a testament to the character and belief of the players involved and their coach Mr D Fahy. They defeated Clonmel 3-0 in the final group game to qualify and the goal scorers included Damian Walczak, Dylan McKay and Curtis Ryan.



The team progressed to play St Peter's Passage West in the quarter final of the John Murphy Cup in Cork. They started brightly and were unlucky not to score in the first half. The opposition dominated the game in the second half and they got some early goals but our boys never gave up and Seán Butler scored a super goal after some good build up. The final score was 7-1 to St Peter's. Many of the younger players will have gained valuable experience from this tournament. Best players on the day included Seán Butler, Gary Donnelly and Gavin Dunne.

### Volleyball

In October, the Senior girls volleyball team travelled with their coach Ms D Wall to Portlaoise to participate in the Senior Girls B competition. The first match was against Tallaght and our girls were unfortunate to lose this match. Their second match was against St Leos of Carlow. St Leos won the first set but Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed pulled it back to win the second set and draw the match.



The third match was against Loreto Swords and the girls had a brilliant performance to win the first set on a score line of 25-9 and win the second set on a score line of 25-13.

The final match of the day was against the home side Portlaoise and this was another extremely closely contested match.

The Cadette girls team have qualified for the next round of their competition and we look forward to following their quest for more success and the Cadet boys have qualified to participate in the shield competition of their division. We wish them the best of luck in their upcoming matches in 2014.



### Swimming

Congratulations to 1<sup>st</sup> year student David Kearney on winning an All Ireland Silver medal in the 200 metres relay event in the National Swimming Championships for his club recently.

### Exploring the XTRA-Ordinary during Science Week

The 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> year Science students enjoyed a very exciting Science show presented by Mr James Soper at the Source Arts Theatre on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. The show took the students on a journey to reveal the XTRA-ordinary things about Air. The show was very interactive and engaging and the students thoroughly enjoyed it. LIT Tipperary also gave a LIT biro to every student who attended. Well done to Chantelle O'Dwyer (1st year) who scooped a Newton's Cradle for her entry in the science week poster competition.



**“We need them....they don't need us!!”**

On November 5<sup>th</sup>, the TY, 5LCA and 6LCA classes and their teachers Ms M Smith and Ms D Ryan enjoyed a very

informative and detailed tour of the various habitats, wildlife and excellent facilities in the Cabragh Wetlands. The most important message that the students took from this visit is **“how humans really need nature to survive and how nature doesn't need humans”** so we should be doing everything we can to conserve our natural resources.

Many thanks to Mr Michael Long for looking after us so well on the day. One TY student commented after the visit **“I really liked the Wetlands because it's more natural than most other places”**.

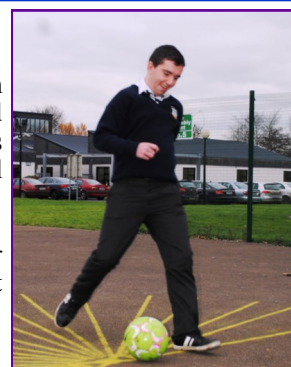


### BT Young Scientist Exhibition



The preparation for the young scientist exhibition are moving up a gear. TY students Curtis Ryan & Brendan Callanan earned a place in the 50th BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition with their project entitled **“Geometry of Goal Scoring”**. The data is all collected and the students are busy computing the most effective angle that will enable the goal scorer to gain the best chance of scoring a goal.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for the boys to develop their scientific skills, from hypothesising to designing and carrying out experiments, collecting data and developing behavioural studies.



The students, teachers and staff would like to take this opportunity to wish Curtis, Brendan and their Science teacher Ms M Smith the best of luck in the exhibition in January and we look forward to supporting them at the event.

### New Junior Certificate

The Literacy & Numeracy Initiatives are up and running in all subjects throughout the school and all the English department teachers are currently attending in-service training for the New Junior Certificate proposed for incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year students in September 2014.

### School Business Partnership with Lisheen Mine

The 5<sup>th</sup> year students will have the unique opportunity to experience the world of work first hand at Lisheen Mine and also get a taste of the wide variety of career opportunities presented by the mine and its ancillary industries.

### HSCL News

The **“Lets Learn About Drugs”** programme for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students was very successful and received very positive feedback from parents. During this term, the Christmas Baking and Maths Initiatives for 1<sup>st</sup> year parents were very well attended and received very positive feedback. If any parent/guardian would like to contact the Home School Community Liaison Officer in the new year, telephone Ms Olivia Ryan on 087-9321919.

### Parents Council

The Parents Council are a group of parents who have children in the school. We work in partnership with school management and students to provide a happy, caring and supportive learning environment. The weekly lotto is running very well - thank you for your support. We also thank you for supporting our Christmas hamper raffle and we wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the new year.

**Deirdre Dunne, Chairperson**

**“Have you got Maths Eyes?”**

The Maths teachers ran a competition during Maths week which asked students to take photos of the Maths they see in everyday life.

Photo below shows the winners who took some great shots of buildings, shapes and geometry at home, in school and around Thurles.



**Green Schools News written by Scott Beaton, 1st year**

We, as the Green Schools Committee of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed, are writing this article to inform the local community about what we are going to be doing over this coming year to raise awareness about how important it is to reduce, reuse, and recycle waste. We have begun to develop our action plan for this coming school year.

Our aims are to inform people of the importance of reduce, reuse, and recycle waste, to educate people about what can and can't be recycled, to inform people of the importance of putting only recyclable items in the recycling bins and to expand and improve our Green Schools notice board to support this campaign. Our main objective this school year is to be awarded a Green Flag in Litter and Waste from Green Schools Ireland in 2014.



