



# Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.



## 'CMCO NEWS'

Newsletter 2026

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### Principal's Award 2026



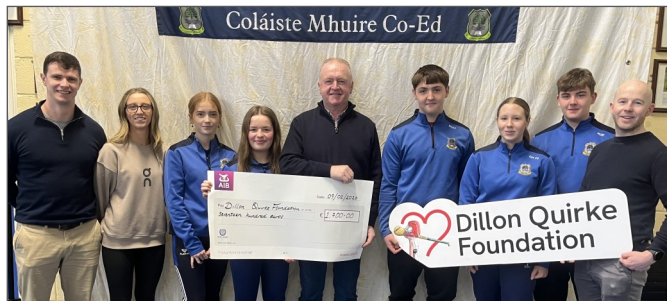
**Congratulations to Annie Donnelly (6<sup>th</sup> Year), recipient of the Principal's Award 2026, in recognition of her exceptional contribution to Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. Annie has consistently embodied our school motto, 'Success Through Effort', and has exemplified our core values of excellence, respect, care, community and equality throughout her time in our school. For more news on our Annual Awards 2026 see pages 4 & 5.**

### Camogie County Champions



**Congratulations to our Junior Camogie team, crowned U15.5 County Champions after a fantastic campaign showcasing outstanding skill, determination and teamwork. A wonderful achievement - well done girls!**

### Community • Kindness • Giving



**CMCO proudly presented a cheque for €1,700 to the Dillon Quirke Foundation, raised through our Jersey Day. A wonderful reflection of the generosity, kindness and community spirit shown by our students and staff in supporting this important cause. #kindness**

### All Ireland Athletics



**A season to remember for our Minor Athletics Team: East Munster XC Champions, Munster XC runners-up and ninth in the All Ireland Schools' Cross Country Championships - an incredible achievement by our talented first year athletes: Breandán, Cathal, Harry, Evan & Charlie. #emcoathletics**

### National Young Cooks Champions



**Congratulations to TY students Aimee Igoe and Emma O'Connell who were crowned All-Ireland Winners of the ETB 'TY Young Cooks' Competition in Cavan.**

Representing Tipperary with pride, the girls wowed the judges with a delicious menu showcasing brilliant local produce from Annie's Organic Farm, the NutShed, Boulabán Farm, the Apple Farm, Cooleeney Farm, Emerald Oils and local chicken from Premier Meats.

A special thanks to their teacher Ms Ciara Phelan, Commis Chef Instructor Fergal Phelan from ETB Archerstown, SuperValu Ireland and all the local producers for their incredible support. #excellenceineducation #proud

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Instagram: [colaistemhuirethurles](https://www.instagram.com/colaistemhuirethurles)



### Message from the Senior Leadership Team

Welcome to our School Newsletter! As we come to the end of another school year at CMCO, we want to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community for making it such a positive and rewarding time. A highlight of the year was welcoming Ms Annmarie Bergin to our leadership team as Deputy Principal. Our Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students are finished their exams, and we wish them every success as they move on to the next chapter of their journeys.



The year has been an energetic and fulfilling time for our students, with many academic and extracurricular highlights, and we hope you enjoy reading about them in this newsletter. Special mention must go to the wonderful work of our school dog, Chacha, as well as the addition of our new quiet room and the SUAS sensory room. Care is at the heart of everything we do, and we are committed to constantly evolving and leading the way in supporting student wellbeing.

A sincere thank you to our hardworking staff, Parents Association and Board of Management for their support, vision and dedication. We also wish to express our gratitude to the many teams across our school who work diligently to ensure all our students thrive at CMCO. Thank you to the staff across our AP1, AP2, DEIS, Student Support, Learning Support, JCSP, Attendance, Extra-Curricular, TY, Excellence in Education, Ethos, Creative Schools, PR, Digital, RP, Wellbeing, Whole School Guidance, Bí Cineálta, Droichead, Sustainability and Christmas Market teams.

We wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming our new first years to CMCO, and welcoming back familiar faces for another great year ahead.

*Neart go Cur Le Chéile' - 'Together We Stand'*

*Denis Quinn, Principal; Annmarie Bergin, Deputy Principal; Clare Wallace, Deputy Principal*

### Class of 2026

*To our wonderful Class of 2026 - thank you for the memories, the achievements and the contribution you have made to school life in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.*

*We wish each of you health, happiness and every success in the years ahead. May your journey beyond the Leaving Certificate bring new opportunities, lifelong friendships and the courage to chase your dreams.*

*The doors of CMCO may close behind you, but they will always remain open for you.*

*#SuccessThroughEffort #Congrats #Proud*



### Success at Student Enterprise County Finals

Congratulations to our students who represented our school so positively at the Student Enterprise County Finals, held on March 6<sup>th</sup> in TUS. **Conor's Castings (Conor Stapleton & Alex Thompson, 1<sup>st</sup> year)** received a **'One to Watch' Award**, while **JM Metal Works (Jack Mockler & JP Moore, 2<sup>nd</sup> year)** earned a **Special Merit Award**. We were also proudly represented by Spark Creations (Tomás Murphy, Breandán Purcell, Harry Cahill & Charlie Cahill, 1<sup>st</sup> year), Woodventurous (Conor Higgins, 3<sup>rd</sup> year) and Painting Alchemy (Amelia Kowalczyk, 5<sup>th</sup> year). Well done to all involved!



