



COLÁISTE MHUIRE

Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

WHY CHOOSE US?

Excellent facilities, including multiple computer suites, Science labs, fully equipped Woodwork, Technology and Design and Communication Graphics rooms.

Local school for a local community



- Characteristic spirit of respect & inclusiveness
- Safe, friendly & happy environment
- A long-standing tradition and culture of success, achievement and excellence in the academic, sporting, artistic and scientific areas.
- A wide ranging curriculum.
- A vibrant, enthusiastic and dedicated teaching staff.
- A strong sense of community within the school.
- Excellent care and support systems.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities including Gaelic football, hurling, basketball, athletics, rugby, coding, debating and choir amongst others.



WELCOME TO THE COLÁISTE MHUIRE COMMUNITY,



Thank you for considering placing your son's educational, emotional and holistic development in our care. The bond of trust that we enter into as a result is not taken lightly. We will endeavour to ease your anxieties and to assure you that we will make the transition from Primary to Secondary school as smooth and as seamless as possible for your child.

We have a unique atmosphere here in Coláiste Mhuire where all of our teachers, secretaries and support staff genuinely strive to motivate and support every child to reach their full potential as a person. This is achieved through the warm, caring and welcoming environment which is clearly evident from the moment you walk into our school. Every decision we make is centred around the positivity, pride and performance of our pupils. Every one of our pupils are challenged and encouraged to reach beyond what they thought possible in order to achieve their own individual dreams.

I am extremely honoured to work alongside such kind, committed and positive people. I am privileged to lead an amazingly talented, highly motivated and dedicated team of professionals. Our inspirational teachers continually strive for excellence in their teaching and learning. This in turn raises the expectations and standards of our pupils.

More importantly, every single member of our team goes above and beyond to ensure that our pupils are equipped with coping mechanisms. In today's world, we all face challenges that life will present from time to time. We are powerful advocates of mindfulness and positive wellbeing. There is a really close bond between our teachers and our pupils. We are a telling school and have embraced a culture where we always have someone to talk to, somebody to confide in. Our door is always open. As a result, we all become more trusting and understand that it is perfectly normal to have worries and concerns. By talking to each other, we learn how to bounce back and to become resilient.

Coláiste Mhuire will provide your son with the broadest array of opportunities possible, both within and outside the classroom. We pride ourselves on having a Transition Year programme that is, in our opinion, the best in the country. Our Performing Arts teachers create a self confidence in our pupils through on stage dramatic performances, musical talent shows and performing in the school choir and band. We also have a very close association with Mullingar Arts Centre. In terms of sport we are renowned for our great successes in Athletics and in both GAA codes.

Our Coláiste Coding provides our pupils with an arena in which they are challenged to think critically, to problem solve and to develop their digital literacy to the highest level. By combining this with our innovative Coding, Technology departments and our Young Scientist programme we are developing future experts in the fastest growth area in terms of job opportunities.

The success of Coláiste Mhuire pupils is dependent on the exceptionally strong link between parents, pupils and teachers. This is your son's home for eight hours every day. We will do everything possible to ensure that your son is safe. It is our aim that your son will be fulfilled. It is our vision that he will reach his full academic potential. It is our guarantee that he will be respected and made feel welcome. It is our hope that your child will be happy.

Mr. Keith Quinn
Principal



HERITAGE AND SPIRITUALITY



The 5 key elements of the ERST Charter

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting Partnership
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership



Coláiste Mhuire, Mullingar's oldest post primary school, opened its doors in 1856 with the aim of educating the poor children of the parish. This was the wish of a local brewer named James Hevey, who bequeathed the land on which the school is built. We continue to modernise and develop our school facilities, always keeping the wishes and aspirations of James Hevey alive.

Coláiste Mhuire is part of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust, which is responsible for 96 schools in Ireland. The trust supports the Board of Management and the principal in running the school, following the tenets of the Edmund Rice School Trust Charter.

Our school celebrates diversity and values difference: students of every faith, at every level of ability, of any ethnic grouping or nationality are welcome to Coláiste Mhuire.

We recognise the uniqueness of each individual, and care for the development of the student in every sense, as they grow up happy and safe in a caring community where holistic development is nurtured.

