



# Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Thurles

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## Principal's Address

Welcome to our **Spring Newsletter**. It has been a busy and exciting year to date with so much to report on, including our musical, market day, charity fundraising, young scientists and many sporting successes. We look forward to an even busier new year. Best of luck to our exam students who are busy studying for their pre exams. I would like to acknowledge our hardworking staff and the support, vision and dedication of our Parents, the Parents Association and the Board of Management. We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. **Denis Quinn, Principal**



## BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Congratulations to first year students Róisín Ryan and Katie McCarthy who proudly represented CMCO with their project **"Bioplastics: An alternative use for milk"** at the recent BTYST Exhibition. *Photo shows the students with their teacher Ms M Smith.*

## Cycle Against Suicide Ambassador School Award



*Photo shows Minister of State for European Affairs Helen McEntee presenting the Cycle Against Suicide Ambassador Schools' Award to senior students Cameron Ferncombe and Ben O'Sullivan at the awards ceremony held at the honourable society of King's Inns in Dublin.*

## "Two-in-a-Row" - Munster u15 Gaelic Football Champions



Congratulations to our u15 Gaelic Football team on being crowned Munster u15 Champions for the second year in a row. The team were victorious over Killorglin Community College in a formidable game with a final score of 4-15 to 6-06. On route to the Munster final, they defeated Waterpark College, Ennistymon College and Kilmihil College.

*Photo shows the jubilant Munster u15 Gaelic Football Champions with team managers Mr S Ó'Cradoig & Mr JP Butler.*



## Whole School Well-being ENERGY Programme

In conjunction with Mental Health Awareness Week, CMCO launched a new whole school well-being programme called the **ENERGY** programme. Congratulations to our 6<sup>th</sup> year students who are exceptional mentors in supporting the junior students in this important, proactive approach to well-being. *Photo shows our 6<sup>th</sup> year mentors with Ms Lorna Byrne & Ms Clare Wallace.*

## CMCO School Bank



*Photo shows students Jack Murphy, Rachel Ryan, Gary Delaney and Jamie Kinane managing the School Bank with support from Mr John Lillis, Youth Coordinator at the Bank of Ireland.*

## "Grease" - School Musical

Congratulations to the talented cast of this year's school musical "*Grease*". 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 A Carey, Ms H Wallace, Ms C Geaney & Ms S Martin. Also, congratulations to 3<sup>rd</sup> year student John Shaw on receiving the *Spirit of the Musical Award* for his role in Grease!



## Career Guidance News

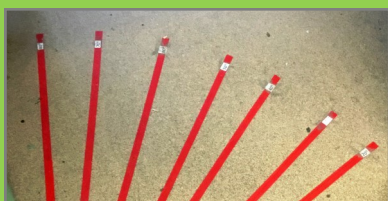
In September, Leaving Certificate students travelled to the *Higher Options Conference* in the RDS and were afforded a valuable opportunity to speak to representatives from all the colleges and universities in Ireland and in the UK. Transition Year students attended the *School Summit* in the National Show Centre in Dublin and were able to explore the different pathways available to further their education.



In October, senior 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. Students got a chance to listen to Rory O'Connor, better known as the comedian from *Rory's Stories*, who spoke passionately about believing in yourself, taking the risk, seeing an opportunity and above all being happy and content with who you are. A vast array of events were organised for students during College Awareness week in November and these included guidance talks, information sessions, college visits, a career fair and a junior quiz. In December, Kay Mitchel from *Maynooth University* spoke to senior students on the ups and downs of applying for and being successful at third level and Paul Cremmins from *Suir Engineering* presented to both Junior Certificate and Senior students on the requirements of industry from apprenticeships. *By Ms L Byrne*

## Numeracy & Literacy Initiatives

CMCO is busy creating a *number rich environment* as part of our Deis Numeracy strategy. 'Floor protractors' and 'road signs' as shown below, are examples of the excellent work being completed around the school. Students and staff are extremely busy participating in our literacy initiative '*Drop Everything And Read*' and staff enjoyed taking part in the *Christmas Card/Book Recommendation* initiative. Both literacy initiatives are organised by English teacher Mr P Stapleton.



## 7 H1s for Scott

Congrats to Scott Beaton who achieved seven H1 grades in his Leaving Certificate 2018 exams. Scott is currently studying his first choice course, Middle Eastern Studies in Edinburgh University.