### Le Chéile Leaders Trip

Our Le Chéile Leaders enjoyed a well deserved trip to Kerry in recognition of their fantastic work supporting our first year students throughout the year.

Activities included hiking the Kerry Camino, surfing in Castlegregory and enjoying a barbecue together. A wonderful opportunity to celebrate their leadership, kindness and contribution to school life. They were accompanied by Mr Brennan, Ms Hickey & Mr Quinn.



### Chacha: The Heart of Our School



Whether he's lending a listening ear or simply offering a calming presence, *Chacha* is a vital part of our school community. As our resident assistance dog, he has a special gift for picking up on moods and helping students navigate their day with a smile. Chacha loves his job almost as much as he loves a game of fetch (and food!). We're so lucky to have his intuitive, peaceful energy helping us take the tension out of even the busiest school days. Like all of our students and staff, Chacha is now taking a well-earned break over the summer. We hope he enjoys a well-deserved rest and recharges, ready to share his love and warmth with us again when we return.

### Ecology Trip to Fota Wildlife Park



Our *Leaving Certificate Biology* students visited Fota Wildlife Park to carry out ecological investigations in a range of different ecosystems, applying practical fieldwork techniques and collecting data relevant to their coursework - an enjoyable and educational experience.

### U16 Hurling Success



*Congratulations to our U16 Hurling team who were victorious in the PPS U16 Hurling Competition in Coolmore Dr Morris Park defeating Cistercian College Roscrea, CBS Thurles and Presentation Ballingarry.*

### Foróige NFTE Young Entrepreneur Success



Congratulations to Ronan O'Grady (5<sup>th</sup> year), who was named Foróige NFTE Young Entrepreneur of the Year Runner-Up 2026 with his business, *O'Grady Laser Crafts*.

After winning both the Tipperary and Munster competitions, Ronan progressed to the National Final in Croke Park, where he was selected as one of the top eight businesses in Ireland from over 6,000 participants. This outstanding achievement is a testament to Ronan's hard work, creativity and entrepreneurial spirit.

A sincere thank you to our Business Studies teachers for their guidance and support throughout his journey. We are incredibly proud of all that Ronan has achieved and look forward to seeing his continued success.

### School Self Evaluation/DEIS

Parents/Guardians: We invite you to read our latest DEIS School Self-Evaluation report to see how we are improving your child's educational opportunities: <https://www.cmco.ie/information/deis-school-self-evaluation/>

### Strengthening Relationships through Restorative Practice



Congratulations to our staff and SNAs who recently completed *Restorative Practice Training* in CMCO. The programme, delivered by our own Deputy Principal Clare Wallace in partnership with Mr Joe Power (Restorative Practices Development Officer), provided valuable strategies for strengthening relationships, supporting student wellbeing and fostering a positive school community. A special congratulations to Deputy Principal Clare Wallace, who recently graduated with a diploma qualifying her to train others in Restorative Practice. This achievement, together with the commitment of our staff and SNAs, is an important step in our journey towards becoming a fully restorative school.

# School Awards 2026

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Bean an Tí **Ms Smith** and Fear an Tí **Mr Kinane** hosted a memorable *Awards Ceremony* in the Dome, celebrating the outstanding academic achievements of our students, along with their many successes in sporting and extracurricular activities. We extend our sincere appreciation to the dedicated teachers of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed., whose guidance, commitment and generosity of time continue to support our students in reaching their full potential. Their encouragement and expertise have helped students achieve success at local, county and national level across a wide variety of disciplines. A special thank you to our invited guests for joining us on the day, and to our parents and guardians for their continued support and encouragement. We also acknowledge the wonderful entertainment provided by Evan Prior (3<sup>rd</sup> year), Alli Sherriff (6<sup>th</sup> year), and our school choir, whose performances added greatly to the occasion. Finally, a heartfelt word of thanks to **Ms Geaney** and her team for their exceptional work in organising such a meaningful, enjoyable and successful Awards Ceremony. *Comhghairdeas do gach duine a bhuaigh gradam ag an ócáid. #successthrougheffort #excellence #care #community #equality #respect #etbethos*

