



Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.

Prospectus 2023/24

Castlemeadows, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

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Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. cordially invites you to our **Open Night**

Tuesday 26th September 2023

Principal's address commencing at **6:30pm** SHARP
Tours start from **7:00pm**

“Rath as Saothar
- Success Through Effort”



Register for
Open Night using
this QR code



Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed., Thurles



colaistemhuirethurles



@colmhuirecoed



Mission Statement

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. aspires to develop a caring and inclusive learning community which optimises the potential of each person.

School Motto:

“Rath as Saothar - Success Through Effort”

Our Core Values:

Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect

Your Future Starts Here

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.

At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. we believe in offering our students the highest quality of education in a safe, happy, caring and academically challenging environment.

DID YOU KNOW?

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. is an ETB, state, co-educational multi-denominational secondary school



Welcome from Principal



Every pupil is a valued member of our school and while your child is with us he/she will develop into a mature, happy, responsible young adult prepared to face the future with confidence.

Through the provision of a comprehensive curriculum, we ensure that each pupil is given every opportunity to develop to his/her full potential in our school. Students of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. are supported through the Le Chéile Mentoring Programme and are encouraged to become independent young adults. Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed., a growing school with increasing enrolments, also provides a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities, all of which are facilitated by our dedicated teachers and support staff.

The school motto is ***“Rath as Saothar-Success Through Effort”***. This motto underpins our core values of ***Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect***. These values ensure every child will be assisted in attaining his/her full potential during their time with us. Together with you, the parents/guardians, we will strive to unlock that potential, while providing the best possible education for your child.

Denis Quinn



FÁILTIÚ

Welcome from Deputy Principal

Dear Parents

The secondary school you choose with your child is a key decision for you and is likely to shape your child's outlook and future. Thank you for your interest in our school. We are really glad that you are giving the Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. family this opportunity to share our story.

I feel proud and privileged to be the Deputy Principal, working with Denis, the Assistant Principals and the teachers to lead and administer our wonderful school. We are a progressive and vibrant community, dedicated to maintaining the highest standards in teaching and learning. Our sense of unity and co-operation and the positive working atmosphere we uphold is unrivalled. Education in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. is truly about the development of the whole child and nurturing their full range of talents and abilities.

If you would like to talk to me directly, please feel free to contact the school.

Le gach dea-ghuí

Clare Wallace



Welcome from First Year Head

Dear Parents

It is both a great privilege and a wonderful opportunity to be the Year Head to first years. The transition to post primary education is both an exciting and challenging time for child and parent. My aim above all as Year Head is to make this progression as smooth as possible.

In my own career path to date, I have always placed an emphasis on building relationships. In getting to know your son/daughter I will be visible, accessible and approachable at all times. I am proud of the rapport that has built up over time between our teachers and students in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.

I believe the strength of this rapport is forged through our school's core values of Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect. It is my hope to further enhance these skills and qualities in our young school leaders. Additionally, as Year Head, I will ensure the necessary platforms are in place in order to harness and nurture each student's ability and talent, thus allowing their individuality to flourish.

Please feel free to contact me at any stage throughout the school year.

John Brennan



Academic Excellence

At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed., academic achievement and excellent exam results are our primary focus. This is achieved by providing:

- Excellent and dedicated teachers
- Strict but fair learning environment
- Academic tracking
- Positive merit system
- Caring and inclusive environment.

Our academic tracking is a very involved process which includes regular examinations.

Students and parents work in cooperation with teachers to record target grades and other areas of learning.

Merit System

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. operates a positive merit system based on rewarding academic achievement and positive behaviour.

We are proud of our merit system, which rewards positive behaviour and effort. We have also incorporated our Wellbeing E.N.E.R.G.Y. programme into our merit system.

