



Colaiste Muire

Summer Newsletter 2024

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Message from the Principal



As the school year draws to a close, it is an appropriate time to stop and reflect on the year experienced by all in Coláiste Muire.

This year started with the very sad loss of our beloved 2nd year student Sarah Mescall R.I.P. The whole school community was touched by her death. She is remembered with great fondness and will forever be part of Coláiste Muire. Experiencing this enormous sadness, grief and loss the school then had to carry on with our normal business. I acknowledge the great community that is Coláiste Muire , the support of the students and staff who have shown great strength and resilience in the face of adversity.

I am most grateful to all students and staff who have made this a most memorable year in so many ways. It has been a year of highlights including many victories in all areas of school life. These are reflected here in the accounts and photographs. These are a mere glimpse into some of the activities throughout the year. It is very heartening to read reflections on school life from Siofra, our first year student, and our Head Girl, Aislinn, These reflections show the many and varied experiences of student life in Coláiste Muire. I am extremely privileged to be Principal of Coláiste Muire and to be immersed in such a thriving, dynamic community.

I wish our Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate and L.C.A. students well in your exams, I know you will do your very best. I wish you all a very happy, restful summer. I would also like to thank Staff, Parents, Parents Association and our Board of Management for their continued support of all our endeavours.

Jean Pound, Principal.



Goodbye from our SRC



We would like to say thank you to our outgoing Student Representative Council for their fantastic work over the last year! From organising Mission Week concerts, Graduation Masses, Speeches and looking out for your fellow students—it was an eventful year but we could not have done it without you!

Best of luck to our incoming SRC of Aisling Blake (Head Girl), Lucy Power (Vice Head Girl), Ríona Williams (Treasurer), Ella Fitzgibbon (Secretary) and Holly Dunphy (PRO).



Academic Success

Amy Hennessy & Juliette Purcell (TY)	BT Young Scientist – Display and Communication Ribbon BD STEM Stars – 2nd in Munster Final PE Expo Awards – Winners of the “Technology and Media” & “Sport for Business” Awards
Alana Connellan (5th Year)	Edna O’Brien Young Writer Award Winner
Lucy Crean (TY)	Press Pass Award—Opinion Piece
Molly Cahill (TY)	Press Pass Award Winner – Photojournalism
Isabel Gurure (6th Year)	Soroptimist Regional Winner
Mahreen Adnan (1st Year)	Clare U14 Art Competition Silver Medal
Sofia Lazarenko, Molly Cahill, Caoimhe Fitzgerald, Lelia Ryan, Katie O’Grady (TY3)	Best Display TY Student Enterprise
Aoibhin Collin	Career Skills Competition– Overall TY Winner
Ciara Ennis	Career Skills Competition– Highly Commended
Dea Krasniqi	Career Skills Competition– Commended
Lauren Meaney	Young Economist of the Year
TY3	All-Ireland GTTP Champions
Coláiste Future Leaders	National Silver Award

Letter to my 6th Class Self



Dear 6th Class Me,

Secondary school is way better than you expected! Even though the hours are longer and the classes are harder, it is way more fun than primary school and all the people are so nice!

You thought that you would hate school because some of your friends were going to other schools, but you've made so many new friends and become friends with people you never thought you would! Everyone here is really kind and the older girls are really welcoming!

All the sports in the school are so great! You play basketball, soccer and camogie during lunch most days (when it's dry at least)! There has been matches too, so I've got to miss some classes—which is a bonus!

You thought that History and PE would be your favourite subjects, but actually English and Art are!

If I had to give you some advice about first year of secondary school, I'd say don't stress about the tests, they don't mean that much after all. Respect your teachers, they aren't that bad after you get to know them!

Good Luck!

Siófa Burke, IE







Young Social Innovators

This year TY3 took part in the YSI competition. Our chosen social issue was elderly loneliness. We called ourselves the Senior Smile Squad. Throughout the year we tried to eliminate elderly loneliness in our local area. We started by going up town and interviewing random people we met on the streets of Ennis. We asked them 3 questions: What makes you smile? What makes you feel valued? What do you do with the elderly people in your life? Once we got back the response we understood better what we can do to help eliminate loneliness. We also spent 3 weeks going to ClareCastle Day Care Centre. Groups of 8 students went for an hour a day and spent time with the visitors playing bingo, arts and crafts, playing music, irish dancing, painting nails and just offering general conversation. For the Speak Out competition we spent hours prepping for our presentation. We made loads of cardboard cutouts, painted them and decorated them. We then travelled to Cork to do a 2 minute presentation of our project. It was a really fun day out and we got great feedback.

