



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*. Firstly, I wish to extend a warm welcome to our incoming first years who spent a day with us recently, the first step of our journey together. We wish our exam students every success in their upcoming pre exams. I would like to acknowledge our hardworking staff and the support, vision and dedication of our Parents, the Parents Association and Board of Management. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

Denis Quinn, Principal

BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Congratulations to 2nd year student Jack Kennedy who proudly represented Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed at the BTYST Exhibition in the RDS with his social & behavioural science project titled "*Analysing the Effect on First Year Students' Positivity using Three Good Things*".



Jack's project was highly commended by all three judges and he won a well deserved award for his excellent display.

Photo shows 2nd year student Jack Kennedy and his teacher Ms Mary C Ryan at the 54th BTYST Exhibition.

Official Opening of Coding Hub

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed is a pilot school of the School Digital Champion programme and following an inspirational visit to Google HQ in Dublin last May, it was decided to create a colourful GOOGLE classroom in our school that will bring inspiration, creativity and an energy to the students' work.



Photo shows Tipperary Hurling Star, Dan McCormack cutting the ribbon to officially open the new Coding Hub with school principal Mr Denis Quinn.



Cycle Against Suicide Ambassador Schools Launch

Photo shows An Taoiseach Leo Varadkar with Cycle Against Suicide Ambassadors Ben O'Sullivan and Pdraig Gleeson from Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed and Aoibhe Conway and Kayleigh Harris from St Mary's Holy Faith School at the launch of the 5th Cycle Against Suicide Ambassador Schools Programme at Government Buildings.

Leading Lights in Road Safety Award



Photo shows Student Council representatives Róisín Connolly, David Manning and Ethan Butler receiving the Secondary Education Leading Lights in Road Safety Award at a ceremony in Croke Park.



Munster u15 Gaelic Football Champions

Congratulations to the u15 Gaelic Football team on becoming Munster u15 Champions with a winning score of 3-7 to 2-3 against North Monastery Secondary School Cork.

Photo shows the jubilant Munster u15 Gaelic Football Champions with team managers Mr S Ó'Crádóg and Mr JP Butler.



Geography News



Our Leaving Certificate Geography class and their teacher Mr S O’Cradóg visited the Burren in Co Clare to carry out their Geographical Investigation of Karst features.

First year students enjoyed moulding volcanoes out of clay and demonstrating eruptions using some common chemicals and food dye!



European Languages Day

The French department ran a thoroughly enjoyable French Morning to celebrate European Languages Day.

All first year and TY students watched the French film “Les Choristes” and enjoyed a breakfast of croissants and orange juice!

Career Guidance



In September, Leaving Certificate students travelled to the Higher Options Conference in the RDS and were afforded a valuable opportunity to speak to representatives from all the colleges and universities in Ireland and in the UK. As part of College Awareness week, 6th year students met representatives from the Construction Federation of Ireland and members from Clancy Construction where they got an insight into the variety of work offered in the Construction Sector and the progression routes available to them.



In October, TY students attended the Zeminar Conference, a social enterprise that facilitates the introduction of young people to some of the best and most innovative organisations on this island. It was smiles all round for our 3rd year students who completed a Study Skills workshop with Owen Diviney, a former international rower and winner of seven international gold medals and seven all Ireland championships. **By Ms Lorna Byrne**

Budding Artists

Congrats to 3rd year student Elaina Thackaberry whose art work was highly commended in the prestigious Texaco Art Competition. Elaina is pictured with her Art teacher Ms R Dorney and year head Ms J Cahill.



Congrats to 1st year student Stephen Healy who won first place in the recent Thurles Credit Union Art Competition. Stephen is pictured with his art teacher Ms R Dorney and year head Mr J Dunne.



Seinn



On December 6th, forty five music students joined hundreds of other secondary school students from across the diocese to perform in the ‘Seinn’ concert in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles. Congrats and well done to the students involved and to their teachers Ms Wallace and Ms Geaney.

