

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.

PROSPECTUS 2026/27

Castlemeadows, Thurles, Co. Tipperary



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Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.
cordially invites you to our

Open Night

Thursday 24th September 2026

Principal's address commencing at **6:30pm** SHARP

Tours start from **7:00pm**



Register for
Open Night using
this QR code

“Rath as Saothar – Success Through Effort”



Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed., Thurles



colaistemhuirethurles



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 the Principal



Every pupil is a valued member of our school. Our goal is to ensure that, while they are with us, they develop into a mature, happy, responsible young adult, prepared to face the future with confidence.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your family. Choosing a secondary school is a significant decision. We are delighted that you are considering us for your child's journey. Our vibrant, growing community, supported by dedicated staff, provides a positive and nurturing environment for every student.

At Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed., our core values of Respect, Care, Excellence, Equality and Community are at the heart of everything we do. We offer a wide range of academic and extra-curricular activities, from the arts and sciences to various sports and clubs, ensuring every student has the opportunity to discover new passions and build lasting friendships.

We understand that the transition to secondary school can be challenging. To ensure a smooth transition, our First Years receive extensive support from Le Chéile leaders (senior student mentors) and a dedicated Student Support Team, fostering a secure and welcoming environment.

We look forward to welcoming your family into our community. And remember, if we can help you with your decision we are just a phone call away.

Rath as Saothar

Denis Quinn

Fáiltiú



Clare Wallace
Deputy Principal



Annmarie Bergin
Deputy Principal



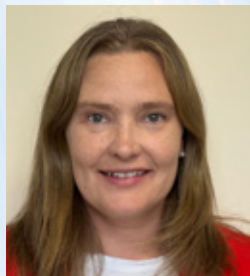
John Brennan
First Year Head



Mary C Ryan
Home School
Community Liaison



Patricia Hickey
Guidance
Counsellor



Lorna Byrne
Guidance
Counsellor



Julie Delaney
AEN Coordinator



Paddy Stapleton
Wellbeing
Coordinator

Our school
will ensure
the necessary
platforms are in
place in order
to harness and
nurture each
student's ability
and talents, thus
allowing their
individuality to
flourish.

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 multi-faceted process that 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 achievement, 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
- SETU Cyber Security Schools Initiative

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



National Young Cooks 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
- Visual 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
- Home Economics
- Music
- Physical Education

Leaving Cert Applied

Core:

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

Specialisms:

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



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

“All teachers promoted very high quality learner experiences through structured collaborative activities.”

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 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

“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

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

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

Our care structure for students includes:

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



'Chacha' - our Educational Assistance Dog plays an important role in supporting our students by creating a calm, welcoming atmosphere in school.

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 term. 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?

Our Junior Camogie team were crowned U15.5 County Champions this year.

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

Our athletes compete in Cross Country and Track & Field competitions every year and have enjoyed many successes in the County, East Munster, Munster and All-Ireland Schools championships, including winning a national bronze medal in the All-Ireland Schools’ Junior Boys Hammer Throw competition this year.

Our U17 Hurling team secured the Munster title for three consecutive years, while our U15 hurlers competed strongly in Munster and our U14 Gaelic Football and Hurling teams enjoyed success in county competitions this year.

Our U14, U15 and Senior Rugby teams have played very competitive rugby and enjoyed success in the Munster Rugby’s Emerging Schools competitions and representing CMCO at the prestigious Thomond Park.

Our U16 Boys Basketball team claimed All-Ireland honours recently, while our girls’ and boys’ teams have also enjoyed numerous successes in county, league and cup competitions.

We have Soccer teams from U14 to U19 in boys and U14 to U17 in girls and both groups participate in the South East League, Tipperary and Munster Cup competitions.

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



CMCO is very proud of past students **Cathal O'Reilly** and **Dylan Cotter**, who continue to excel with the Tipperary U20 Hurling and Gaelic Football teams. Cathal captained Tipperary to All-Ireland Minor success in 2024 before adding U20 All-Ireland glory in 2025, while Dylan continues to represent Tipperary at U20 level in Gaelic Football. Their success reflects the dedication, commitment and excellence fostered at CMCO.



Junior Camogie County Champions



Minor Athletics Team - East Munster XC Champions, Munster XC runners-up and ninth in the All Ireland Schools’ Cross Country Championships



U14 Boys Rugby Team



U15 Hurling Team

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

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

Other activities are catered for upon interest

Extra and Co-Curricular Activities



Junior Science Ecology Field Trip to Cabragh Wetlands

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 and Competitions
- School Tours Nationally and Internationally
- Competitions involving Debates, Quizzes etc.
- Excellent computer facilities to develop your coding skills
- Outings to Theatres, Cinemas, Third level college open days etc.
- Creative Writing
- Chess Club
- Green Schools
- Wood Turning Club
- Club Gaelige 'Tae agus Plé'



Chess Club

Wood Turning Club



Business Studies students displayed their coded Budgeting Game at CCPC Ireland's national Global Money Week event.