## Academics & Ethos Awards

- Principal's Award..... **Annie Donnelly**
- TUS Tipperary Language..... **Grace Maher**
- Engineering ..... **Robert De Vere Hunt, Jack Killane**
- Construction Studies..... **Greg Drohan**
- Wood Technology ..... **Kacie Taylor**
- D.C.G..... **Kate Kennedy**
- Music ..... **Evan Prior, Alli Sherriff**
- Physics..... **Wosilat Obabire**
- Art..... **Aideen Sheehy, Niall Ryan**
- Home Economics ..... **Philip Lloyd, Alesha Bourke**
- Gaeltacht Scholarships ..... **Kate O'Dwyer, Oisín Cooke & JP Moore**
- French Scholarship ..... **Edith Kearney**
- Gaiose Silver Award..... **Ewan Connors**
- TUS Sustainability ..... **Charlie O'Dwyer & David Wade**
- Best Leaving Cert 2025 ..... **Óran Casey**
- Best LCA 2025 ..... **Ciarán Dolan Murphy**
- Best Junior Cycle 2025..... **Jamie Blake**
- JCSP ..... **All 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Students**
- Senior Ethos ..... **Niall Ryan**
- Junior Ethos..... **Mia McNamara**
- Mary Delahunty Memorial Award ..... **Danny Ryan**

Awards were also presented for Student Enterprise, Foróige NFTE, Arts & Culture, ITEC Gym Instructor Course and Full Attendance.



# School Awards 2026

## Student of the Year Awards

- 1<sup>st</sup> Year..... Amy Hackett
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Year..... Joe O'Dwyer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Year..... Ava Killane
- TY..... Christopher Ocampo
- TY International Student ..... Ines Finardi
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year LCA ..... Gemma Britton
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year LCE ..... James Woodlock
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year LCA ..... Tommy O'Dwyer



## Sports Awards

- Junior Hurling ..... Ross Maher
- Senior Hurling ..... Dylan Cotter
- Camogie ..... Kate O'Dwyer
- Junior Football ..... Callum Fennesy
- Senior Football ..... Dylan Cotter
- Ladies Football ..... Lilly Ryan
- Basketball (girls) ..... Kourtney O'Halloran
- Basketball (boys) ..... Ryan Fahey
- Rugby ..... Alex McCormack
- Junior Soccer ..... Oisín Cooke
- Senior Soccer ..... Oisín Joyce
- Ladies Soccer ..... Emily O'Meara
- Equestrian ..... Camilla Kerwick
- Athletics XC ..... Abbie Manton, Harry Cahill
- Athletics T & F ..... Kate O'Dwyer, Alex Thompson, Ciara Carr & Jeffrey Myles

The achievements and successes of the following teams were also acknowledged:  
**All Ireland XC, U15.5 County Camogie Champions, U16 County Hurling Champions, U14 County Gaelic Football Champions, 1<sup>st</sup> Year & U19 Boys Basketball South East Plate Winners, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Boys Basketball & 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Girls Cup Quarter Finalists and our 1<sup>st</sup> Year TUS Hurling Blitz Winners. #rathassaothar**





### TY Graduation

Congratulations to our Transition Year students who graduated on May 19<sup>th</sup> after a very busy and rewarding year! Highlights included an *International Tour to the Netherlands & Germany*, trips to the *Ploughing Championships*, *World Skills*, *Explorium Science Museum* and *Go Quest Challenge* in Dublin, *Emerald Park* and an overnight stay at *Ballyhass Adventure Centre*. Students took part in numerous workshops - *Athletics*, *Develop Me*, *Law Ed*, *Driving and Road Safety*, *Gym Instructor Course*, *Cyber Security*, *GAA Future Leaders*, *CSI Forensics*, *Coding* to name a few, and participated in the *ETB Young Cooks competition*, *ETB Talent Show*, *TUS Games Fleadh*, *Choral Festivals*, *First Lego League & Stem Passport*. They also helped at the *Primary Schools Soccer and GAA Competitions*, *Student Enterprise Final* and *TETB Culture Day*, gained valuable *work experience* on placement and completed assignments in their various TY modules. Certificates were presented to celebrate their accomplishments at the graduation. Well done to all on a fantastic year!



Photos show our TYs on tour in Amsterdam and Christopher Ocampo (TY Student of the Year) & Ines Finardi (International TY Student of the Year) receiving their awards from TY Coordinator Ms Conroy at their Graduation Ceremony.

### LCA Success



Photos show our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year LCA students celebrating their achievements. Sixth year students received their Session 2 results, including *Graphics and Construction*, *Hotel, Catering and Tourism*, and *Career Investigation Tasks*, while Fifth year students completed their *General Education Tasks*, showcasing their creativity through wire sculptures in *Visual Art*. Congratulations to all our LCA students on their hard work and success throughout the year.