Teachers and students alike witnessed first hand the huge amount of work Scott put into his studies and it is fantastic to see it coming to fruition. Scott eventually hopes to embark on a career in humanitarian aid, something he is very passionate about. *Photo shows Scott Beaton displaying his fantastic results with Mr Denis Quinn & Ms Clare Wallace.*

### Geography Trip to the Burren

Black Head in the Burren, Co Clare was the location for our 6<sup>th</sup> Year Geographical Investigation this year. Despite the inclement weather conditions, this transpired to be a most enjoyable trip where students studied the impact of weathering in a Karst landscape. The day concluded on a high with a well deserved trip to McDonalds! *By Mr S O'Cradoig*



### Seinn

In December, students from CMCO raised their voices in song, along with 18 other schools from the Cashel and Emly diocese, in the Seinn Concert in the Cathedral of the Assumption, Thurles. Our school was well represented with sixty students taking part, including four soloists: Eamon Ryan, Gareth McCarthy, Kayleigh Cronin & James O'Donoghue. Participating in Seinn was a great experience and gave us the chance to sing with a live band and a large choir. *By Kayleigh Cronin*



### News from the Art Department

Our 6<sup>th</sup> year Art students made the short journey recently to The Source to view an excellent model of Thurles that replicated life and architecture in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century town. Students were hugely impressed with the meticulously constructed design by the late Jim Condon and deemed the visit a most informative and enjoyable one. *By Mr PJ O'Connell*



Thurles Credit Union ran an Art competition for second level schools recently to depict the theme "The Force of Nature". There was an abundance of entries from students in Thurles and to the delight of our Art Department and their Art teacher Ms. Dorney, the 14-17 age category saw 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places go respectively to Calvin Stokes, Michael Fogarty and Ben Buckley who are pictured in the photograph below with Thurles CU Chairperson Mr DJ Darcy. *By Ms R Dorney*



### Student Council 2018/19

In early September, "Democracy in Action" was the theme among the students as election speeches and class elections took place to vote for this year's student council representatives. In October, some members attended the Tipperary ETB Student Leader Congress in Nenagh College. Members also assisted in the organisation of the Festive Dress Up Day in December. All proceeds from this fun day were donated to local charities.



*Photo shows Student Council members with teacher representatives Ms J Cahill & Ms M Hayes.*

Mr Quinn & Ms Wallace were delighted to meet Minister Joe McHugh at the Principal and Deputy Principals conference recently. He was delighted to hear about the recent successes in the school and to learn about our increased enrolment. The conference was very informative and included sessions on student voice, child protection and the new digital strategy.

### Digital Champions



In December, Rian Power, Adam Ryan, Jack Cooney, Shorley, Bill O'Dwyer and Stephen Cullen travelled to the Thomond Conference Centre to take part in the Digital Champion Training Day. They spent the day learning about film editing using iMovie and enjoyed creating a two minute video promoting Thomond Park as a venue. The students also received a marketing talk and were given ideas on how to get started on their projects. *By Ms Mary C Ryan*

### Féile an Aonaigh - Tráth na gCeist



Ghlac ceithre fhoireann ón scoil páirt i gcomórtas Tráth na gCeist mar chuid de Féile an Aonaigh le déanaí. Bhain Cormac Ó'Lauchadh, Liam Ó'Duibhir, Lauren Ní Bhroin agus Jack Ó'Leathlobhair an chéad áit amach agus bhog foireann eile ón scoil chun tosaigh chun an dara áit a bhaint amach. B'iad san Aaron Ó'hÍcí, JJ Schoeman, Gary Ó'Dúshláine agus Pádraig Ó'Conghaile.

Comghairdeas libh go léir as bhur n-iarrachtaí. Maith sibh. *By Ms E Meagher*



### FAI Futsal Champions

Well done to our first year Boys Futsal Team who won the County Tipperary Futsal tournament and progressed to represent Tipperary in the Munster final. Many thanks to their soccer manager

Mr D Fahy.

