



'CMCO NEWS'

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CMCO Technology Department produces PPE for Frontline Healthcare Workers



On March 26th, a nationwide 3D Printing Project began with the goal to print 10,000 face shields for frontline workers in the battle against Covid-19.

The *Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Technology Department*, headed by Metalwork & Engineering teacher, *Mr Kevin Gleeson*, joined this campaign and proudly produced hundreds of 3D face shields for frontline healthcare workers using the schools 3D printers.

Our school also donated any personal protective equipment it had in stock to frontline workers in St Luke's Hospital, Kilkenny, as part of a PPE for Frontline Workers initiative by the four secondary schools in Thurles.



Photos shows members of the *Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Intergenerational Choir* presenting a cheque to *Thurles Order of Malta member, Mr Dennis Jordan*. The intergenerational choir is comprised of residents from *Padre Pio Nursing Home & CMCO Choir members*.

First Years write letters to our incoming students



During the school closure, our current first years were busy writing letters online to our incoming first year students detailing their wonderful experiences in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed to date.

To help plan for the transition from primary to secondary school, our incoming first years were also given access to a Google Classroom with fun activities to help them to settle in. We look forward to welcoming our newest members of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed in August 2020.



OPEN NIGHT

Email openevening@cmco.ie for information on our upcoming Open Night in October 2020





Principal's Address

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. While this year started off like any other, "COVID-19" arrived and our school building closed on March 12th. Our community was plunged into the unknown and overnight a new reality emerged. Remote learning, google meets, live classes on google classroom, cocooning, no hugs, no friends over - all this became the norm. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students on your resilience and how you managed yourselves during this World Pandemic. In particular, our Exam students, who had to deal with their exams being initially postponed, then cancelled and finally calculated grades for our Leaving Certs. This strange time has made us realise that without the hustle and bustle of our students, the school is just 'one big empty building'. We have really missed you and we look forward to welcoming you back in August. **Denis Quinn, Principal**



Remote Learning in CMCO during Covid-19

From mid March, the *Google Suite for Education* became the online teaching & learning platform between our students and teachers and *Compass*, our online portal/app helped to keep our parents and students updated with CMCO news. Posting assignments and sharing resources on Google Classroom, live classes via Google Meet, Google Quizzes, online assembly and staff meetings etc. started to become a new normal for students & staff. Even though our students were familiar with using Google for Education pre COVID-19, CMCO decided to

include a *remote hub section on our website* offering extra technology support to students & parents as they continue to work from home and sharing weekly parent updates, supplementary resources and wellbeing advice. The *Digital Team* in CMCO also collated a list of handy tips/ideas on how to use @GoogleForEdu Google Classroom. A special thank you to ICT coordinator, Ms Bergin and to Ms C Wallace for their continuous ICT support to students and staff.

Subject@home online challenges

During the school closure, our students were busy participating in many subject challenges and activities, including weekly PE classes with Mr Byrnes, Home Economics baking and upcycling challenges with Ms Carr, building models using everyday materials for Metalwork with Mr Fanning, Science at home experiments, Wellbeing activities, creating digital adverts for English, Active Home Week challenges and many more exciting and fun subject activities. Students recorded their activity using digital media and uploaded their videos and images to Google Classroom for sharing on social media platforms. #GoogleforEducation Students were given the opportunity to access an online book club run by Ms Hynes and Ms Ryan.

Congrats to first year student Enda Wickham & his teacher Ms Carr who won the *All Ireland Home Ec at Home Challenge* organised by the Association of Home Economics Teachers. Enda cooked a delicious three course dinner for his family.

Well done to everyone who participated in the challenges!

Best Wishes to the Class of 2020

On May 28th, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed said farewell to the Class of 2020 at an emotional 'Virtual Leaving Certificate Graduation' via Google meet. A special thank you to Fr Joe Walsh for his kind words of advice for our students and to Ms J Cahill and Ms M. C. Ryan for organising a wonderful ceremony. We wish them well in their next journey and remind them that our door is always open.

Not a goodbye, but farewell until we meet again!



Poetry Day Ireland & National DEAR Challenge



On *Poetry Day Ireland*, we enjoyed lovely poetry recitations and the sharing of favourite poems by staff and students. Over 70 members of the school community participated in the *National Drop Everything and Read 2020 Challenge*. Special thanks to Ms Dunphy & Ms Butler for running these initiatives.

'Covid through the Eyes of a Teenager' Competition Time

You are making **history** and your story will be **told for generations to come**. We would like you to **record your experiences**, so that we can put them in a time capsule in the school, to be opened when we are all old and grey! You can **use whatever medium you like** to record your experiences - essay, poetry, art, video, tik tok, photos, song etc.

Entries open to all students, parents and teachers.

Closing Date - 30th September 2020


Email entries to covidtimecapsule@cmco.ie

Fabulous Prizes to be Won!