Literacy Initiatives

Students were extremely busy participating in our literacy initiative ‘Drop Everything And Read’ and this year the staff were given the opportunity to take part in a *Teacher to Teacher Literacy Initiative* organised by English teacher Mr P Stapleton.



Staff members recommended a book they had read on a Christmas card with a festive greeting and the cards were then distributed amongst the staff .

Poetry Aloud



Photo shows Junior Cycle students who participated in a Poetry Aloud Competition with their teacher Ms C Dunphy and the panel of judges. The standard of poetry written was deemed exceptional by the judges.

“Bring It On” - the School Musical

Congratulations to the talented cast of this year’s school musical “Bring It On”. 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. Well done to all involved and a special thank you to the production team, especially Ms S Martin, Ms H Wallace and Ms C Geaney. Also, congratulations to 3rd year student Caylum Gooney on receiving the *Spirit of the Musical Award* for his role in Bring It On! We are looking forward to next year’s production of “Grease”. Auditions will be held in early May and all are welcome!



Foireann Díospóireachta



*Eoin Ó’Cradóg, Kayleigh Ní Chróinín,
Rebecca Elphick agus múinteoirí
Mr JP Butler & Ms J Cahill*

Foireann Díospóireachta ó Choláiste Mhuire a ghlac páirt i gcomórtas Gael Linn i gChluain Meala. ‘Séard an rún a bhí ann ná ba chóir deireadh a chur le Rós Thrá Lí mar chomórtas’. Rinneadar go hiontach ar fad.

Féile na Samhna - Clár na gCeist



Well done to the Junior Quiz teams that came 1st and 3rd place respectively in the Féile na Samhna recently.

Sa chéad áit: (ar chúil)
Róisín Ní Chonghaile, Eoin Ó’Cradóg, Ethan de Buitléir agus Seán Mac Craith.

Sa tríú háit: (chun tosaigh)
Pádraig Connolly, Gavin Shanahan, Cormac Leahy agus Leisha Ryan lena múinteoir Seán Ó’Cradóg.

Business Studies Pilot with the NCCA

As part of the New Junior Cycle Business Studies curriculum, 1st and 2nd year students in conjunction with their teachers, Ms Molumby and Ms Bergin, are working with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) to develop new assessment techniques as part of the new Business Studies Curriculum. This includes both classroom tasks and Curriculum Based Assessment (CBA) tasks. Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed is fortunate to be one of seven schools in Ireland to be involved in this initiative.

By Ms Bergin & Ms Molumby

School Business Partnership with Dew Valley Foods



Fifth year students and their teachers got a real insight into the world of work in Dew Valley Foods Thurles by spending time in the factory over two days in January. They enjoyed a very educational site visit giving them the opportunity to view operations in the processing plant. All students participated in a questions & answers session afterwards.
#seeingisbelieving #howitsmade





Transition Year News

TYs have enjoyed a very busy first term in CMCO. In September and October, the students visited the **National Ploughing Championships**, submitted their entries for the **BT Young Scientist & Technology** competition and made an excellent contribution to the success of our school musical **"Bring It On"** – with a solo performance from Katelyn Ryan and other students participating in the chorus or being part of the backstage crew.

Community Care is up and running as usual every Wednesday morning and a number of students are availing of this opportunity to pursue their **Gaisce Bronze Award** over the year. All students engaged in a week of **Work Experience** during November where valuable insights into working life were learned.

One of the highlights of the term was a **Maths & Enterprise overnight trip to Kilkenny** where the students participated in an enterprise workshop, enjoyed a maths trail and visited the Medieval Mile Museum. Students were also busy brainstorming new business ideas for their mini companies in **Enterprise** class and demonstrated their entrepreneurial skills at the annual Christmas Market Day.

French class had the students engaged in filming their entries to the Irish French Teachers Association annual film-making competition under the theme **"Le chat est party - When the cat's away"**.

In **Social Education** class, the TY students coordinated the **Christmas Shoebox** appeal and successfully collected a record number of sixty one boxes for HOPE Ireland. Students also participated in the **LIT Youth Sports workshop**, organised and coordinated a fundraising **Badminton Tournament** for 1st year students, enjoyed a fun day **Rock Climbing** at Upper Limits in Upperchurch and attended the **Zeminar** and **Cycle Against Suicide** conferences in Dublin.

