



Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Thurles



Tel: 0504-21734
E-mail: colaistemhuire@gmail.com

Website: www.cmco.ie
Twitter: @colmhuirecoed

Principal's Address

Welcome to our *Spring Newsletter*. Everyone is well settled back after Christmas holidays and an action packed first term. We wish our exam students every success in their upcoming pre exams. We wish to thank our students for their hard work, their parents for their trust and support, the staff, parents council and the Board of Management for their dedication, hard work, support, and vision. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Denis Quinn, Principal

"Three-in-a-Row" 1st Year Boys win the Tipperary ETB Basketball Blitz



In October, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed first year boys played Borrisokane Community College in the final of the TETB Basketball Blitz and the students displayed great skill and stamina outscoring their opponents to win the competition for a third time in a row.

BT Young Scientist Exhibition

Congratulations to 2nd year students Rebecca Elphick & Cormac Walsh who proudly represented Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed at the BTYS Exhibition with their project "An investigation into the Effect of Adding Cow Manure to Concrete Composite".



Photos shows Minister for Education & Skills Mr Richard Bruton, students Cormac Walsh & Rebecca Elphick, Managing Director of BT Ireland Mr Shay Walsh and teacher Ms Mairéad Hayes at the BTYS Exhibition.

School Digital Champion Programme

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed are one of sixteen schools involved in the **School Digital Champion** programme in Ireland. This programme enables students to develop their creativity, critical-thinking and communications skills. In November, our 2nd year Digital Champions attended a skills training day in Dublin and participated in the App Inventor 2 workshop and created their own videos at a video editing workshop. The day also included a talk from Eleanor Manning of RTE who spoke on mobile Journalism. The students and their ICT teachers are looking forward to a site visit to Google this term.



Photo shows our School Digital Champions who are currently working on a project based challenge where they will create educational videos and develop related apps.

TETB Quiz Success

Congratulations to our Junior Quiz Team (Ellen Clarke, Kayleigh Cronin, Shane Coady Clancy & Jack Cooney Shorley) and their teacher Mr P.J. O'Connell who recently enjoyed success at the Tipperary ETB Sports & Cultural Council Junior Table Quiz.





Trip to the Burren

Our Leaving Certificate Geography class enjoyed a trip to Doolin in Co. Clare to carry out their Geographical Investigation. The topic of this year's work pertained to an investigation into processes of transportation and coastal landform formation in a coastal environment. Despite some heavy showers forecasted, spirits were high among students as they ventured off to the North Clare Coast.

Petit Déjeuner



The French department ran a thoroughly enjoyable French Morning this term, in which our students were treated to a French film "Les Choristes" and French cuisine. Feedback was most positive from all involved and the croissants went down a treat!!

Career Guidance News

In September, all first year students were met individually by the Guidance Counsellor to assess how well they were adapting to the many changes that come with secondary school life. The Student Enrichment Services delivered a very beneficial workshop to 3rd and 6th year students highlighting some very useful study tips for the months ahead.



Sixth year students travelled to the Higher Options Conference in the RDS and were afforded the opportunity to speak to representatives from all the Colleges and Universities in Ireland and the UK. Later in the term, representatives from Waterford IT and Carlow IT visited the school to talk to 6th year students.

Thurles Credit Union Art Competition

Congratulations to 1st and 2nd year students Keita Zarina and Rose Shanahan on their superb achievement in winning 1st and 3rd prizes respectively in the Thurles Credit Union Poster Competition.



Photo shows winning students Rose and Keita with their Art teacher Ms Regina Dorney.

School Choir

The school choir had an extremely busy first term with carol services taking place in the Hospital of the Assumption Thurles, Padre Pio Nursing Home in Holycross and in our school.



It also provided entertainment at market days in LIT Thurles and in our school. Our students enjoyed singing for Tipp FM on Festive Friday. Well done to all students and their teachers Ms Wallace and Ms Geaney.

Japanese Classes



Some of the members of Martin Sensei's Japanese club who meet every Tuesday to speak Japanese, try Japanese food, make origami and discuss their favourite anime to name but a few activities! Sugoi! Genki desu!
By Ms S Martin

Pilot School for Coding Program

Our ICT teachers presented first year student (HTML) websites and binary code tasks in UL recently, as part of the coding pilot and with the aim of establishing high standards. #jcreform

History Walk



Our 1st year History students thoroughly enjoyed a historic walk around Thurles with their History teachers Mr Ó'Cradoóg & Ms Dunphy.

