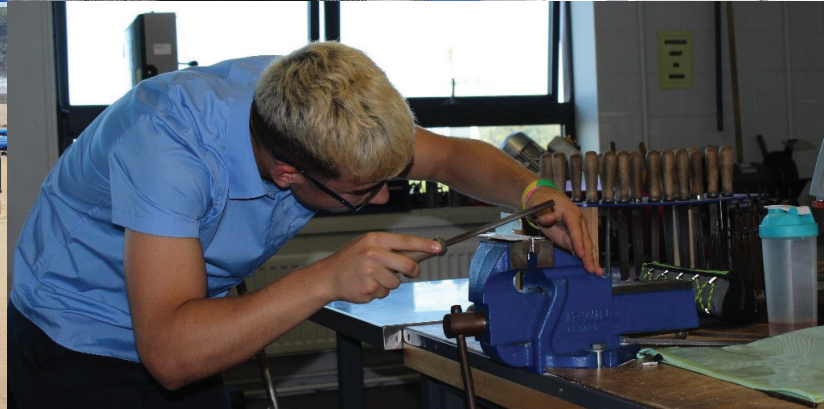




Coláiste Pobail Naomh Mhuire Prospectus 2023/24





WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you on behalf of the school community to Coláiste Pobail Naomh Mhuire. I hope that what follows will give you an insight into what makes the student experience in our school community truly unique and special.

Coláiste Mhuire offers a vibrant and friendly learning environment in one of the most modern educational facilities in the country. Opened in January 2016, our campus facilities have a wide array of impressive classrooms, workshops, and other educational and social spaces, which support students and teachers in their pursuit of the highest standards of achievement and excellence.

A strong emphasis on our five core values is core to the everyday prevailing atmosphere and environment in our school. These values of Community, Care, Respect, Equity and Excellence in Education are the cornerstone upon which our school community is built. We want our students to leave school with a strong sense of self-respect and respect for others. It is important to us that each and every student feels welcome, secure and cared for within the school. Positive interaction between teachers and pupils and between home and school is very much the norm. We strive to make our school a safe and secure place where each student is accepted unconditionally.

We have an outstanding reputation for academic excellence and year on year our exam students achieve well above national standards. The development of student's intellectual and physical potential is an integral part of the everyday school curriculum. We want each student to leave school capable of taking his/her place in society with an outlook that is emotionally, socially and intellectually developed. A sustained focus on excellence in teaching and learning and a constant investment and commitment to the professional development of our staff is central to achieving this. Coláiste Mhuire students have excelled in their various walks of life over the years and our aim is that the school continues to play its part in this excellence of achievement.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Donal O'Sullivan
(Príomh Oide)



Principal Donal O'Sullivan congratulates 2023 Academic Excellence Award Winner Ryan Kilgore on his outstanding Leaving Cert results (613 points) which secured his first choice course Politics, Philosophy & Economics in Queen's University Belfast



Also after securing their first choices are Hughie Spratt, Andrew Gaffney and Conor Fleming who are delighted to have been offered Apprenticeships with Blackwater Engineering Mallow.



Mission Statement

Our vision is to enrich the Educational and Personal development of students in an inclusive, caring and Christian School Community.

“Nurturing the Individual”

Student Support

Our Student Support Team help to ensure the Coláiste supports the contribution that each member of the school community makes in helping us to realise our school mission. Our Student Support Team meets on a weekly basis to ensure that all of our students needs are being recognised and that relevant supports are put in place to meet these needs. Members of the support team are continuously liaising and working with subject teachers, class teachers and management. Such teamwork coupled with the relatively small size and familiarity of our community helps us to ensure that care is tailored to meet the individual's needs.

Chaplain

Here at the Coláiste we have a dedicated Chaplain who provides a confidential and safe service for the pupils. The primary role of the school Chaplain is that of a faith presence in the school. The Chaplain works closely with all members of the staff to carry out this responsibility and also extends this to the local parish community. The role is a wide and varied one, ranging from teaching Religious Education, organising retreats/prayer services, meetings, listening to and supporting students both in groups and on an individual basis while taking an active role in all areas of school life. The role of Chaplain is a professional and privileged responsibility.

Guidance & Counselling

Our Guidance Department endeavours to support all our students in their journey through secondary education. Our role involves counselling, providing information, educational guidance, career guidance, individual appointments and providing for the personal, educational and social development of all our students.

Our Senior Cycle students participate in psychometric testing as well as careers classes, careers counselling, mock interviews, college visits and college presentations.

We work in conjunction with the Coláiste's Student Support Team, Class Teachers, Co-ordinator of Behaviour and Senior Management Team to provide a range of supports which a student may need. Parents and guardians are welcome to contact our Guidance Counsellor with any concerns or queries they may have.

Home School Community Liaison Coordinator

The Home, School, Community Liaison Scheme aims to promote active cooperation between home, school and community agencies and promote the educational interests of the child. Home visits and parental support are an integral part of the HSCL scheme. Mary Dunlea HSCL Coordinator is contactable on 086 041 2893.

School Completion Officer

The SCP Officer co-ordinates the day to day school completion activities during the school year. Such activities include additional practical supports for students such as breakfast club and homework & study clubs. Activity clubs are also organised during lunch time each day for 1st Year students. Summertime leisure activities are organised to affirm and reward students who work hard throughout the year.