STEM Subjects

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. provides all the STEM subjects i.e. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

STEM Activities

- BT Young Scientist
- Scifest Ireland
- Robotic Challenge
- Formula One Competition
- Teen Turn
- Digital Champions
- Interschools Games Fleadh
- Internet Safety initiative
- CS_LINC (TU Dublin)
- STEM Passport
- Scratch Programming
- BD STEM Stars

DID YOU KNOW?

- Our students create digital portfolios
- Our students have won enterprise competitions at European level
- Junior students have the option of a “digital school bag” and the use of digital devices in their day to day class routine



F1 in Schools Champions

“The focus on care is also supported by teachers who act as class tutors and by assistant principals whose role as year heads is centred on student care.”

Dept. of Education Inspection Report

Subject Choice

Junior Cycle Core Subjects

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- History
- Science
- Coding or Digital Media Literacy
- SPHE
- CSPE
- PE
- Study Skills

Junior Cycle Optional Subjects

- Business
- Wood Technology
- Engineering
- Graphics
- Home Economics
- Art
- Geography
- French
- Music

Leaving Cert Subjects

Core:

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics

Optional:

- French
- Japanese
- Geography
- History
- Accounting
- Business
- Economics
- Enterprise Studies (LCVP)
- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Applied Maths
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Engineering
- Art, Craft & Design
- Home Economics
- Music

Leaving Cert Applied

Core:

- English & Communications
- Mathematical Applications
- Social Education
- Irish & French
- Leisure & Recreation
- Vocational Preparation & Guidance
- I.C.T.
- Arts Education

Specialisms:

- Engineering
- Graphics & Construction Studies
- Childcare
- Hotel, Catering & Tourism

“High expectations are set for all aspects of school business”

Dept. of Education Inspection Report



“The school offers a very broad curriculum, and subject option lines are changed every year in line with student's preferences.”

Dept. of Education Inspection Report

Taster Programme

Students will study all optional subjects during Year 1. They will then select three of these subjects to study for the Junior Cycle.

“We are proud to offer four hundred hours of Wellbeing in Junior Cycle.”

Leaving Cert subjects available at Higher and Ordinary level. Optional subjects are subject to demand

Wellbeing

Optimising Potential

Our intentions are:

- To create a caring environment in the school that is favourable to student learning.
- To instill confidence, self-discipline, self-direction and integrity in every student.
- To nurture positive self esteem in our students allowing them to grow in confidence.
- To provide a holistic support structure for all our students.

DID YOU KNOW?

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. has two guidance counsellors.

We were one of the first schools in Ireland to offer the Junior Cycle PE short course.

We have our own Study Skills programme.

We have developed a Whole School E.N.E.R.G.Y programme.

We run a First Year Belonging Plus programme.

We have our own School Internet Safety website.

We provide a short course in SPHE.

We have received Ambassador Schools' Awards for the promotion of Positive Mental Health in our community.

We were awarded the 'One Good School' Gold Award by Jigsaw this year.



“The quality of care provided for students is very good.”

Dept. of Education Inspection Report

“Students are proud to be attending Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. and they feel safe and cared for in the school.”

Dept. of Education Inspection Report

Student Support Service

At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed., our core values are:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

These values are enshrined in the ethos of our school community.

Our care structure for students includes:

- Guidance Counsellor
- Class Tutors
- Year Heads
- Student Support Team

“The school is characterised by an open enrolment policy and an ethos of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect.”
Dept. of Education Inspection Report

First Year Support Structure

First Year Induction Programme

We have developed a comprehensive induction programme to help with the transition from primary to second level school.

Our induction programme begins in January and includes sixth class students visiting the school on three occasions throughout the semester. During this time they will meet their new friends and teachers, engage in

team building activities and learn the geography of the school.

Le Chéile

We have a buddy system for first year students called the “Le Chéile” programme, whereby trained senior students help first years to feel safe and happy in school.

Students can also arrange to see our guidance counsellor for wellbeing or academic issues.

“The carefully constructed induction programme ensures that the transition into first year is well supported.”
Dept. of Education Inspection Report



Sports

DID YOU KNOW?