The sign for our theme "Keep it green, Is féidir linn" has been finished and is hanging in the assembly area. A huge thank you to Green Schools coordinator Ms M Smith, art teacher Ms R Dorney, woodwork teacher Mr J Dunne and school caretaker Mr P McCormack for helping create this wonderful piece of art work.

**Leaving Cert Applied**

The 5LCA and 6LCA students have had a busy term completing various key assignments and are currently extremely busy working on tasks that are due at the end of this semester. The students went on a number of educational trips including a visit to the Ploughing Championship in Laois, Cabragh Wetlands and to the Thurles FÁS Office as part of their job search module with Ms Bergin. They are also taking part in a charity bulb planting event in aid of the Myasthenia Gravis Association (MGA).



**From Plough to President**

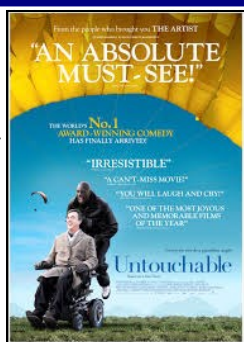
In September, the TY, 5<sup>th</sup> years and 6LCA students visited the Ploughing Championship in Co Laois and both students and teachers had a very enjoyable and educational day away from the classroom but for Korina Lic, this day was very special. *Korina recalls this exciting day.....*

*I am an exchange student who is in Transition Year in Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed. I attended the National Ploughing Championship on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September and what an exciting day it proved to be. I have been lucky enough to meet the Presidents of Croatia and Austria and my dream was to meet the Irish President during my stay here. I hope to become a politician in the future. I was walking with my friends through the Ploughing Championship when suddenly I saw several security people. When I took a closer look I saw him finally! Michael D. Higgins, the head of this country! I couldn't believe it and my only thought at that moment was, I want a picture with a handshake, just something that will always stay in my memory. It is quite hard to make dreams come true but with patience and passion everything is possible. After more than one and a half hours, I finally got it. The picture of my dreams.*



**Untouchable**

The senior French students attended this film in the Source Arts Theatre with their teacher Mr D Fahy. The film tells the story of Philippe, a rich aristocrat and his care giver Driss, who is the least suited person for the job. Their unique relationship creates sparks and makes them untouchable.



*Photo shows Mr John Kennedy, Chairperson of the Schools Board of Management cutting the red ribbon to officially open the newly refurbished school canteen.*

### Christmas Market Day

Our Christmas Market Day took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December and this year 10% of profits from each business was donated to the charity Barnardos. Students from first to sixth year set up businesses with the aim of making a profit and competing in the young entrepreneur competition. There was a huge variety of products on sale which included cakes, buns, handmade chocolates, sweets, pens, calendars, logs, cards, reindeer food and much more. The market also created a warm and festive atmosphere in the school. Well done to all our budding young entrepreneurs and to their business teachers.



### Gaelic Football & Hurling

The uptake in students turning up for Gaelic football and hurling training at all levels has been most impressive this year.

Our **Senior football team** were narrowly beaten by Macroom in the Munster Colleges championship on a score line of 3-07 to 3-09. Leaders such as Seán Butler, Gary Donnelly, Gavin Dunne, Colm Ryan, Curtis Ryan, Cayley Maher and Paul Callanan played some scintillating football exemplified by fine scores, high fielding and committed blocking. Huge positives can be taken from this performance, especially from our younger squad members.

Our **Senior hurling team** had a very comprehensive victory over Newcastle West College in the Munster Cup and progressed to the next round to play against a well-drilled and impressive Carrick-on-Suir CBS side. Both sides played exceptional hurling in ideal conditions at Clonmel but ultimately Carrick seemed to be able to pick off scores at crucial times that left us chasing the game. Our never say die attitude saw some well worked passing movements culminate in three well taken goals from our man-of-the-match Stephen Moroney. In the end however, Carrick finished the victors on a 6-14 to 5-10 score line.

Our **1<sup>st</sup> year and U14 hurling teams** have had many victories this term including wins over St Joseph's College, Borrisoleigh and Comeragh College, Clonmel. Some 1<sup>st</sup> year players that have had outstanding performances included free taker Cillian Donaghy, goal scorer Colin Hartigan, midfielders Bill Hogan and Brian O'Halloran and the superb defensive trio of Shane Ryan, Clare McGrath and Liam Ryan.

Recently, our **U15 hurling team** played against Cashel Community College in a well contested hurling match with a final score of 5-05 to 1-14. Best players on match day included David Manning (0-5), Gavin Dunne (1-03), Curtis Ryan (0-3), Brian O'Halloran (0-1) and Noel Walsh (0-5). Well done to all the players involved in the above matches!

### U15 Soccer

The U15 soccer team played Dungarvan College in the final round of their group with the hope of qualifying for the quarter finals. Goal scorers on the day were David Shorley and Aaron Delaney but unfortunately the players wholehearted efforts were not enough for them to progress to the next round.

### Leaving Certificate Class of 2013 Debs Ball



**THANK YOU** I would like to thank the staff & students who contributed to this newsletter and to wish all our readers a very Happy Christmas. Ms D Ryan

### Extracurricular Activities

There is a wide array of extracurricular activities to cater for and satisfy all our students from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> year. There has been a long tradition of teachers in our school imparting their skills and talents with students in many fields! This year students can undertake extracurricular activities in the following areas: traditional Irish music group, basketball, soccer, handball, hurling, Gaelic football, computers, choir, guitar, chess, drama etc.