In **Computer Programming**, the class were busy working on the **Hour of Code** to explore different programming techniques and students record information learned in every subject in their **Eportfolios**.

This term, the students are looking forward to their **Enterprise and Tourism Trip** to Belfast, working on phase four of the **Creative Engagement Project** and many more exciting learning experiences!! *By Ms Conroy & Ms Geaney*



LCA News

The 5th LCA students participated in a very successful RAP Workshop run by Garry McCarthy from GMCBeats for their General Education Task. The students wrote, recorded and edited their own rap about the **Impact of Drugs on Young People**. They also enjoyed a visit to The Source as part of the English and Communications module.

The 6th LCA students were busy completing tasks in Art, Craft & Design, Social Education and Practical Achievement.



Each week the students are engaged in **Work Experience** which helps provide a valuable insight for all students into the world of work. In **Enterprise**, all students were busy thinking of creative business ideas in preparation for the schools annual Market Day. The achievements of the 6th LCA students in receiving exceptional credits in **Key Assignments** and **Task Interviews** for Session Two were acknowledged in a presentation of Certificates Ceremony.

By Ms Conroy



u15 Gaelic Football
Photo shows Munster PPS Chairman Mr Tom Maher presenting the cup to the winning captain Tom O'Reilly in recognition of his teams superb victory over North Monastery Secondary School in the Munster Final.

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



FAI Futsal
Photo shows the 1st year girls team who participated in the FAI Futsal competition and enjoyed three competitive matches against Templemore, Borrisoleigh and Roscrea.

Soccer News

Our soccer squads at u15, u17 and u19 played three important Munster matches at quarter-final and semi-final stages recently. Following on from recent successes, our hopes were high for progression in these competitions, but the opposition proved to be formidable in Nenagh College, Cobh Community College and Spanish Point Community College respectively. Despite some excellent performances from our students and wholehearted displays, lady luck failed to favour us on occasions that might have seen us sneak a number of vital scores to advance further in Munster. Ultimately however, this wasn't to be and huge credit goes to coaches Mr Fahy, Mr Butler and Mr Spillane for their input and commitment with our squads. Also, our 1st year soccer team managed by LCA students Shane Breen and Liam Ryan finished second in the ETB Shield Competition. Well done to all involved!



u19 Senior Boys Soccer Team



Athletics
Photos shows our athletes who competed in the Tipperary County Cross Country event.

Well done to our Junior team who finished in 4th place and to Gavin Ryan who finished 4th in the individual Junior Boys event. *By Ms E Carey*



Volleyball
The Senior boys competed successfully in the group stages to play against teams from Sutton (Dublin) and Elphin (Roscommon) in the All-Ireland Quarter Final. By Ms A Carey



Hurling
Our 1st year, u15, junior and senior hurling teams have had a busy few months competing in the Tipperary Schools County

competition, the Hennessy Cup and in the Munster Cup competition. Many thanks to the hurling coaches involved in training the various hurling teams. Photo shows our u16.5 Hurling Team with Mr J Fanning



Basketball
Earlier this year, our u16 and u19 boys basketball teams played very competitive matches in the Midlands Cadette Cup Competition.

Photo shows the u19 Boys Basketball Team

Rugby
Congratulations to the u15 rugby team on their excellent wins in the County section of the schools competition at UL where they triumphed over Nenagh College, St. Ailbe's Tipperary town and drew with Cashel Community College. Well done also to their coaches Mr. Gleeson, Mr. Power and Mr. John Shaw.

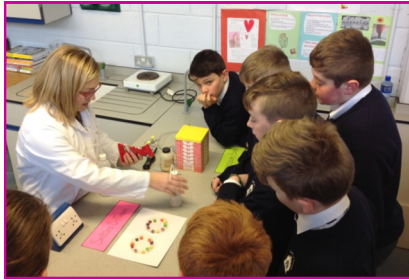


Photo shows the jubilant u15 players who progress to the Munster stages of the competition, where the top two teams will play in the final at Thomond Park.