DEAR

Photo shows students participating in one of our Literacy initiatives, "Drop Everything And Read".



“Hairspray” - the School Musical

Congratulations to the talented cast of this year’s school musical “Hairspray”. The awesome production was staged in The Dome and was enjoyed by record crowds who were treated to outstanding performances from a cohort of students from 1st year through to 5th year. Well done to all involved and we look forward to next year’s production “Bring it On”. Auditions will be held in early May and all are welcome!



Green Schools News

The Green Schools committee for 2016/2017 was elected earlier this school year and congratulations to 5th year student Scott Beaton, who was elected the new chairperson. The committee are looking forward to working towards the third green flag based on the theme of water!



PDST Wellread National Award

In October, a cohort of students and English teachers were presented with the PDST Wellread National Award at a ceremony in the Citywest Hotel in Dublin.



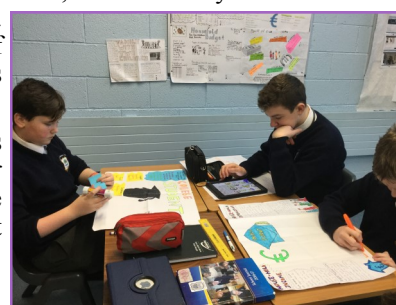
This award was successfully achieved with the collaboration of students, staff, parents and the wider community helping to promote and foster a reading culture in the school.

Pilot on assessment for the new Business Studies Specification for First Year Students

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed was successful in our application to take part in a Business Studies pilot in conjunction with the NCCA (National Council for Curriculum and Assessment). As a school we are fully embracing the new Junior Cert. The business pilot involves first year business teachers creating tasks/activities for the purpose of assessing learning in the class. Our student tasks along with seven other schools will then be assessed and used as a basis for establishing standards in the Business studies specification. The first Subject Learning and Assessment Review meeting took place in the NCCA offices with representatives from the NCCA, the Junior Cycle for Teachers and members of the inspectorate. Together, we evaluated a number of business tasks and reached consensus on agreed standards.

We are grateful to be part of this process, as we are leaders in our business subject area. We will continue to submit our student work throughout this year.

By Ms Bergin & Ms Molumby
Business Studies Department



School Business Partnership with Dew Valley Foods

This school year, our 5th year students have the unique opportunity to experience the world of work first hand at Dew Valley Foods in conjunction with the Schools Business Partnership. In November, they received a very informative presentation from Dew Valley representatives and in January they enjoyed a very educational site visit giving them the opportunity to view operations in Thurles' biggest processing plant where they were brought on a tour of the facilities and participated in a questions & answers session afterwards.



Transition Year News

It has been a busy term for our Transition Year students. There was an adventurous start to the year when two days were spent in **Killary Adventure Centre** in Co. Galway. The tough Bog Run and Rope Climbing were among the challenging team-building exercises that the group participated in.



Among the early activities were the annual trip to the **Ploughing Championship** and the finalising of entries for the **BT Young Scientist** competition.

The TY Class made a great contribution to the success of our school musical **"Hairspray"** – Jack Lawlor, Bill Hogan, Dylan Molumby and Cameron Ferncombe were among the leads, with the rest of the class strutting their stuff in the chorus line or working hard behind the scenes as part of the backstage crew.

Community Care is up and running as usual on our Wednesday morning slot and a number of students are also using this opportunity to pursue their **Gaise Bronze Award** over the year



The students engaged in a week of **Work Experience** during November where valuable insights were learned about working life. All students received excellent evaluation reports from their employers.

Enterprise class had the students thinking of creative business ideas in preparation for the schools annual Market Day before Christmas.



French class had the students engaged in filming their entries to the Irish French Teachers Association annual film-making competition under the theme **"Hello Happiness"**.

In **Social Education** class, under the guidance of Ms Geaney some TY students coordinated the **Christmas Shoebox** appeal on behalf of HOPE Ireland and are now involved in further filming with their entry for a competition under the theme of Drug and Alcohol Awareness being run by **drugs.ie**.

