



- Mathematics
- Engineering
- Science
- Français
- Castings
- Geography
- History
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religion
- Home Economics
- English
- Irish
- Latin
- German
- Spanish
- Italian
- French
- Portuguese
- Russian
- Polish
- Czech
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Croatian
- Serbian
- Bosnian
- Montenegrin
- Albanian
- Macedonian
- Bulgarian
- Romanian
- Greek
- Turkish
- Arabic
- Hebrew
- Yiddish
- Ukrainian
- Belarusian
- Polish
- Czech
- Slovak
- Slovenian
- Croatian
- Serbian
- Bosnian
- Montenegrin
- Albanian
- Macedonian
- Bulgarian
- Romanian
- Greek
- Turkish
- Arabic
- Hebrew
- Yiddish
- Ukrainian
- Belarusian

# Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.

## PROSPECTUS 2024/25

Castlemeadows, Thurles, Co. Tipperary



Board of Education's agent  
Oifige na hOideacháin  
Tipperary Education and  
Training Board





# Table of Contents

<b>Open Night</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Mission Statement</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Your Future Starts Here</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Welcome from Principal</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Fáiltiú</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Welcome from Deputy Principal</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Welcome from First Year Head</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Academic Excellence</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Subject Choice</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Wellbeing</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Student Support Service</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sports</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Extra and Co-Curricular Activities</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Arts &amp; Culture</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Transition Year</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Digital Learning</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Bialann (Cafeteria)</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Testimonials</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Why Choose Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed?</b>	<b>19</b>





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

**Tuesday 24th September 2024**

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**





## 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 an involved process which includes regular examinations and use of the Athena tracking system.

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
- BrAln\_waves Competition

## 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



STEM Passport for Inclusion Graduation at Maynooth University #WomenInSTEM

“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



“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.

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

**Dept. of Education Inspection Report**

“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.

“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 carefully constructed induction programme ensures that the transition into first year is well supported.”

*Dept. of Education Inspection Report*

“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.





# Sports

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our u/16 Boys Basketball team are All-Ireland Champions, and our girls and boys teams have enjoyed numerous victories in county, league and cup competitions.

Two Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed students captained the Tipperary Minor Hurling and Minor Football teams this year.

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

CMCO Equestrian team successfully qualified to compete in their first All Ireland Interschools Equestrian Final.

Our athletes compete in Cross Country and Track & Field competitions every year and have enjoyed success in the County, East Munster, Munster and All-Ireland Schools championships, including winning gold in the All-Ireland Junior Boys hammer throw recently.

CMCO u/14, u/15 and Senior Rugby teams have played very competitive rugby and enjoyed success in the Munster Emerging Schools blitz days and Munster Cup competitions.

Our u/17 Hurling team were crowned Munster Champions for a third consecutive year, our u/19 hurlers are looking forward to competing in the TUS Corn Thomais Mhic Choilm (Munster Senior B) competition this year, while our u/14 Gaelic Football and Hurling teams were crowned county champions last year and are eager to build on this success.

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 Cup competitions.



2024 All-Ireland u/16 Basketball Champions



Junior Ladies Soccer team members



**Tipperary Minor Hurling Captain**  
**Cathal O'Reilly** proudly lifts the Irish Press Cup after Tipperary defeated Kilkenny in the Electric Ireland All-Ireland Minor Hurling Final. Cathal, a 6th year student in our school was also named at full back on the Electric Ireland GAA Minor Hurling Team of the Year.



Fifth year student Dylan Cotter captained the Tipperary Minor Footballers to victory over Clare in the Electric Ireland Munster Minor Championship this year.

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

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

Other activities are catered for upon interest



# Extra and Co-Curricular Activities



Agricultural Science Farm Walk & Talk visit

## 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

Daltaí ó Choláiste Mhuire ag glacadh páirte i dtionscnamh 'Gaeilge 24' de chuid Chonradh na Gaeilge



## 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



Chess Club



Student Enterprise National Final winners Padraig O'Halloran and Harry Butler

## 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?

In an endeavour to promote sustainability, the Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. sustainability committee has introduced a chicken coop nestled within the school grounds.



# Arts & Culture



*Mary Poppins Jr. will be flying on to the Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. stage this October. Catch this family favourite musical for three performances only from the **9th-11th of October**. We are delighted that this year, ALL first years will take part in our show for ALL performances. Bring on the supercalifragilisticexpialidocious fun!*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Our school choir has triumphed at the AIMS Choral Festival for three consecutive years, including 1st place wins in the Senior Choir competition and Cameo competition sections.

## DID YOU KNOW?

That each year our school produces a school musical

Our recent productions include:

- School of Rock
- 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.