*Photo shows the successful winning team with coach Mr JP Butler and mentor Joey O'Donoghue.*



### Athletics

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

### CMCO u15 Hurling Team



### U16.5 Munster Hurling Finalists



*Well done to our u16.5 hurling team & their coaches Mr Fanning and Mr Gleeson on qualifying for the Munster Cup Final following successful conquests against Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh, Tralee CBS and Nenagh College. CMCO were narrowly defeated by Mount Sion CBS in a very competitive final.*

### Soccer News

Our 1<sup>st</sup> year, u15 and u19 soccer squads had superb wins against St Ailbe's, Scoil Ruain, and Nenagh College which helped all teams qualify from their groups to progress to the Munster competition. Many thanks to their coaches Mr Fahy, Mr Butler & Mr Spillane for the weekly training sessions.



*Captains Jimmy Ryan & Jack Delaney being presented with the winning trophies for the successes in the u15 Munster Gaelic Football and County Tipperary Soccer finals respectively.*



### 1<sup>st</sup> Year Hurling

Our first year hurlers played out of their skin in their blitz in Dr Morris Park winning against Borrisoleigh and Clonmel and unfortunately were unable to overcome a formidable Borrisokane team. Well done lads!



### Girls FAI Futsal

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



### Basketball

*Our 1<sup>st</sup> year boys basketball team were narrowly defeated by Coláiste Chluain Meala in the final of the Tipperary ETB 1<sup>st</sup> Year Boys Basketball Blitz.*



### Rugby

Our 1<sup>st</sup> year rugby team participated in a blitz in Nenagh RFC and enjoyed a great start winning their first two matches against Nenagh College and Villiers of Limerick. However, due to tired and a few sore bodies, they were unable to overcome a very strong team from Abbeyfeale Community College. Well done to all first years involved and their rugby coaches.



## Transition Year News

TYs have enjoyed a jam-packed first term full of many new activities, competitions, workshops and exciting trips. Some of the activities that the students have engaged in and enjoyed include: Coding and Artificial Intelligence workshops with lecturer Keith Quille, Bebras computational online thinking competition, Kickboxing and Jiu Jitsu, BT Young Scientist & Technology competition, Hope Christmas Shoebox appeal, School Musical "Grease", Christmas Market Day, Health & Fitness Wellbeing workshops, a new recycling Green Schools initiative, School Choir and Mobile Recording Studio, Student Leader Congress 2018, Chinese and Japanese classes. Trips included a team-building trip to Delphi Adventure Centre, a visit to Croke Park in conjunction with the GAA Future Leaders programme, visits to the School Summit and Zeminar conferences in Dublin, the Source library and the Garda Station in Thurles on Road Safety Day. This term, the TYs are looking forward to completing the Gaisce Adventure Journey on the Waterford Greenway, the CPR 4 Schools course, a tourism tour to Barcelona, working on a Creative Engagement project and many more exciting activities, trips and workshops. *By Ms A Conroy*



## CSPE Trip

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students embarked on a trip to Nenagh Heritage Centre and Limerick Jail with Ms J Cahill & Ms E Meagher as part of their CSPE Practical Coursework encompassing 40% of their overall mark.



*Photo shows some students viewing conditions from a bygone Ireland in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century where farmers were self sufficient, schooling was uncompromising and Broadband & Snapchat were literally centuries away!*

## School Choir

The school choir has had a very busy term. After the positive experience of the school musical "Grease", the students wanted to keep the momentum going. We all worked very hard practicing on our songs. Ms Wallace's music room was the place to be at lunch time. We picked some songs that were relevant to the time like "Somewhere Only We Know" by Lily Allen and "A Million Dreams" from The Greatest Showman.

Our school choir took part in a number of events such as Seinn, Christmas carol singing in Padre Pio Nursing Home and in the Community Hospital of the Assumption, our School celebration and our PLC Christmas celebration. On January 25<sup>th</sup>, our Junior and Senior choirs performed "Shallow" from A Star is Born and "This is Me" from The Greatest Showman in the Tipperary ETB Talent Competition in The Dome. We are looking forward to reuniting with our friends in Padre Pio Nursing Home for our intergenerational choir. *By Sophie Delaney & John Shaw*



### BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition

Congratulations to first year students Róisín Ryan and Katie McCarthy who represented Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed with pride and distinction at this year's exhibition. A special thank you must be conveyed to their mentor Ms M Smith in bringing their project to fruition. Their project **"Bioplastics: An alternative use for milk"** investigated making plastic from milk. First year students travelled to Dublin with their STEM teachers to support Róisín & Katie and to enjoy the experience! **#BTYTE**



Photo shows Róisín & Katie busy making plastic from milk in the science lab.