The students are looking forward to term two and are planning for their **Enterprise and Tourism Trip** to the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin, phase three of the **Creative Engagement Project**, the **International Tourism Trip to Barcelona** and many more exciting learning experiences!! By Ms Ann Conroy, TY Programme Coordinator



LCA News

Among the early activities for our Leaving Certificate Applied students was the annual trip to the **Ploughing Championship** and later in the term the students had an enjoyable day out in Portlaoise, participating in Bowling and Laser Quest. Each week the students are engaged in **Work Experience** which helps provide a valuable insight for all students to the world of work.

In **Enterprise** class the students were busy thinking of creative business ideas in preparation for the schools annual Market Day. The students also ran a very successful **coffee morning** to raise money for Suir Haven and the Tipperary Division of the Red Cross. The achievements of the LCA students in receiving exceptional credits in **Key Assignments** and **Task Interviews** was acknowledged in a presentation of Certificates Ceremony. Staff and Parents joined with students to celebrate their success.



As part of their **Art, Craft and Design** Task, the 6th year LCA group recently launched the Signage they have created for the school canteen under the guidance of Ms. Dorney. Well done to all!

By Ms Ann Conroy
LCA Programme Coordinator





Soccer News

In term one, over forty students represented our school in u15, u17 and u19 soccer competitions. Our u19 senior boys team successfully reached the semi-final of the Munster Cup having defeated St Ailbe's and Millstreet Community College. The boys played very competitively in the semi-final against St Peter's but unfortunately they had to succumb to the slightly better Cork team. The u17 team enjoyed victory against Thurles CBS before narrowly losing 1-0 to Borriskane during the term. Our u15 team enjoyed a very competitive match against Commeragh College. Our 1st year boys and girls also participated in the Futsol Competition in Peake Villa. Hopes are very high for soccer success in the future, as all our teams are very young and there are large numbers showing up for training with their coaches Mr Fahy, Mr Butler and Mr Scully.



U19 Senior Boys Soccer Team



u18.5 Gaelic Football Team

Gaelic Football

Our u15 Gaelic football team competed in the Munster Corn Mhic Chonmara and enjoyed victory over Coláiste an Chraoibhín, Fermoy in the 1st round before succumbing to Pallaskenny College in the Munster quarter-final. Our u18.5 Senior Gaelic Football team also bowed out to the same opposition (Pallaskenny College Limerick) in the Corn Sheáin Uí Mhaolomhnaigh. Our u16.5 squad face Ennistymon College of Clare in the Corn Seosamh Uí Néill. Upcoming u14 competitions we annually compete in as part of our calendar include The Rockwell county blitz tournament & the Fethard College Tournament (present Shield Champions).

Many thanks to their Gaelic football coaches Mr Ó'Cradóg and Mr Butler for the weekly training sessions.

1st Year Hurling Team



Hurling

Well done to our 1st year hurlers on their victories against Rockwell College, Nenagh College, Cistercian College and Scoil Ruain to reach the final in the County Hurling Blitz in



u16.5 Hurling Team

Dr Morris Park. Our u16.5 team enjoyed success over Limerick CBS and Coláiste Mhuire Askeaton to qualify for the quarter final of the Munster Cup against Tralee CBS, which they narrowly lost by one point. Our senior hurling team enjoyed a superb victory over Coláiste Daibhéid from Cork to qualify for the Munster quarter final of the Corn Sheáin Uí hAnragáin. Many thanks to the hurling coaches involved in training the various hurling teams.



Rugby

Our u17 rugby team successfully participated in first round of the Munster RFU

County tournament against Nenagh CBS, St Ailbe's, Coláiste Dún Iascaigh and Cashel Community School and are looking forward to the next round. Well done to their managers Ms Molumby and Mr O'Sullivan.



Minor Boys Team

boys who won silver in the team event and to 5th year student Aaron Cawley who won bronze in the senior boys race.

Athletics

Congratulations to all our cross country athletes that competed in the county championship in November and well done to our minor



Junior Boys Team

Volleyball

Well done to our Junior boys who reached the All Ireland schools volleyball semi finals and enjoyed success against Portmarnock from Dublin, but unfortunately were beaten by Loughrea of Galway and to our senior boys volleyball team who successfully qualified for the semi finals of the All Ireland. Many thanks to coaches Ms A Carey and Ms L Byrne.