CMCO u/14, u/15 and Senior Rugby teams have enjoyed success in Munster Emerging Schools, Munster Cup and Blitz competitions.

Our first year boys Soccer team has won the Mid Tipperary Futsal Competition several times.

We share the “Dome” with Semple Stadium and it houses our multi-sport indoor arena and gym.

We have Soccer teams from u/14 to u/19 in boys and u/14 to u/17 in girls and both groups participate in the South East League, Tipperary and Munster Schools competitions.

Our Hurling and Gaelic Football teams have won many County and Munster competitions recently.

Our Basketball teams compete in county, league and cup competitions.

We participate in the Active School Flag Initiative.

2023 Midlands Boys Basketball Plate Champions



Junior Ladies Soccer Team

Munster u16.5 Hurling Champions for a second consecutive year



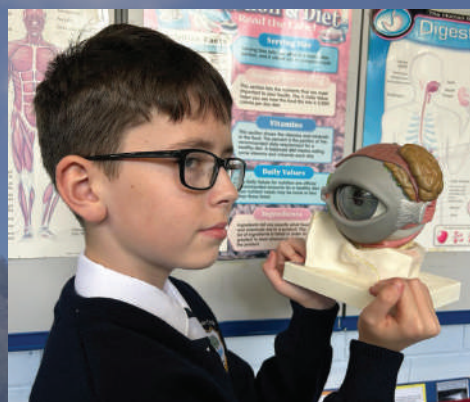
2023 World and All-Ireland Schools Track & Field Junior Boys Hammer Throw Champion - **Luke Thompson**

At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. we offer a wide range of sporting activities, including:

- Hurling
- Camogie
- Gaelic Football
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Soccer
- Rugby
- Badminton
- Table Tennis
- Athletics
- Orienteering

Other activities are catered for upon interest

Extra and Co-Curricular Activities



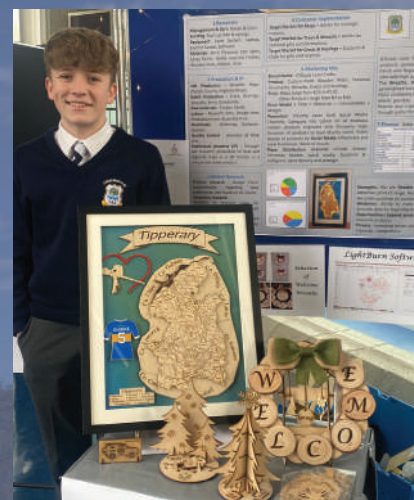
DID YOU KNOW THAT EVERY YEAR WE PARTICIPATE IN

- Standup Week
- Science Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Maths Week
- French Week
- Active School Week
- Sustainability Awareness Week
- Internet Safety Week
- College Awareness Week

Arts & Culture

At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. we offer:

- Drama Club
- Choir
- Gaisce Awards
- Art Exhibitions
- School Tours Nationally and Internationally
- Competitions involving Debates, Quizzes etc.
- Gaeltacht Scholarships
- Excellent computer facilities to develop your coding skills
- Outings to Theatres, Cinemas, Third level college open days etc.
- Intergenerational choir
- Creative Writing
- Chess Club
- Green Schools



Intermediate Winner Ronan proudly displaying O'Grady Laser Crafts at the Student Enterprise County Final 2023

Academic

- After School Study
- Maths Week Activities
- Library Club
- CMCO Bake Off
- Enterprise Competitions
- Field Trips
- Seachtain na Gaeilge Initiatives
- Science Week Activities
- Student Council
- Debating Club
- School Bank
- World Global Schools
- Ar Aghaidh Linn
- Young Social Innovators

DID YOU KNOW?

We were awarded the Bronze Global Passport for emerging engagement with Global Citizenship Education.