Grace Herbert, TY3



Future Leaders



The "Future Leaders Transition Year Programme" is a joint initiative from the GAA and Oide (the support service for Teachers and School Leaders). It is a cross-curricular programme that includes a series of modules designed to encourage maturity, initiative, responsibility and leadership skills in pupils. The programme provides pupils with the

knowledge and skills required in the effective staging of Gaelic Games. As part of the programme, students are challenged to organise and run both on-field and off-field events for younger students. For the first year ever, Coláiste Muire had three classes taking part in the future leaders' programme as opposed to one in previous years. Each school participating in the Future Leaders Programme elects their own student committee. This comprises the same roles as a GAA club; Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and PRO. The committee is responsible for overseeing the organising of events in coordination with the classes taking part in the programme.

Throughout the year, the committee organised various events including camogie and football blitz, informative talks, skill and fitness challenges and GAA quizzes. Most of these events took place during events month. This is a set time by the GAA Future Leaders for GAA related events to take place where schools must document their events to be in with a chance of winning an award. There are gold, silver and bronze awards for the overall best schools around the country for their participation in the programme. Coláiste has been very successful in the past number of years and the school has won both silver and bronze awards.

Our main events that we ran this year were the Electric Elevens Camogie Blitz for primary school students in 4th-6th class, First Year Clare Camogie and Ladies Football blitzes and a sports nutrition talk. In organising these events, the committee had to contact schools, set a date, find a venue and assign TY helpers jobs. On the day of these events, the future leader students from Coláiste assisted in coaching, refereeing, umpiring, first aid and score keeping. They were all very successful events with a great turn out. For instance, in Clare first year blitz, we had eight teams taking part with roughly 170 pupils playing. One of our off-field events during events month was a sports nutrition talk with Cillian Custy RD who gave our future leaders classes and other athletes in the school some helpful learning insights into staying healthy.

The main outcomes of the year for our future leaders' classes were the development of leadership, teamwork, responsibility and organisational skills. These crucial skills evolved and were evident when we ran events. Our future leaders took the initiative in ensuring the events ran smoothly and successfully. Teamwork was a huge part of future leaders, being able to cooperate and collaborate with peers played an important role in the success of our events. The TY Future Leaders showed excellent leadership skills when they were asked to coach primary school teams. They showed passion and positivity to their teams. Both responsibility and organisational skills were necessary for the future leaders committee when organising these events. In addition to these skills, we also got to improve our decision making and time management skills which will stand to them in the future.

Alongside running events, there is much more to future leaders. In many subjects we completed modules such as event management, nutrition and coaching. These modules were very interesting and expanded our knowledge in many areas. We completed lessons on nutrition in home economics, statistics in maths, coaching in PE, event management in business, sports journalism in English and GAA history in history. After the lessons in each module there was a final task to complete to receive a certificate. The final task for event management in business was to run an event. TY1 ran a Coláiste's Fittest Class challenge for first year students, TY2 ran a skills challenge for TY's and TY3 ran a GAA Quiz. After completion of each module, we received a certificate acknowledging our participation. These were all good practice for our main events later in the year.

Other optional tasks that TYs took part in were coaching, running the social media account and statistics. Many TYs helped coach the first year football and camogie teams. They attended the training sessions at lunchtime every week and travelled to matches with the team. At the beginning of the year, future leader students had the option of signing up to be a digital associate. This involved them attending matches, taking team photos and updating the Instagram account on the score of the match (Follow us @colaistemuire_gaafi). Students also had the opportunity to do statistics for the schools GAA teams. They collected data throughout the match and presented it to the coaches after to help located areas of improvement. This was a great way to put our knowledge of performance analysis into practice.

Overall, the Future Leaders programme was very successful and rewarding. As TYs we learned a lot of valuable skills that will benefit us in the future. The highlight of this being the freedom and independence of being able to make decisions and plans for own ideas while still being under the guidance of the Future Leaders Coordinator. On the day of these events not everything went according to plan but this meant we had to think on our feet and adapt which was great learning in itself.