Senior Boys Team



3rd year students pictured with Ms Catherine McGuinness at LIT Thurles during Science Week 2016

Science Week 2016

Excitement was palpable among our first year students for this important week as they enjoyed putting their STEM knowledge to the test in the annual science week table quiz. Our third year science students visited LIT Thurles and attended a Science Week lecture called "Across Africa" presented by Ms Catherine McGuinness from the Natural History Museum.



Science Week Quiz winners pictured with Science teachers Ms Ryan and Ms Smith and Deputy Principal Ms Wallace.

BT Young Scientist Exhibition

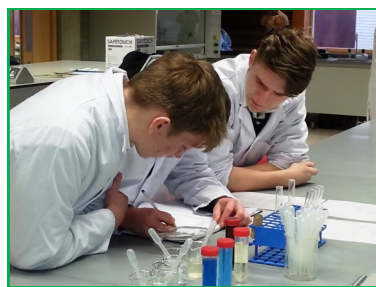
A huge congratulations to all the Junior Cycle and TY students who entered projects into this year's BTYS competition and special congratulations are conveyed to second year students Rebecca Elphick and Cormac Walsh and their teacher Ms Hayes who qualified for the exhibition with their project "An investigation into the Effect of Adding Cow Manure to Concrete Composite".



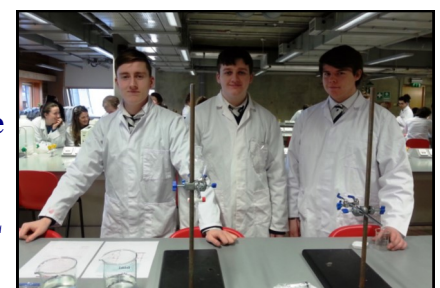
Photo shows 1st, 2nd, and TY students with their teachers Ms Hayes and Ms Smith and principal Mr Quinn who visited the BTYS Exhibition in the RDS to support Cormac and Rebecca and to enjoy the experience!!

Cabragh Wetlands Ecological Study

The 3rd year science classes with their teachers Ms Conroy and Ms Smith travelled to Cabragh Wetlands to undertake an ecological study of the various habitats and wildlife in the wetlands, as part of their Junior Certificate Coursework. Many thanks to Cabragh Wetlands ecologists who facilitated our trip and delivered a most informative and detailed tour of this wonderful local ecosystem.



Leaving Certificate Biology Practical Day in UL



Our 6th year Biology students attended the Leaving Cert Biology Practical Day in the University of Limerick and it was an excellent revision opportunity for our students, as they were afforded the chance to undertake the practical experiments using the state-of-the art facilities in the Biology laboratories. It also gave the students an insight into life as a university student, creating an added impetus to strive and attain their full potential!

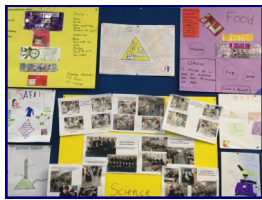
LCVP Cross-Curricular Trip to the Chocolate Garden of Ireland

In December, senior cycle Business and LCVP students along with their teachers Ms Molumby & Ms Smith visited the Chocolate Garden of Ireland in Co. Carlow. The students learned all about chocolate making, cocoa growing, how Easter eggs and other chocolate products are made. They also got an opportunity to make and decorate their own chocolate product.



JCSP News

All 1st year students were given the opportunity to display samples of good work that they had accumulated since the beginning of the year at the **JCSP Christmas Celebration** in December. Our Lisheen Mine theatre was decked out with wonderful displays from all subject areas for the occasion.



All Junior Cycle students were treated to a fantastic workshop from renowned storyteller Niall de Búrca who regaled them with tales of mythology, folklore and personal experiences. This **storytelling initiative** ties in very well with the new Junior Cycle English exam which now includes an oral presentation element.

Preparations are well under way for this year's **Make a Book** entry which will focus on the area of healthy eating. All 1st year students are in the process of putting their healthy eating recipes together.

By Ms H Wallace, JCSP Team

Thurles Community Panto Society



Photo shows Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed students who recently participated in Thurles Community Panto Society's production of Snow White. TY students Mikie Spillane and David Kearney were assistant stage managers and set builders. Jack Keogh was part of the backstage crew and Arron Wort was a cast member. Well done guys!