Arts & Culture



School Musical 'Beauty and the Beast'

Les élèves à Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. aiment apprendre le Français et participer au théâtre, à la semaine française, au cinéma français et ils aiment aussi créer les films français.

DID YOU KNOW?

Through Creative Engagement projects, our students have carved a life sized horse Enbarr – a horse in Celtic Mythology and also built an outdoor atrium where students can socialise.

DID YOU KNOW?

That each year our school produces a school musical

Our recent productions include:

- Beauty and the Beast
- Aladdin
- Little Shop of Horrors
- Grease
- Hairspray
- Mama Mia
- Camp Rock
- Back to the 80's
- Bring it On

All First Years participate in these productions.

We won 1st Place at the AIMS Choral Festival 2022 and enjoyed more success in 2023.

Our Art Department strives to create an environment that embodies creativity, learning and instruction based upon the visual arts.

Music

Every year, Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. students participate in

- Intergenerational Choir with local Nursing Home "Padre Pio"
- Junior and Senior Choir Competitions
- School Musical
- Annual Tipperary ETB Talent Show
- Rap workshops

Languages

Our students enjoy participating in various language & cultural events throughout the year –

- Poetry Aloud
- English and Irish Debating
- European Languages Day
- French Theatre & Film Studies
- Cultural Studies



Transition Year



At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. we have developed a vibrant and innovative Transition Year programme based on the following principles:

Education for maturity, with the emphasis on personal development, including social awareness and increased social competence.

The promotion of general, technical and academic skills, with an emphasis on inter-disciplinary and self-directed learning.

Education through experience of adult and working life, as a basis for personal development and maturity.



CMCO BT Young Scientists Rebecca Jordan & Sarah Ryan with An Tánaiste Micheál Martin



Academic Curriculum

- English & Communications
- Irish Language
- Maths
- Science
- French
- Japanese
- Materials Technology
- ICT
- Chinese Language and Culture
- Irish Culture and Heritage
- Tourism
- Social Studies
- Art
- Sustainability initiative

Social Personal Development Curriculum

- Work Experience
- Development of an eportfolio
- Gaisce Awards
- SciFest
- Young Entrepreneur competition
- Community Care
- TY TV
- First Aid
- Road Safety
- Robotics Challenge
- ICT Coding and App development courses
- Creative Engagement project
- Range of sporting events
- School Musical
- Careers Portal
- AIB Future Sparks
- BT Young Scientist
- Develop Me Team Building
- Fire Safety
- GAA Future Leaders

Our Transition Year students have arranged and participated in many trips and school tours, such as the following:

- Adventure Centre
- Tourism Trip
- International School Tour
- Adventure Journey

Digital Learning



Junior Cycle Coding students proudly representing CMCO at the BD STEM Stars competition

“Effective methodologies were used by teachers and students during lessons. Student use of digital technology was a feature of many lessons.

**Dept. of Education Inspection Report
- September 2019**

We set up a Google Classroom for our incoming first years which includes:

- Virtual tours of the school
- Answers to questions posed by students
- Letters from current first year students to incoming first years
- Videos on how to use the lockers
- A virtual treasure hunt
- A webquest about the school website



The digital learning opportunity presented in recent times was greatly supported by the embedded digital technologies in our school. G Suite allowed our teachers to

- Hold online “**face to face**” sessions with our students
- Share resources and materials
- Allow students to post up work
- Provide feedback on work given.

We also set up a remote hub on our school website as a support to parents and this can be accessed at

www.cmco.ie/digital-technologies/

DID YOU KNOW?

- Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. set up Google G Suite in 2012.
- All Junior Students study Digital Literacy or Coding.
- We were a pilot school for Coding.
- We have presented at ICTEdu every year for the last 7 years.
- We were highly commended for our Digital Integration in our MML report.
- Our students have been Digital Champions for the last 5 years.
- All our students login to the School Portal Compass and into Google Workspace.
- We lead out on the use of “Compass”, our school app which enhances parental communication.
- We have Google Certified Trainers on our staff.