Cliona Jones (TY1) and Sophie Culleton (TY2) -

Goodbye TY



Transition Year has been an incredible journey filled with unforgettable experiences. From spending the day in Laois at the Ploughing Championships to riding the waves in Lahinch for surfing, and even taking on the challenge of public speaking at the YSI Speak Out event in Cork, every moment has been so exciting.

One of my favourite trips of the year was definitely exploring the heights of Croke Park. Getting a tour around the whole stadium was really cool. One of the highlights of this year was the opportunity to immerse myself in sports. Coaching the 1st-year football team and assisting the senior team not only allowed me to share my passion for sports but also taught me valuable leadership skills.

Academically, Transition Year broadened my horizons. I learnt lots about the culture and languages of Japan and China. I also explored coding, and ended in the creation of my very own app!

But perhaps the most rewarding aspect of Transition Year has been the friendships formed along the way. Meeting new people, sharing experiences, and building lasting bonds has made this year truly unforgettable. As I reflect on my Transition Year journey, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities, challenges, and growth it has provided.

Grace Prenderville, TY3



Extra-Curricular
Activities

Sporting Success

Soccer	Junior	Clare League Champions Munster Cup Finalists
Football	Junior A	North Muster Champions
Football	1st Year	Clare Blitz Cup & Shield Winners
Football	2nd Year	Clare Blitz Cup Winners
Football	Senior Football	North Munster Plate Winners
Camogie	Senior A	County Champions
Camogie	1st Year	County Champions
Volleyball	U16	All-Ireland A Champions North/South Ireland Champions
Volleyball	Senior A	All Ireland A Cup Champions

Cross Country	Minor	1st Clare
		1st North Munster
		1st Munster
		2nd All-Ireland
Cross Country	Junior	1st Clare
		1st North Munster
		1st Munster
		6th All-Ireland
Cross Country	Intermediate	1st Clare
		1st North Munster
		1st Munster
		6th All-Ireland
Cross Country	Senior	1st Clare
		1st North Munster
		1st Munster
		6th All-Ireland
Cross Country	Team	Munster Best Overall Girl School
Swimming	Junior Relay	1st Munster
Swimming	Intermediate Relay	3rd Munster
Badminton	U16	Munster Silver Medals
Track & Field	Minor 800m	Aisling Kelly
		1st—North Munster
		1st—Munster
		2nd—All-Ireland
Track & Field	Intermediate 800m	Faye Mannion
		1st—North Munster
		1st—Munster
		1st—All-Ireland

Camogie



After last year's All-Ireland success, Coláiste competed in the Munster A competition at junior and senior level. Being the only representative from Clare in the top division, played matches against teams from Tipperary and Cork. Our senior team reached the Munster A semi-final, just losing out after extra-time! They came back strong later on in the year, when they won the Clare A Cup!

Our 1st Years also had success this year, with both our teams reaching the final of the 1st Year Clare Camogie Blitz. The team ended in a draw, with both teams getting winners medals! Looking forward to seeing everyone back on the pitch in September!

Gaelic Football

We had great success in Gaelic football competitions this year. We had 6 football teams competing in respected competitions. Our Senior team won the North Munster Plate and were runners up in the County A final. Our Junior A football team won the North Munster C Cup. Our Junior B footballers contested the North Munster D Cup and narrowly lost out to Kilkee. Our Minor team, which was the first year of this grade, were North Munster finalist and narrowly lost out to Spanish Point in a 16-goal thriller of a final. Our Second-year footballers won the county A Clare Blitz Cup. We had two teams of 1st year footballers, which was a great credit to their effort and enthusiasm throughout the year. Our first team won the county A Clare Blitz Cup and our second team won the County A Clare Blitz Shield.



Soccer



This year has been one of the most successful years for our school soccer teams! Coláiste became Clare Cup Champions at all levels; 1st Year, Junior and Senior! What a great achievement for all our players.

Our Junior soccer team had an incredible year competing in the Munster Cup, reaching the final after some great results and coming away with silver medals!

We are looking forward to competing again next year and are looking forward to seeing what new soccer stars enter Coláiste Muire next year!

Volleyball

Volleyball in Coláiste Muire had another successful year.

Our senior team lost out to eventual the winners in the Senior A League semi final in January in a very close 3-2 battle! However, they came back stronger—retaining their All-Ireland Senior Cup title!

Our U/16 cadette volleyball team had an undefeated season—winning both the A League and North-South Cup, beating the Northern Ireland Champions 2-1 in Armagh.