We understand the value of partnership, and strive to work together with parents/guardians to serve the needs of the students. As an ERST school we encourage the parents of our students to become fully involved in all aspects of their children's education, whether formally or informally.

We provide high standards in education through a focus on purposeful teaching and learning, but also uphold a strong sporting tradition, Gaelic culture, and ethos of social justice.

As a school, we take pride in developing the leaders of the future: we teach them to work in partnership, care for the environment and look after themselves and others equally. We strive to support them in becoming inspirational citizens in a changing world.



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust



LEARNING AND TEACHING

While a holistic approach is encouraged at Coláiste Mhuire, student learning is still at the forefront. Teaching is tailored to support each student in his endeavors. Students have individual long term goals and school has its part to play in achieving these goals. Yet large successes are built on a foundation of smaller successes. Each lesson is designed in an effort to assist the student in achieving and experiencing these small successes. We are also acutely aware of the role that enjoyment plays in learning and we employ a variety of methodologies in an effort to make learning more students friendly.

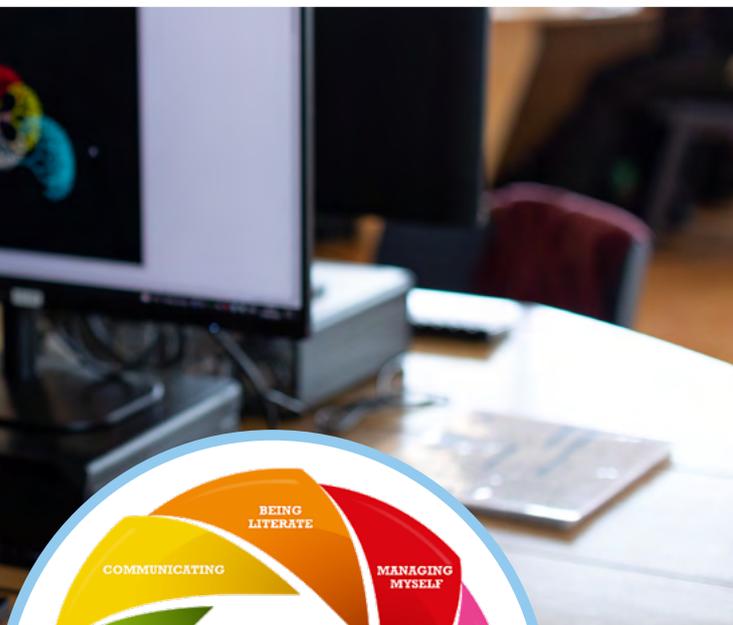
In Coláiste Mhuire we use academic tracking from the time a student enters in first year, until the time he leaves. This allows us to monitor performance in a consistent manner. The confidential charting of individual student results enables our teachers to identify areas needing particular attention. This information gives the teacher an opportunity to differentiate their lessons to meet individual students' needs. We have also introduced an online learning platform in recent years. This platform acts as a support to students, allowing them access to notes and relevant materials, as they study or complete work at home.

Our literacy and numeracy programme as gone from strength to strength in recent years. An *Accelerated Reader Programme* assesses students' reading abilities and provides reading materials appropriate to those abilities. This initiative is aimed at arming students

with an increased and improved vocabulary, as well as improving student ability to comprehend and critic. The *Accelerated Reader Programme* achieves this all through the medium of reading for pleasure.

Coláiste Mhuire also has a whole school approach to numeracy. Students take tests in first year to establish their competency with numbers. Numeracy is also addressed throughout the curriculum as each department incorporates numeracy in their subject. Language support is offered in Irish, French and German. This involves exam year students receiving one to one tutoring at various times in the school calendar. The school continues to invest in ICT with the addition of class sets of Ipads and Chromebooks. This provides us with the resources to improve digital literacy and equip our pupils with the necessary skills for the wider world. Student support is also prioritised in our Team Teaching classes. In those lessons, a support teacher accompanies the lead teacher in an effort to help the boys within the class who may need further assistance.





CURRICULUM

Junior Cycle

The Junior Cycle is a three year programme that underpins our school's vision for developing our students and helps them to achieve their best. This philosophy is in line with the national Junior Cycle Framework that aims to enable students to achieve their full potential and contribute to Ireland's economic, social and cultural development. Our mixed-ability approach in most subject areas affords students of all abilities the opportunity to expand on their talents and to challenge their young minds.