Bialann (Cafeteria)

“ I love the Bialann. It gives me a chance to have breakfast with my friends and the food is delicious.

Friday Chips and Curry is famous!

1st year student

“ The atmosphere in the Bialann is second to none.

Lovely to see students mixing and eating nutritious food!

Sixth Class Teacher

Our Bialann (Cafeteria) is run by Pat's Catering, a family business that strives to create a warm and friendly environment where students can socialise and avail of freshly home cooked nutritious food at affordable prices.

Breakfast is available from 8:30am and is free of charge to all students.

Dinner is available at lunch time and the deli counter also offers a wide variety of foods at break and lunch time.

Facilities

Students are not permitted to leave the school premises at lunchtime, but instead can make full use of our spacious and leafy campus, with large playing fields, basketball courts and our state of the art Dome.

Hot, healthy, low cost meals are available in our recently refurbished school Bialann.

“ It is exciting to see the build of our new classrooms completed.

Parents Association

Academic

- 5 Computer Suites
- 2 Engineering rooms
- 2 Woodwork rooms
- 1 Lecture Theatre
- 1 Home Economics room
- Computer Hub
- 2 Science labs
- Music room
- Chrome books for student use
- Library
- 2 Media labs

Extra Curricular

- Performance gym
- Playing fields
- Basketball courts
- Table Tennis tables
- Computerised Library
- Computer Hub
- Indoor Board Games
- Hurling Wall
- Indoor Basketball, Badminton and Tennis courts
- Outdoor Gym



Enbarr - created by TY students

Testimonials

“Wide selection of option subjects on offer from Art to Home Ec. to Engineering to Wood Technology and many more”

James

“I like the support you receive, especially in the smaller classes; every child gets an opportunity to reach their potential”

Mary

“Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. has a friendly environment. If you have been in the school for years or just joined, you will be greeted with open arms from both students and teachers. The school is fun”

Annie

“I like how the teachers support us in Leaving Cert to reach our potential”

Ben

“Teachers are always helpful and supportive. There are extra activities outside school time to join. Everyone is so kind”

Suzie

“I like the friendly atmosphere”

Donnchadha

“I enjoy all the extra curricular activities, especially the choir”

Jessica

“Enjoy the sports on offer, especially basketball”

Niamh

“I like CMCO because the subject options are great and the teachers are amazing. School atmosphere is very welcoming”

Eadaoin

“Everyone is very friendly and the teachers give us so much support”

Leona

“Love the variety of sports and extra curricular activities available in the school, there's something for everyone and it's a great way to bond and make friends”

Lewie

“Really like the extra curricular activities you can participate in, especially the school musical every year”

Michael

“I enjoyed all the optional subjects in first year and then you got to choose your favourite subjects. I like the sports and also the school canteen, especially the choice of options for break, lunch and even breakfast...the atmosphere in the school is great, everyone is kind and respectful to each other”

Jamesie

“I really enjoy the practical subjects, especially the experimenting in Science”

Jamie

“Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed allows its students to flourish both socially and academically”

Stephen

Why Choose Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed?



- High quality educational experience which allows every child to achieve their potential
- Co-educational experience which supports social development
- A broad range of Junior and Senior Cycle subjects available at higher and ordinary level
- Dedicated teachers who enjoy excellent rapport with students
- Genuine care for every child
- A school where every child matters and feels like they belong
- A tradition of excellence in the delivery of practical subjects - Construction Studies, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Home Economics, Computer Science/Coding and Art
- Connection to the local community which augments your child's experience
- An ethos which protects and nurtures every learner in our school community
- Good behaviour is the norm
- A robust anti bullying policy
- Diverse range of sports and extracurricular activities
- Family atmosphere; a friendly welcoming vibe which is commented upon by all visitors
- A listening ear to students and parents and we really hear what you say
- We know our students individually



Castlemeadows, Thurles, Co. Tipperary

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