### Agricultural Science students visit local farms



In November, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year agricultural science students visited three different farms in the local area. The farm enterprises included sheep, beef, dairy and tillage. The students benefited greatly as they got first hand experience of life on a farm. This visit will form part of their practical coursework assessment. CMCO science department is extremely grateful to the farmers for accommodating our students. **Photo shows students at David Clarke's Beef & Sheep Farm.**



### Science Week 2018

During Science Week, the excitement was palpable among our 1<sup>st</sup> year students as they attended the **Bright Sparks, Fantastic Physics Show** in Thurles Library. The event was part of the Tipperary Festival of Science and it explored the concepts of energy, forces and electricity. It was a very interactive and enjoyable experience for the students. **#scienceweek #BelieveInScience**



### LCA News

Our LCA classes had a very busy first term participating in a number of school activities. Our 5<sup>th</sup> year students visited Thurles Library with Mr Stapleton, worked with a mobile recording studio to complete their

General Education task and attended a school business partnership presentation by Dew Valley Foods.

Our 6<sup>th</sup> year students undertook a most informative trip to Pallaskenry College in Limerick where they investigated courses on offer in Agriculture and Farm Machinery/Mechanisation. Both classes displayed their entrepreneurial skills at the annual Christmas Market Day and competed in a 5-a-side soccer competition, narrowly losing in the cup final to Roscrea YR. **By Ms A Conroy**



### New Recycling Initiative

**Photo shows members of the TY Green Committee with Mr P Stapleton at the launch of their new recycling initiative in the school.**

### LCA General Education Task

On December 11<sup>th</sup>, the 5<sup>th</sup> year LCA class completed their General Education Task in Music using a mobile recording studio. The students organised the task with guidance from Ms H Wallace. We all sang Kenny Rodgers **"The Gambler"**. We divided into groups of four. All of the class sang the chorus, James O'Donoghue sang verse 1 as a solo, Martin and Tom O'Reilly, James O'Donoghue and David Doyle sang verses 2,3 and 4 together. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience and we all really enjoyed it. **By Calvin Stokes, 5<sup>th</sup> LCA**



**Business Department News**

The business studies students enjoyed many informative and interesting events last term. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years went on a field trip to the Bank of Ireland to learn first hand how a bank operates. Senior students were involved in the setting up of the school bank. In November, the students and their teachers Ms Bergin and Ms Molumby enjoyed a trip to the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin.

**Christmas Celebration**

Random Acts of Kindness and Three Good Things from our Energy programme, "Rath as Saothar" from our mission



statement and the Inspirational Quotes on our classroom doors formed the backbone of the theme for our Christmas celebration. Our choir conducted by Ms Wallace performed some beautiful songs and music.

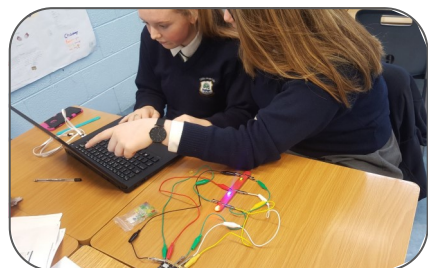
A special thank you to Ms R Dorney for organising a very beautiful Christmas celebration with the help of many students.

**Festive Dress Up Day in aid of charity**

*Photo shows the winners of Best Festive Costume receiving their prizes from Student Council representative Ms J Cahill.*

**Coding**

During the term, 3<sup>rd</sup> and TY students participated in the online Bebras Computational Thinking challenge. CMCO has developed a strong working partnership with Tallaght IT, in particular with Computer Science lecturer Keith Quille. In December, Keith facilitated a micro bit workshop to further support our students completing their Coding CBA. Many games were developed on the day, including a temperature monitor for a baby's room.



*Photo shows students programming their game.*

**Cake Sale & Walk for the Amanda Stapleton Fund**

In November, CMCO organised a cake sale and school walk for the Amanda Stapleton Benefit Fund and raised a massive €3,100. Pupils, parents and teachers combined to make this an unbelievable day. Also, a number of CMCO staff participated in the 5km Fun Run also. Amanda is a sister of P.E & English teacher, Mr Paddy Stapleton.