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



*Our School Choir won 1st place in the Senior Cameo competition for their outstanding performance of 'School of Rock' at the AIMS Choral Festival 2024*

## 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
- Language Scholarships
- European Languages Day
- French Theatre & Film Studies
- Cultural Studies



*Lewie Cavanagh proudly represented Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. in the Poetry Aloud National Final*



# Transition Year



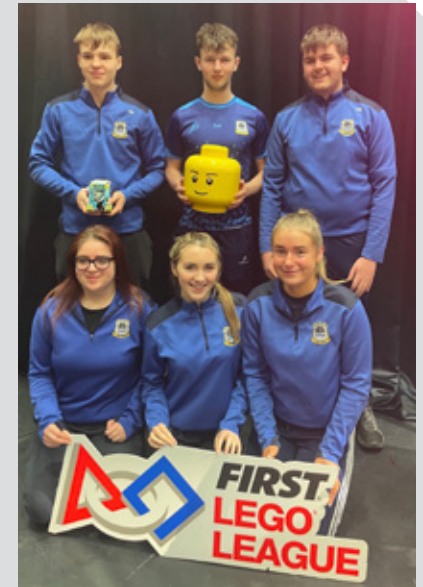
Slieve Blooms Hike

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.



First Lego League



Delphi Adventure Centre

## 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/Driver Theory
- 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
- First Lego League

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



Student Digital Team

Proud to announce that we are the only school in Thurles to have achieved the prestigious

## **‘Digital Schools Award Europe’**

@awards4selfie

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

- 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](http://www.cmco.ie/digital-technologies)

“

This school has excellent and supportive teachers, along with a welcoming staff. Students benefit from resources like Chromebooks and interactive exercises, and apps like Compass for navigation and grade tracking, as well as Google Classroom for easy communication with teachers.

”

**Bohdan, 2nd year**

### **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.



Junior Cycle Coding students proudly representing CMCO in the RTE Learn Microsoft Dream Space brAln\_waves National Final

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

- Virtual tours of the school
- Answers to questions posed by students
- Opportunity to use Google Classroom before starting in first year
- Videos on how to use the lockers
- A virtual treasure hunt
- A webquest about the school website



# Bialann (Cafeteria)

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

Friday 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) 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**

Welcome to  
**Parkers of  
Holycross**  
our new canteen  
supplier



### Academic

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

### 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

“Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. exudes an atmosphere of positivity and learning. The vibrant community embraces growth and collaboration among students, making it a wonderful place to thrive academically and personally”

**Jack**

“I think the lunches here are fantastic, and I love the Engineering and Home Economics classes. It makes a big difference to have such friendly teachers who always greet you with a smile when you walk into school”

**Isabel**

“In CMCO there are so many opportunities to get involved in different committees & extracurricular activities. I enjoy being in the Student Council and Sustainability Committee”

**Eoin**

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

**Stephen**

“There are loads of different subjects to choose from like Woodwork, Art, Engineering, French etc., and many competitions to enter every year. The teachers make learning enjoyable as well”

**Ava**

“Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. is an amazing school; it's a school where I feel safe and where I feel that the teachers and staff care about everyone”

**Cody**

“I think you should come to Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. because of the overall vibe in the school. Enjoying classes while still working is a great feeling. Sitting down in the canteen at lunch with my friends is one of the highlights of my day. We are all laughing and having fun. The extracurricular activities are absolutely class here too”

**Cormac**

“I love the wide variety of sports available here”

**Aimee**

“Friendly and caring”

**Rachel**

“If you're facing any issues, there's always someone available to help and support you. You can talk to the teachers whenever you need guidance”

**Aoife**

“I think this school excels in both academics and extracurricular activities, offering something for everyone. Whether you're into sports, music, or clubs, there's something for everyone to enjoy. There is a great balance between academics and other interests”

**Abbey**

“Our school is a friendly and welcoming school. All the teachers are kind and supportive and always available if you have a question”

**Edward**

“I've grown so much here in this school, not just academically, but also personally. If you're looking for a place to belong, this is it!”

**Tiana**



# 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



**etb**  
Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúnaí Thobradh Árann  
Tipperary Education and  
Training Board

Castlemeadows, Thurles, Co. Tipperary. E41W678

**Tel:** 0504 21734 | **Fax:** 0504 23166 | **Email:** [colaistemhuire@tipperaryetb.ie](mailto:colaistemhuire@tipperaryetb.ie)

**Facebook:** Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed., Thurles | **Instagram:** [colaistemhuirethurles](https://www.instagram.com/colaistemhuirethurles)

**X:** @colmhuierecoed | **Web:** [www.cmco.ie](http://www.cmco.ie)