Students study eleven Examination Related Subjects in 1st & 2nd Year.

This reduces to nine examination subjects in 3rd Year.

Four Mandatory Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Gaeilge*
- History

* Students with an official Irish exemption from their Primary School will be facilitated on a case-by-case basis with an alternative where possible.

Four Additional Core Subjects

(Students opt to study two of four of these subjects in 3rd Year)

- Geography
- Business
- Science
- Coding (Short Course)

Three Optional Subjects

- Visual Art
- Home Economics
- Wood Technology
- French
- Music
- Applied Technology
- Graphics
- German

Non-Examination Based Subjects

- Physical Education
- Social, Personal & Health Education
- Civic, Social & Political Education
- Religious Education
- A Series of Wellbeing Modules

As part of our student wellbeing programme, all students participate in a number of short module courses which aim to develop a sense of personal development for our students. Examples of these modules include Study Skills, Environmental Studies, Health & Nutrition, Gaeltacht Studies, Dance & Yoga.



Transition Year (optional)

Transition Year is a unique one-year programme. We have created a multifaceted course that promotes the personal, social, vocational, sporting, creative and educational development of students. Our aim is to foster the holistic and balanced development for our students. We endeavour to prepare them for their role as responsible members of society using their newly acquired life skills. Students engage in a full academic programme and also complete four periods of work experience. Throughout the year, our students are encouraged and supported to actively engage in community projects.

Senior Cycle

Coláiste Mhuire offers students the opportunity to study the Leaving Certificate Established programme. This two year course sees students take a minimum of seven subjects for examination purposes from the wide variety of subjects which students may choose from. Students are supported in their choices with comprehensive Career Guidance advice through classroom modules, aptitude testing and one-to-one guidance sessions.

Three Mandatory Core Subjects

- English
- Mathematics
- Gaeilge*

*Students with an official Irish exemption from their Primary School will be facilitated with an alternative subject.

Four Additional Optional Subjects

- Accounting
- History
- Computer Science
- Applied Mathematics
- Music
- Economics
- Biology
- Technology
- Geography
- German
- Construction Studies
- Agricultural Science
- Home Economics
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Art
- Physics
- French
- Business
- Chemistry
- Physical Education

Non-Examination Based Subjects

- Social, Personal & Health Education
- Career Guidance
- Religious Education



COLÁISTE
MUIRE...







EXTRA-CURRICULAR

School life in Colaiste Mhuire is much more than what goes on in the classroom. Part of what makes the school such an inclusive environment is the broad range of extracurricular activities available. Whatever your interest, there is something for you in Colaiste Mhuire .

Students are introduced to a variety of sports and extracurricular activities in Colaiste Mhuire and are also encouraged to discover and develop their interests and talents. Our philosophy of education is about more than academic achievement. Sporting, cultural and social activities are fundamental to our students' education. Coláiste Mhuire offers students a diverse co-curricular programme, from traditional music and drama to coding.

Within Colaiste Mhuire, we are striving to offer extracurricular activities to our students, despite the current Covid-19 situation, while ensuring a safe experience during these difficult times. All extracurricular activities are even more important to school life for students' personal well being and development. Though not all extra curricular programmes are running as they did before Covid-19 we hope to see as many students participating in our wide selection of extracurricular activities this school year.

WSE MLL inspection

"The quality of student learning is significantly enhanced by the range of co- and extra-curricular opportunities that is available."