**TETB Quiz Success**

*Well done to our senior quiz team of Katelyn Ryan, Jack Cooney Shorley, Ellen Clarke and Rebecca Elphick on their recent success in the Tipperary ETB Sports & Cultural Senior Quiz proudly holding aloft their trophies with their mentor Ms Hickey and Principal Mr Quinn.*

**JCSP News**

All junior students received a written JCSP postcard acknowledging their achievements and efforts during the term.

**Christmas Celebration:** On December 19<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual JCSP 1<sup>st</sup> year Christmas celebration. Our Lisheen mine theatre was decked out with wonderful displays from all subject areas. Parents were invited to the celebration and this gave our students an opportunity to showcase their work to their families.

**Upcoming JCSP Initiatives:** The students will be involved in a number of initiatives including Make a Book, French Theatre, Rap Workshop, Oral Language Development, Maths games and a Science trip. *By Ms H Wallace & Ms J Delaney*



## School Market Day 2018



In December, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed held their annual Christmas Market Day in the Dome in aid of the Amanda Stapleton Fund. The atmosphere was wonderful, the students were amazing and a record number of 200 students 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 Sharon Cantwell from the Tipperary Local Enterprise Office.



The following students are representing CMCO at the Tipperary Enterprise County Finals in LIT in March:



**Junior Category:** Dylan Ryan, Darragh O'Grady, Heber Nesbitt, Cormac Kiely, Josh Ryan, Conor O'Sullivan and Dan O'Connell

**Intermediate Category:** Nicola Dea, TJ Cunningham, Stephen Healy, Kaitlyn Ryan, Caleb Butler and Bill O'Dwyer.

**Senior Category:** Jack Kiely and Christian Cullen

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 Bergin, Ms Dunphy & Mr Brennan. Best of luck in the county final!



**E - Exercise** daily  
**N - Nutrition** - eat well  
**E - Exhale** - remember to breathe properly  
**R - Random** acts of kindness  
**G - Good things** - take conscious note of 3 good things every day  
**Y - Look after Your** internet safety and use

## ENERGY Programme

During last semester, our junior cycle students participated in the breathing (**E-Exhale**) and the random acts of kindness (**R-Random**) parts of the programme with the guidance and support from their 6<sup>th</sup> year ENERGY leaders. To coincide with Safer Internet Day on February 5<sup>th</sup>, CMCO launched the "**Y** - Look after **Your** internet safety and use" which challenges students in the junior years to use technology for two hours less per day over a two week period.

## 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.

*Photo shows Odhráin Donaghy, John Delaney and Róisín Connolly who received Platinum Awards with Mr PJ O'Connell & Mr D Quinn.*

## Important Dates

**February 15<sup>th</sup>**  
 JCT Whole School CPD Day (School closed)  
**February 18<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>**  
 Mid-term break  
**March 12<sup>th</sup>**  
 Extra 3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Years Parent/Teacher Meeting  
**March 18<sup>th</sup>**  
 School closed (Public Holiday)  
**April 15<sup>th</sup> - April 26<sup>th</sup>**  
 Easter Holidays  
**May 31<sup>st</sup>**  
 Last Day of School Year  
**June 5<sup>th</sup>**  
 State Exams begin

## CMCO Parents Association

Our school year commenced in August with the 2018 Leaving Certificate class 'debs' in the Anner Hotel. It was a wonderful occasion for the students and their parents, together with teaching staff, BOM and PA members. We helped with a very successful open night and our members assisted with advertising, parking and school tours. In October, the school show 'Grease' entertained full houses in the Dome and PA members assisted with the raffle and the tuck shop on both nights. Congratulations to all involved in this highly entertaining show. In December, we completed a very successful bag packing weekend in Dunnes Stores and it was lovely to meet new parents and we appreciate your commitment. All monies raised are for the benefit of the students. Leaving certificate students assisted with the annual PA Christmas Raffle which is a fundraising effort to allay costs for their debs in August. Many thanks to the Clarke and Scally families for kind donations of fuel for the raffle. Our association welcomes new members and new ideas. Best of luck to the Junior and Leaving certificate students in their upcoming 'pre' exams. A sincere thank you to Mr Quinn, Ms Wallace and all the staff for their continued support and encouragement. *By Mary T Spillane, Secretary*