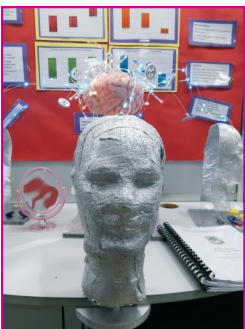
Science Week 2017

During Science Week, the excitement was palpable among our 1st year students as they completed the Brown Bag STEM Challenges at the Tipperary Festival of Science in St Patrick's College, Thurles. Also, Ms Forde's Science Magic Show was a star attraction for students with lots of experiments to see in the lab, such as methane mamba, skittle diffusion and turning water into wine!! Some 3rd students and Ms Smith had fun participating in a 'Science Outdoors' event hosted by the Department of Applied Science in LIT and 2nd year students were busy planting Spring bulbs. #scienceweek #BelieveInScience



BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Congratulations to 2nd year student Jack Kennedy who represented Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed with pride and distinction at this year's exhibition. A special thank you must be conveyed to his mentor Ms M C Ryan and to the teachers who helped in the background in bringing Jack's project to fruition. His project "Analysing the Effect on First Year Students' Positivity using Three Good Things" was based on the power of positivity on your wellbeing and mental health. All 1st and 2nd year students travelled to Dublin with their STEM teachers to support Jack and to enjoy the experience! #BTYSTE



Native Irish Honey Bee is Alive and Well!

Photo shows past pupil Jack Hassett with school principal Mr Denis Quinn and teachers Ms J Cahill, Mr PJ O'Connell, Ms A Conroy and Ms D Ryan.

CMCO was delighted to welcome back past pupil Jack Hassett to talk to our junior and senior cycle science students about his ground breaking discovery that the native Irish Honey Bee is not extinct. He is currently pursuing his doctorate at Limerick LIT and he used DNA analysis to deduce that millions of the native black Irish Honeybee are living in at least 300 hives throughout the country. Jack studied Chemistry and Agricultural Science at senior cycle and followed on to study Pharmaceutical and Forensic Analysis in Limerick LIT. We wish Jack all the best in his future endeavours!

IMMA Creative Engagement Expo



Photo shows students Bill Hogan & Aine Flynn exhibiting the creative engagement works they completed in the school garden, under the guidance of renowned stonemason and sculptor Mr Philip Quinn. The programme strives to encourage creativity, initiative and expression in our students and the TY class are looking forward to starting phase 4 this term.

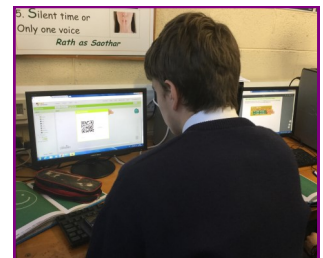


Stand Up Week

Photo of some #allies showing support for the LGBTI+ community in our school during Stand Up week. CMCO provides an inclusive and supportive environment for everyone.

Busy in the Coding Hub

Students are busy learning Binary Code, making Flip-a-Dos, creating Kahoots and using App Inventor 2 to develop new apps.





JCSP News

Rap Workshop: The 1st year JCSP music students really enjoyed participating in a “Rap” workshop with well-known Cork rapper Garry McCarthy.

Students wrote their own lyrics, recorded and edited a rap called “*Be Hopeful*”. This rap will be available to hear on our school website.

Christmas Celebration: On December 20th, we held our annual JCSP 1st year Christmas celebration. Parents were invited to the celebration and this gave our students an opportunity to showcase their work to their families.

Upcoming JCSP Initiatives: The JCSP programme will have a very busy new year. The students will be involved in a number of initiatives including Make a Book, French Theatre, Sewing Club, School based Literacy Project, Maths games and a Science trip to the Cabragh Wetlands.
By Ms H Wallace & Ms J Delaney

Business Trip to Butlers

The students and their Business Studies teachers thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Butlers Chocolate factory where they were given a very informative guided tour of the factory followed by a demonstration on how the Chocolate is made into moulds. They also had an opportunity to design their own chocolate teddy bear. The trip concluded with a visit to Newbridge Silverware.