Academic

- After School Study
- Maths Week Activities
- Library Club
- CMCO Bake Off
- Enterprise Competitions
- Field Trips
- Gaeltacht Scholarships
- 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

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:

- Junior and Senior Choir Competitions
- School Musical
- Annual Tipperary ETB Talent Show
- Music Generation
- Rap workshops



DID YOU KNOW?

That each year our school produces a school musical.

Our recent productions include:

- Grease
- Mary Poppins
- 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.

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



Niall Ryan proudly represented Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. in the ARTiculation Tipperary Regional Finals in Clonmel.



Junior Table Quiz Winners at the Tipperary ETB Culture Day

DID YOU KNOW?

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

Transition Year



International Tour - The Netherlands & Germany

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.



Winners of the Most Innovative Design in the Relove Fashion competition.



Ballyhass Adventure Centre

Academic Curriculum

- English & Communications
- Irish Language
- Maths
- Science
- French
- Japanese
- Materials Technology
- ICT
- Irish Culture and Heritage
- Tourism
- Artificial Intelligence
- Art
- Sustainability

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 enjoy a wide range of educational, cultural and adventure experiences, including an annual international school tour.

Digital Learning



Student Digital Team

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

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

Bohdan, 5th year



Coding students proudly representing CMCO in the RTE Learn Microsoft Dream Space brAI_n_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
- A virtual treasure hunt
- A webquest about the school website

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 were highly commended for our Digital Integration in our MML report.
- We participate in the STEM Passport for Inclusion.
- To enhance learning, all our students log into the Student Portal “Tyro” and to Google Workspace.
- We lead out on the use of “Tyro”, our school app which enhances parental communication.
- We have Google Certified Trainers on our staff.

Facilities



Academic

- Computer Suites
- 1 C.A.D. Lab
- 2 Engineering Rooms
- 2 Woodwork Rooms
- 1 Home Economics Room
- 3 Science Labs
- Music Room
- Chrome Book Trolleys
- Library
- 2 Media Labs
- Quiet Room

Extra Curricular

- Performance Gym and Hall
- Hurling Wall
- Playing Fields
- Basketball Courts
- Table Tennis Tables
- Indoor Board Games
- Online Library
- Indoor Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton and Tennis Courts
- Outdoor Gym





Enbarr - created by TY students

Testimonials

“It is a great school that provides a high standard of education while also offering fantastic opportunities in sport, trips, debating, music and many other activities”

Ava

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

Stephen

“I chose Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. because my brother attended the school. I love that learning is enjoyable and that the teachers are so kind, understanding and supportive”

Aaron

“I chose CMCO because of its friendly atmosphere and excellent facilities for both learning and sport. With a wide range of sports facilities, dedicated subject areas and The Dome, it was an easy choice for me”

Thomas

“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

“I chose Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. after attending the Open Night. I especially enjoy subjects such as Woodwork and P.E., and I knew it would be a school where I could pursue my interests”

Oisín

“One of my favourite things about CMCO is the basketball, but I also love the new friendships I have made since starting here”

Kate

“When I saw the school productions of *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin*, I knew I wanted to be part of future shows. I love that CMCO offers so much more than sport, with lots of activities and opportunities for everyone”

Mary

“Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. offers a fantastic variety of subjects, programmes and events. I especially like the opportunity to study subjects such as Engineering and Woodwork and to develop my own talents and interests”

Suthamas

“I chose Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. because of its strong academic reputation, wide range of sports and the friendly and supportive teachers and students”

Tony

“From the moment I visited CMCO as a primary school student, I felt very welcome. Since starting here, I have had opportunities to take part in school shows, cultural exchanges, sport, youth initiatives and many other activities”

Amy

“I chose CMCO because of its inclusive atmosphere and welcoming community. The range of subjects and programmes is excellent, and the staff are always helpful and supportive”

Ewan

“Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. is a very welcoming school. The teachers and staff are always willing to help, and I have found them friendly, supportive and understanding throughout my time here”

Aoife

“The excellent sports facilities and the friendly teachers were two of the main reasons I chose CMCO”

Seán

“The sense of community at Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. is warm and welcoming, and the teachers are incredibly understanding and supportive”

Linda

Why Choose Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed?

- High-quality education that enables every student to achieve their potential
- A welcoming, co-educational school where every student feels they belong
- A broad range of Junior and Senior Cycle subjects at Higher and Ordinary Level
- Dedicated teachers who combine expertise with genuine care for their students
- A proud tradition of excellence in practical, STEM and creative subjects, including Construction Studies, Engineering, Design & Communication Graphics, the Sciences, Home Economics, Computer Science/Coding and Art
- A caring and supportive environment where students are known and valued as individuals
- A positive culture of respect, good behaviour and inclusion, supported by a robust Bí Cineálta policy
- A diverse range of sports and extracurricular activities
- Strong links with families and the local community
- A school that listens to students and parents and values their voices