ETB Talent Search

Congratulations Kacie Dorney and Eoghan Cagney who represented Coláiste Mhuire with pride at the ETB Talent Search competition in the Dome on Thursday 26th January. Kacie & Eoghan delivered an excellent rendition of the James Arthur's song **'Impossible'** to the delight of the large audience in attendance. Maith sibh!

By Ms C Geaney



Student Council 2016/17

Elected Student Council members with teacher representatives Ms Josephine Cahill & Ms Mairéad Hayes.

In December, our Student Council were very active in organising and involving themselves in Festive Friday Frolics and some other very worthwhile fundraising events. Tipp FM visited the school and students who were involved in the Market Day and Festive Friday told listeners of their efforts. In total, over €2000 was raised and students themselves chose the recipients of the monies. Well done to Mr Brennan and Mr Dunne who were splendid in their outfits and a big thanks to our Parents Council, PLC students, Staff and Management for their help and support.



A celebrity soccer match between students and teachers is the next venture. Well done to all our students for helping out and showcasing the school with events in the Dome and in the school. Maith sibh!
By Ms Cahill & Ms Hayes



Roinn na Gaeilge

Ní fada uainn anois Seachtain na Gaeilge, Lá le Vailintín, Béaltríail na hArdeiste agus Béaltríail don Teastas Sóisearach. Beidh roinnt comórtais á eagrú againn Mí Feabhra is Mí Márta agus tá súil againn go mbainfidh na páistí idir taitneamh is sult astu. Beidh seans ag na daltaí sa chéad bhliain Scoláireachtaí ETB a bhuachan do na Coláistí Gaeltachta chomh maith. Bígí ag faire amach ar na fógraí. By Ms J Cahill



Health Promoting School Initiative

With the great success of achieving the Active School Flag Award, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed aims to be a Health Promoting School and are currently organising different events and initiatives to ensure that everyone in the school has the best chance of leading a healthy life.



Budding Entrepreneurs at our School Market Day

In December, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed held their annual Christmas Market in aid of the Tipperary Division of the Red Cross. Christmas spirit and entrepreneurial skills were clearly evident on the day. Students displayed an array of crafts and products, including, seasonal baking, wreaths, creative wooden ornaments, candle displays, slate products and much more.



Students were also judged for the Student Enterprise Awards County Competition by Sue Anne McDonnell and Eleanor Forrest of the Tipperary Local Enterprise Board. Eight teams in total qualified for this prestigious competition, which will be in LIT Thurles in March. Well done to all our budding entrepreneurs and to their teachers Ms Bergin, Ms Molumby & Ms C Dunphy.



Photo above shows the Junior & Senior Cycle students who qualified to compete in the Student Enterprise Awards County Competition in LIT Tipperary in March with Sue Anne O'Donnell & Eleanor Forrest.



European Week of Sport



Photos show 1st year students all ready for a brisk walk and Tipperary Hurler & Sky Sports Living for Sport Mentor Noel McGrath visiting with the Liam McCarthy Cup during European Week of Sport. #BeActive #activeflag



Photo shows JJ O'Sullivan Construction presenting students with a fabulous school set of sports jerseys. Mile Buíochas JJ!

Merit Awards

On December 22nd, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed acknowledged certain Junior Cycle students for their overall contribution to school life by presenting them with **Bronze, Silver, Gold** and **Platinum Merit Awards**. Congratulations to 1st year student Eoin Craddock on being the only student to receive a Platinum Merit Award.



Photo shows the students who received Platinum & Gold Merit Awards with Deputy Principal Ms Clare Wallace and Principal Mr Denis Quinn.

Important Dates

- February 7th**
 - 2nd & 5th years Parent/Teacher meeting
 - February 20th - 24th**
 - Mid-term break
 - March 9th**
 - Extra 3rd & 6th years Parent/Teacher Meeting followed by meeting on Programme Choices for senior cycle
 - March 17th & March 20th**
 - School closed
 - April 10th - April 21st**
 - Easter Holidays
 - June 2nd**
 - Last day of school year
 - June 7th**
 - State Exams begin
- Please note: There will be a closure day for Junior Cycle in the new year and after Easter and the date is yet to be announced.*

THANK YOU Mile buíochas to the staff & students who contributed to this newsletter and to the editors Ms D Ryan & Ms H Wallace. For more information on Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed, log onto cmco.scoilnet.ie/blog.