Our juniors played some great volleyball, many learning the sport for the first time. They lost out to eventual winners Portlaoise College in the All-Ireland Semi Final.

We all wish Aislinn Carey and Doireann Ní Bhraoin the best of luck representing Ireland in the U20 European Volleyball Championships in August!



Basketball



Coláiste contested strongly in the South West Region B division this year playing both Laurel Hill schools and Hazelwood College in Preliminary rounds. Our u19 squad qualified for the Regional QTR final but lost out to Tarbert while our Minor(1st year) squad qualified for the regional semi-final where they were narrowly beaten by Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí, Dingle. Well done all the players who represented our school basketball teams this year!

With a number of our first and second year teams achieving All Ireland success with Panthers in the Division 2 AICC the future looks very bright for basketball in Coláiste Muire.

Rugby

What a year it has been for rugby in Coláiste Muire! Rugby was a sport that students really wanted to play in our school and some determined students with the help of Ms Hassett and parents made it happen!

In our first year entering a team, we qualified for the Munster Senior Cup Final. The team battled throughout, losing out in a close battle to Sacred Heart Clonakilty. With many players taking up rugby for the first time, it has been an incredible successful first year of competition!

Looking forward to continuing to grow and develop next year!



Tennis & Badminton



It was a busy year again for the school's tennis teams. We participated in the Munster Schools Tennis competition and entered 3 teams in the U14 and U19 competitions. We played some superb doubles in Limerick and Ennis against schools from Limerick, Cork and Waterford. There was some excellent tennis on display and some great character shown by our 14 teams, many of whom it was their first time stepping on a tennis court. The victories were sweet! Our U19 team played some superb tennis but unfortunately they came up against a very strong Cork side on the day. A special mention to Emily Feehan and Lara Kelly as it was their final time stepping on court for Coláiste! Roll on next year

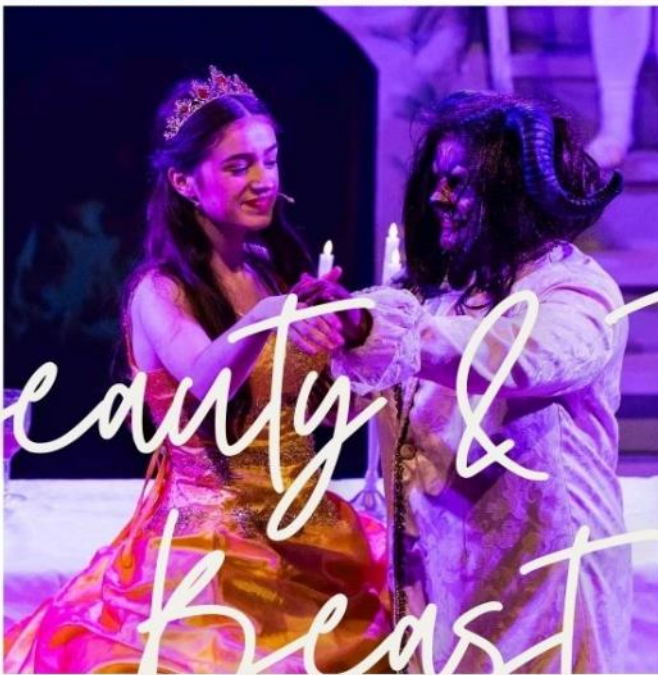
In badminton, our U/16 and U/19 teams competed in the Munster Schools Competition in UL, with our U16 team winning silver medals! Badminton is growing in popularity and it is great to see our students achieve success with their local badminton clubs in local and national competitions!

Athletics

This year was very successful for our cross-country teams. Coláiste won a clean sweep of four team gold medals at North Munster Schools, before winning three gold medals at the Munster Schools a few weeks later. This resulted in Coláiste being crowned Best Overall Girl School for the 7th Year in a row! At the All-Ireland Schools, we won a minor silver and senior bronze!

In Track and Field, Coláiste had many individual medal winners at North Munster Schools, with a big team advancing to Munster Schools. Aisling Kelly and Faye Mannion won the 800m titles, at minor and intermediate respectively. Meabh Kelly and Grace Rynne won bronze medals in the triple jump and steeplechase, respectively. At All-Ireland Schools, Faye Mannion won 800m gold, while Aisling Kelly secured a silver medal! Well done to all our athletes!