By Ms M Bergin & Ms E Molumby



Cookery & Craft Club

The Home Economics room is a hive of activity with many students having fun baking and cooking delicious dishes in the after school Cookery Club and others are enjoying creating crafts at lunchtime in the Craft Club with Ms K Carr.



Student Council

In October, elected Student Council members accompanied by Ms J Cahill attended the inaugural **Tipperary ETB Student Leader Congress** held in Nenagh College. Over 140 ETB students gathered to hear talks on a range of relevant topics and afterwards all students participated in workshops facilitated by Youth Workers.

Leading Lights in Road Safety



In December, a group of Student Council members and their leaders Ms J Cahill and Ms M Hayes attended the RSA Leading Lights Awards ceremony in Croke Park and were the proud recipients of the Secondary

Education Award. This award acknowledges their success in getting the local county council to demolish a wall and widen a footpath to make the approach to our school safer for our students. Well done to all involved in this wonderful project!



The council members were very active in organising their Christmas raffle in aid of the 6th year Debs and also presented prizes to the best dressed students and teachers in Festive Costume. A big thanks to our Parents Association, PLC students, Staff and Management for their help and support. Maith sibh!

By Ms J Cahill & Ms M Hayes



Photo shows our 1st Year Boys Soccer Team who participated in the Tipperary ETB Soccer Blitz in Scoil Ruain, Killenaule.



Budding Entrepreneurs at our School Market Day

In December, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed held their annual Christmas Market Day in the Dome in aid of the Jack & Jill Foundation. The atmosphere was wonderful, the students were amazing and a record number of sixty eight mini companies displayed their wonderful products. The students demonstrated their entrepreneurial skills by turning their skills and passion into successful businesses.

Students were also judged for the Student Enterprise Awards County Competition by Sue Anne O'Donnell, Tipperary Local Enterprise Board. Eight teams qualified for this prestigious event, which will be held on Friday, 9th March in LIT Thurles.

A special thank you to Sue Anne O'Donnell, who is a great support to staff and students throughout the school year. Well done to all our budding entrepreneurs and to their teachers Ms Molumby, Ms Dunphy & Mr Brennan. Best of luck in the county final!



Merit & Attendance Awards

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed acknowledged Junior Cycle students for their academic success and overall contribution to school life to date by presenting them with **Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Merit Awards**. Senior and Junior Cycle students were awarded for excellent attendance also.

Top Photo shows 3rd year students who successfully received Merit Awards.

Bottom Photo shows students who were rewarded for excellent attendance with Mr J Dunne.



Photo shows CMCO students who sponsored the new water feature in the garden at Tús Nua in Stradavoher.

CMCO Parents Association

It has been a busy time for our members since the school year commenced in August. Firstly, we bid farewell to the 2017 Leaving Certificate class at their 'debs' in the Anner Hotel and it was a wonderful night for both students and their proud parents. With the help of our fundraising endeavours and the weekly school lotto, we have provided students with welcome outdoor seating, outdoor tennis tables and enhanced the school environment with new planters. We assisted with school tours on a very busy open night and our members helped with advertising, car parking and refreshments on the school show nights and on open night. Our aim is to represent the views of parents and to inform parents of new developments in education and in the school. New members are always welcome to join us. Finally, on behalf of all our members, I would like to say thank you to Mr Quinn, Ms Wallace and to the staff for their continued support. *By Mary T Spillane, Secretary*

Important Dates

- February 6th
- 2nd & 5th Years Parent/Teacher Meeting
- February 12th - 16th
- Mid-term break
- February 22nd
- Subject Choices Meeting for 1st Year Parents
- March 8th
- Extra 3rd & 6th Years Parent/Teacher Meeting followed by an Information Talk on Subjects for 3rd Year Parents
- March 19th
- School closed
- March 26th - April 6th
- Easter Holidays
- June 1st
- Last Day of School Year
- June 6th
- State Exams begin

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