### JCSP Graduation



Congratulations to our 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who celebrated their JCSP Graduation on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Students received their final JCSP profiles from the Department of Education as they marked this important milestone with their families, friends and teachers. We are incredibly proud of their hard work, progress and achievements, and wish them a well-deserved summer break!





### Athletics

Well done to our athletes on another outstanding year at the County, East Munster, Munster and All-Ireland Schools' Athletics Championships. Special congrats to **Jeffrey Myles, Luke Thompson, Ciara Carr & Alex Thompson** on their superb hammer throw performances in the Munster Schools' T & F Championships. Alex claimed gold in the Junior Boys, Jeffrey & Luke secured silver and bronze medals, and Ciara threw a PB to place 5<sup>th</sup> in the hammer throw. Jeffrey, Luke and Alex progressed to qualify for the **All-Ireland Schools Finals** and performed admirably, with Alex winning a national bronze medal in the **123.ie All-Ireland Schools' Junior Boys Hammer Throw Competition**. Well done to all our students who proudly represented CMCO in track & field and cross county competitions this year!



### Tipperary ETB Culture Day

Congratulations to all our students who proudly represented CMCO at the Tipperary ETB Culture Day in TUS Thurles. A special well done to our prize winners: **Leon McElgunn** (Junior Chess), **Dmytro Lopukhin** (Junior English Poetry), **Cormac Cleere** (Senior Photography), **Saoirse White, Cathal Craddock, Tomás Murphy & Kate Callanan** (Junior Table Quiz), and **Christopher Ocampo, Irene Garcia Ruiz & Jamie Blake** (TY Expo - Community Involvement). Well done to Ms Furlong and our TY Student Leaders for their outstanding support on the day.

*Photo shows 1<sup>st</sup> year students Cathal Craddock, Tomás Murphy, Kate Callanan & Saoirse White being presented their award by Cllr Roger Kennedy (Chairperson of Tipperary ETB) and Clodagh Kelly (Chief Executive Tipperary ETB).*

### Congrats to our U14 Gaelic Football team on winning the Rockwell U14 Gaelic Football Tournament (Div. 2)



### U19 Boys Basketball South East Plate Winners



### First Year Munster Emerging Schools Blitz Winners



### Exploring Future Careers

In April, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students enjoyed an inspiring and informative day at the Coolmore Careers Event, exploring a wide range of career and education opportunities.



### Senior Cycle Art students explore the Neolithic passage mounds of Newgrange & Knowth





### Grease Lights Up the Dome!

Congratulations to the incredibly talented cast, crew and production team of *'Grease'*, who wowed audiences with three fantastic performances in the Dome last October. Special congratulations to *Rebecca Delaney (Spirit of the Musical Award)*, *Kimika Croke (CMCO Rising Star Award in association with Dwan Academy)*, *Aideen Sheehy (Ensemble Star Award)* and *Adriano Aedo Botas (International Student Musical Star Award)*. Next stop... *Oliver!* Preparations are already underway as we look forward to bringing this much-loved musical to the Dome in October 2026.



### Supporting Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland

In March, the CMCO school community proudly presented a cheque for €1,672 to *Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland*, whose support includes providing our much-loved therapy dog, *Chacha*, who makes a positive difference to school life every day. Thank you to Nadine for visiting our school and to everyone who supported this fundraiser.



### ITEC Gym Instructor Course

Congratulations to our CMCO students who achieved Distinctions in their *ITEC Gym Instructor Course*, an internationally recognised qualification. Their hard work, commitment and high-quality project work led to these excellent results. A sincere thank you to *Mr Stephen Barcoe* for delivering the course and to *Ms Miriam Bergin* and *Ms Aoife O'Brien* for their support.



### TUS 1<sup>st</sup> Year Hurling Blitz Winners



### U14.5 Gaelic Football Finalists



### Message from the CMCO Parents' Association

As another successful school year comes to a close, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all parents, guardians and members of the school community who supported our fundraising and school events throughout the year.

From our Christmas raffle and clothing collection to the school musical, open night and match day car parking, your generosity, time and commitment have made a real difference. The funds raised will help enhance school facilities, including the development of our Sensory Room, while supporting opportunities for our students to learn, grow and thrive.

A special word of thanks to our organising committees, volunteers, local businesses, prize sponsors, and the many parents/guardians who gave their time so generously. We are also grateful to Denis, Clare, Annmarie and all the staff for their continued support and collaboration.

If you would like to get involved with the Parents' Association, new members are always welcome (Contact Lisa on 087 6150548).

*Together, we continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.*

**Lisa McCarthy (Secretary)**  
**Bridget Long (Chairperson)**