Beauty & The Beast

Beauty & the Beast



When I found out that our musical was going to be Beauty and the Beast, I was ecstatic. It has always been my favourite Disney movie because of how magical it is. I was so eager to get to work! The audition process was very nerve-racking, and the amount of talent amongst TY's and fifth-year students was outstanding. I was set on getting a lead role, and with a lot of hard work and determination, I got the role that I really wanted (Lefou)! I couldn't have been happier! Just like that, rehearsals were underway. As the days went on, the show looked better and better. It was really satisfying to see the

amount of progress we made with each rehearsal. During these few months, I made some really strong friendships, which made the whole process so much more enjoyable and special. When showtime arrived, there was such a buzz within the school. I was so excited to finally perform and showcase what we had spent months of hard work on. With every show, we went from strength to strength. I learned so much, and I enjoyed every single moment of every show and rehearsal. I feel so privileged to have been part of such an amazing production.

Leanne Darcy, TY5



Community



Community is such a central part of Coláiste Muire. We would like to thank everyone who contributed to everything that happens in Coláiste Muire—musicians, dancers, singers and readers! Thank you for performing at our masses, entertaining the local community and sharing your talents with us!



Remembering Sarah

A group of Sarah Mescall's friends wanted to celebrate Sarah's life and remember their friend.

Sarah's friends organised a Jersey Day & raised €1,250. The amazing students of LCA2, with Mr. Barrett, organised a funday for 2nd years and used the money raised to buy materials and construct a bench with the help of Rob. They painted the bench in the Inagh-Kilnamona colours in Sarah's memory.

On the 10th May, two members of the Air Ambulance Service visited Coláiste and accepted a cheque from Sarah's friends to benefit their work. Sarah's friends shared prayers, reflections & memories of Sarah and Fr. Tom blessed the bench

**The inscription on the bench reads;
"In loving memory of Sarah Mescall"**

Students of Coláiste Muire will remember Sarah while having lunch or a chat around the bench.

Talent Show

Coláiste Muire Talent Show returned for the second year, showcasing the exceptional talent in our school. Over 30 students entered and preformed before our judges - Aoibhinn Garrihy, Alan Flynn and Ms. Hassett. Our show was hosted, produced and run by TY4 and TY5, under the guidance of Ms. Howard.

Our overall winner was Leilani & Saoirse Kent who performed a contemporary dance routine. Isabelle Doherty was 2nd, singing an Adele number, while Coláiste band '4 + 4' finished 3rd performing "American Boy". Isabelle Doherty (1st Year) topped the poll in for the Student Choice Award! Well done to all our acts!

Take a look at the winning routine here!



Wellfest

Our Wellbeing Week "Wellfest" took place from the 14th—17th of May, with activities for all year groups run throughout the week. The festival was organised by TY4 and TY5, under the guidance of Ms. Howard. It was an incredible week of fun, laughter and positivity!

Some of the events included dance classes, team-challenges, walking tours, rowing races, Mario Kart racing competitions, inflatable obstacle courses and lots more! The Leaving Cert students enjoyed a picnic outside and got competitive in a teacher versus students soccer match!

On the final day, the school enjoyed an outdoor concert with a live performer, food trucks, outdoor activities and more! It was a week enjoyed by everyone! Looking forward to next years event already!

Parent's Association

The Parents Association would like to thank you all for your support during this academic year! Your support has allowed us to:

- Fund and organise foot for the students during the musical.
- Host a informative talk by psychologist Dr. Richard Hogan.
- Help with the 6th Year Graduation Celebration at the school.
- Contribute to the creation of a sensory hub in the school.
- Contribute to a bench created in the memory of Sarah Mescall.

The Parents Association launched a new School Lotto Fundraiser. This has been quite successful and we hope it will continue to support the school community in the coming years. Please check out the QR code for more details on our lotto!

As always, we are actively seeking new members. Please do not hesitate to contact us to join! colaistemuirepa@gmail.com



School Lotto



Awards Day



Well done to all students who received awards at our Junior, Senior and Sports Award Ceremony. Thank you to past-students Aislinn Meaney and Emer O'Reilly who presented the awards!

Student of the Year 2024 was won by Clíodhna Queally.

Sportsperson of the Year 2024 was won by Louise O'Mahony.

Companionship Award 2024 was won by Ríona Healy.

Thank you to all students to represented our school and contributed to our community.

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