CMCO 'Virtual' Art Gallery

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to hold our annual art exhibition, so Art teacher Ms Dorney kindly requested current and past students, parents and friends of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed to submit artwork online and share their art with the wider community in a 'virtual' art gallery. We would like to say a special thank to our beloved **President Michael D. Higgins** for sending a letter of good wishes to our students, staff & parents, to **Tipperary hurler, Padraic Maher** for officially launching our art gallery and to Ms C Wallace for creating the online gallery which can be accessed at www.cmco.ie/virtual-art-gallery.

UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

28 May, 2020

Ms. Clare Wallace
Deputy Principal
Coláiste Mhuire
Thurles
Co. Tipperary

Dear Ms. Wallace,

I want to thank you most sincerely for your email of 22 May, 2020 and for your kind invitation for me to open the upcoming Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed virtual gallery art exhibition.

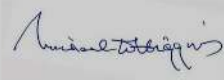
While nothing matches the real classroom experience, I was delighted to hear that your school, like so many, is keeping in touch with students through online resources. The idea of a virtual art gallery and show will demonstrate once again this connectedness and be a wonderful showcase for the many talents there are amongst students for all forms and expressions of art.

As President of Ireland, I value my relationship with all of our young people. I am continually encouraged by the energy, creativity and enthusiasm, and humour too, that these young people bring to so many areas of their lives.

I want to thank all of you for being so responsible during this global pandemic, by playing your part in helping to stop the spread of the Coronavirus. This crisis will pass, and out of this dark time will emerge a brighter period ahead for all of us to enjoy.

Finally, I wish students, teachers, staff and parents the very best as the school year draws to a close and hope that the summer allows a time to refresh, re-engage and re-energise.

Beir beannacht,



Michael D. Higgins
Uachtarán na hÉireann
President of Ireland



Intergenerational Choir 'Virtual' Annual Concert

In early June, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed choir members and residents of Padre Pio Nursing Home in Holycross, together with staff and management proudly presented their annual concert in "virtual format". It was a beautiful collection of song, music, recitations and dance and a special thank you to music teacher Ms H Wallace, Deirdre (activity coordinator in Padre Pio), TY student Kayleigh Cronin and Ms C Wallace for making this wonderful 'virtual' event happen.

Awards Night 2020

On May 21st, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed celebrated the successes and achievements of our school & students in a 'virtual' format. Mr Quinn, Ms Wallace and the year head teachers announced online the recipients of the various awards, which recognise the academic and sporting achievements of our students and acknowledge the achievements of our students in the wider community.



A total of one hundred and forty eight students received awards. A special thank you to Ms Purtill for organising the wonderful celebratory event and to Ms Wallace for creating the online video of events throughout the year.

Photo shows Principal Mr Quinn announcing Ben O'Sullivan (6th year) as the winner of the 2020 Principals Award

CMCO Great Bake Off

The Home Economics department and Ms Carr hosted their first ever **CMCO Digital Bake Off** in May and they were overwhelmed by the number of wonderful entries from students, teachers and parents. Congrats to our student winners - Enda Wickham, Aaron Cummins, Sarah Murphy, Leo Cawley,



Róisín Connolly, Aidan Ryan & Shayna Carroll. Anne Sayers scooped the Parent Star Baker Award and Ms J Cahill & Mr Fahy had to share the spoils for the Teacher Star Baker Award.

Ms Carr was also busy making fabric masks and delivering them to healthcare workers in nursing homes around Tipperary.



Student Enterprise Finals

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed achieved great success at the Student County Enterprise Competition winning **1st place** in a new category called *Go Green, Be Sustainable* and progressing to the National Enterprise Final in May. The *TY group* & their teacher *Ms Durack* shredded milk bottles, dyed them different colours and made Christmas decorations and small decorations for other occasions. Kiely works (*Cormac Kiely & Dylan Ryan*) won a **3rd place Award** in the Intermediate category. In the Junior category Seasonal Bottles (*Gavin Meaney & Cian Bourke*) won the **Artistic Award**. In the Senior category, *Kayleigh Cronin* received a **Highly Commended Award** for her social business, whereby Kayleigh demonstrated CPR and gave students information about CPR. Congrats also to Business & ICT teacher *Ms Miriam Bergin* on winning the **2020 Student Enterprise Educator of the Year Award**. Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed would like to say a very special thank you to *Sue Anne O'Donnell* for her help, support & guidance to our enterprise students & teachers over the years.



Visit to Facebook

Our Digital Champions enjoyed a site visit experience at Facebook Ireland in February.



Photo shows our 1st & 2nd year girls with their basketball coach Mr O'Meara. The girls enjoyed competitive matches against Borrisokane Community College in the Midlands League in February before school closures.



In March, our school was awarded the 'Citizens Passport' from Worldwide Global Schools in recognition of the schools emerging engagement with Global Citizenship Education.

Congratulations to our Green Schools Committee & their teacher Ms Durack!

SciFest@College 2020 online



Best Wishes to students Eoin Craddock & Kaitlyn Ryan in the SciFest 2020 online competition in LIT Tipperary. We look forward to hearing the results in July.



Congrats to our choir and their music teacher Ms H Wallace on winning 2nd place in the Post Primary Choirs' Competition (mixed voice) at the Limerick Choral Festival in February.