Extra Curricular Activities

Sport

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Golf
- Canal Walks (Operation Transformation)
- Rugby
- Hurling
- Football

Music

- Choir
- Ukulele Group
- Instrumental and Trad Group
- TY Musical

Lunchtime Clubs/additional extra curricular activities

- Gaisce
- School Digital Champion
- Maths club
- Chess Club
- Languages Club (French and Irish)
- Green Schools
- Yoga
- Mojo
- BT Young Scientist
- Colaiste Coding
- Art Club
- Student Council
- TY Play



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



TRANSITION YEAR

"I have thoroughly enjoyed TY and I think it's a brilliant program that gives you a well deserved break from the hectic everyday school life. It also greatly matures you as a person even if you don't notice it at the time. I look back on TY and realise that without it I wouldn't be the lad I am today" – Matthew Ryan

"TY has helped me to develop new skills and allowed me to contribute to the local community. It has also given me great memories of which I will never forget" – Jack Dowling



Transition Year is a unique one year programme available to our students in Coláiste Mhuire. Our programme fosters growth and development. We promote the personal, social and educational development of students and prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society. Students become immersed in all activities, developing new skills and talents, engaging in an enterprise, becoming socially conscious and responsible, while nurturing their academic ability.

Transition Year enables students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with Junior Cycle towards self-directed styles in an independent environment associated with Senior Cycle and equips them with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential in the Leaving Certificate exam. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.

Students engage in work experience which assists their decision-making around further education and career choices. Work experience is beneficial for the students. It helps them to foster independence and maturity while opening a world of responsibility and accountability.

Transition Year is a very worthwhile experience for the student who is committed to participating fully in the program. Our program in Coláiste Mhuire supports student wellbeing and affords students with the opportunity to develop a newfound confidence. It equips them with the skills to mature personally and academically through interaction with the local community and by engaging in worthwhile social awareness projects. Transition Year students avail of the opportunity to broaden their horizons, develop new friendships and create memories that last a lifetime.

A survey carried out by the Department of Education and Skills shows that students who have sat their Leaving Certificate after completing Transition Year obtained an average of 45 CAO points more than those who sat the Leaving Certificate after two years.





“TY has given me many new opportunities to experience that I would never have gotten to experience otherwise. It pushed me to do things outside of my comfort zone but those things ended up being the best ones in the end” – Peter Kennedy

“TY helped me greatly grow as a person helping me make lots of new friends while also helping me to grow my confidence.”
– Alex O’Dowd



In addition to the traditional subjects of English, Irish, Maths, French/German, History, Geography, Religion, Science, Music, Business Studies and Physical Education, Transition Year students participate in a wide range of interesting modules such as:

- Alpha Youth
- Boxing
- Careers
- Community Volunteering
- Computer Science
- Construction Studies
- Cookery
- Crossfit
- Dance
- Design, Communication and Graphics
- Drama
- Driver Theory
- Enterprise
- Ethnic Cuisine
- First Aid
- GAA Coaching/ GAA Future Leaders
- GAISCE Presidents Award
- Gaeltacht Studies
- Home Economics
- Horse Riding
- Law
- Mindfulness
- Outdoor Pursuits
- Performing Arts
- Photography
- Public Speaking
- School Productions
- Self Defence
- Social Dancing
- Sports Leadership
- STEM Activities
- Strength and Conditioning
- Swimming
- Yoga
- Young Social Innovators





WSE MLL inspection 2017
 “Student subject leaders ably assisted their peers in completion of tasks and this is an example of excellent practice”.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND MENTORS

Coláiste Mhuire encourages students to take an active role in the life of the school. Our Student Council is a very active and important part of our community. The Student Council act as representatives for their peers, and as such allow the student body to have an input in the running of the school. Members of the Student Council communicate the students’ views whilst working in partnership with school management and staff. The Student Council has had great success to date in improving our school, through their involvement with policy making or with projects such as the renovation of the school canteen and the addition of seating in the courtyard.

Leadership Initiatives in Coláiste Mhuire:

Coláiste Mhuire offers numerous opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills, both within the school and in the local community.

The Gaisce President’s awards on offer in school allows students to become involved with various community outlets such as:

- The Sunflower room in Scoil Mhuire.
- St. Brigids school.
- Comhairle na nÓg.
- ERST student leadership workshops.
- Cluain Lir community care centre.
- Youth Work Ireland Midlands.

Mentoring Programme/ School Prefects

Our team of senior school prefects work closely alongside incoming first years students: They help and welcoming first years to the school and liaise with teachers during school activities. Their presence, help, and encouragement towards others around the school make them valued members of the community and true role models for the junior students.





“
Pride,
Positivity,
Performance
”





COLÁISTE MHUIRE
MULLINGAR, CO. WESTMEATH

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Coláiste Mhuire