

Coláiste Mhuire Students Broaden Horizons on Cultural Tours to Paris and Berlin

Coláiste Mhuire continues to strengthen its commitment to high-quality teaching and learning through its strong offering of Modern Foreign Languages, French and German, across Junior Cycle, Transition Year and Senior Cycle. These subjects play a vital role in preparing students for an increasingly interconnected world, opening pathways to careers in international business, education, tourism, diplomacy, and cultural sectors.

The school's commitment to real-world learning was on full display in November 2025 as students embarked on two immersive cultural tours to Europe. Throughout both trips, German and French language students had daily opportunities to practice speaking their studied language in real-life situations, from using public transport and ordering food to engaging with guides and shop staff, while constantly learning and using new vocabulary.

Senior Cycle French students enjoyed a memorable four-day trip to Paris, where a packed itinerary captured the very best of the French capital. Students visited iconic landmarks including Notre-Dame Cathedral, Montparnasse, the Trocadéro, the Louvre, the Arc de Triomphe and the Tour Eiffel, while also strolling through the Latin Quarter, Montmartre and along the Champs-Élysées, truly embracing *la vie parisienne*. Highlights of the trip included sampling authentic French cuisine, travelling on the métro, watching an Ireland rugby match from the heights of the Eiffel Tower, visiting the Stade de France, and soaking up the festive atmosphere at the Jardin des Tuileries Christmas market and Galeries Lafayette. The switching on of the Champs-Élysées Christmas lights and a scenic cruise along the Seine provided fitting finales to an unforgettable experience.

The following week, students embarked on our first cross-curricular History and German language four-day tour of Berlin. Their itinerary included visiting important historical sites such as the Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial and the Bundestag, offering powerful insight into Germany's past and political landscape. Students also enjoyed modern attractions including the German Spy Museum and the Computer Games Museum. The group embraced winter activities such as tobogganing and ice-skating, and even took part in indoor beach volleyball! They experienced Berlin's festive Christmas markets, navigated its impressive public transport network, and sampled a wide variety of German cuisine.

A highlight for many was attending a Hertha Berlin home match against Braunschweig, where students experienced the unique culture of Bundesliga football in minus temperatures, made all the more exciting by a home victory. On the final day, the group visited Berlin Zoo and were delighted to experience snowfall, adding a memorable winter highlight to an already exceptional trip.

Both tours were hailed as tremendous successes, offering students unforgettable experiences and meaningful learning far beyond the classroom. Coláiste Mhuire continues to provide exceptional opportunities for its students, helping them engage with European cultures, deepen their subject knowledge, and build valuable skills and life long memorable moments which they will carry long into the future.