Class Teachers

Due care and attention is paid to the general well-being of the students through the appointment of class teachers. Class teachers are the first point of contact and help pupils throughout the school whenever difficulties arise. Morning assembly is held at 8.50a.m. daily. At assembly the class teacher checks student journals, uniform and punctuality.



Buddy System

The “Buddy System” is a system where each incoming First Year is befriended by a Transition Year Student whose role is to help ease the transition from Primary to Secondary School. A series of events i.e. a treasure hunt, table quiz, basketball, bowling and soccer tournaments are organised in the school between the First Years and their “Buddies”. Regular events and meetings take place throughout the year. Paired reading activities are also organised throughout the year where TY students tutor the First Year students as a strategy to improve Literacy development amongst both groups.

Student Council

Our students have a valuable contribution to make to the effectiveness of the Coláiste and their involvement in the operation of the school is itself a valuable part of the educational process for them. Our student council gives students an opportunity to acquire the sort of communication, planning and organisational skills which will be of benefit to them in their future lives. It enables students to take responsibility for projects, and to demonstrate that they can manage and bring such projects to successful conclusion. The general objectives of our Student Council include.

- To enhance communication between students, management, staff and parents.
- To promote an environment conducive to educational and personal development.
- To promote friendship and respect among pupils.
- To support the management and the staff in the development of the school.
- To represent the views of the students on matters of general concern to them.
- To organise and partake in a number of fund-raising initiatives in the Coláiste.





“A Positive Learning Community”

Curriculum

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE

In Junior Cycle, students take the following core subjects:

| | | |
|----------|---------|-------------|
| English | Irish | Mathematics |
| Religion | CSPE | S.P.H.E |
| P.E. | Science | History |

First Year students study all the following subjects for the first four months and continue to study their chosen four plus science up to Junior Certificate Level. The subject option bands may change slightly from year to year depending on the preferences of the incoming cohort of students. Below is a sample of Subject Option Bands where students will choose one option from each band.

| | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Band 1 | Business | Home Economics | Engineering | French |
| Band 2 | Art | French | Graphics | Wood Technology |
| Band 3 | Geography | Wood Technology | Business | Home Economics |
| Band 4 | Music | Engineering | Art | Graphics |

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

In Senior Cycle, Students take the following as their Core subjects:

| | | | | | |
|---------|-------|-------------|----------|-----------------|------|
| English | Irish | Mathematics | Religion | Career Guidance | P.E. |
|---------|-------|-------------|----------|-----------------|------|

PLUS 4 of the following subjects:

| | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------|
| Accounting | Business | Construction | | French |
| Music | Chemistry | Art | Engineering | Physics |
| Geography | Ag. Science | Home Economics (Social & Scientific) | | |
| Biology | History | Design Communication Graphics | | |
| Computer Science | L.C. Physical Education | | | |

LCVP (LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME)

The LCVP compliments the traditional Leaving Certificate by preparing students for the world of work in a quickly changing and diverse technological age. LCVP students study two modules as well as subjects from the traditional Leaving Certificate. These modules include ‘Preparation for the World of Work’ and ‘Enterprise Education’. The link modules are activity based and to assist in carrying out these activities, students have access to the most up-to-date IT and audio-visual equipment.

Transition Year

To promote the **personal, social, educational & vocational development** of the students and to prepare them for their role as **autonomous, participative & responsible** members of society.

What is Transition Year?

Transition Year is a one year programme. It provides a bridge to enable students make the transition from Junior to Senior cycle. It encourages **personal and social development** and recognises the need for students to grow in **independence**. Transition Year fosters **academic** achievement as students prepare for a Leaving Certificate Programme, further study and adult and working life. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable **critical thinking** and creative problem-solving skills.

Subjects in Transition Year

Coláiste Mhuire devises its own timetabled programme to cater for the needs of its students. This is done in accordance with the Department of Education and Skills guidelines, school and community resources. Essentially a Transition Year programme offers students a broad and balanced curriculum covering such areas as:

CORE SUBJECTS e.g. Irish, English, Maths, Careers, Religion & Physical Education.

SUBJECT SAMPLING e.g. French, L.C.P.E, Construction Studies, Engineering, Design & Communication Graphics, Business, Art, Home Economics, Music & World of Science, History and Geography etc

MODULES DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR TY e.g. Mini Company, Drama, Leadership, Horticulture & Mindfulness, GAA Leadership, Coaching course, Health and Safety, Basic Cookery course, Social Media & Fake News, Coding

CALENDAR EVENTS e.g. Work experience, guest speakers, field trips, sporting activities, science buddies, first aid course, driver safety programme, SVP workshops, Drama Competitions, fitness workshops, GAA coaching, Ballyhass scholarship etc.

NEW TO THE T.Y. CALENDAR: Foreign school tour to Paris.

TYPICAL TRANSITION YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER

- TY introduction
- Buddy Programme
- Surfing & Rock Climbing
- Orienteering
- Enterprise Day
- Ballyhass Overnight Trip
- Peace Advocacy Training

OCTOBER

- Primary School Numeracy Initiative
- G.A.A. Coaching Course
- Buddy Programme
- Blitz with First Years
- Retreat
- Halloween Cake Sale
- History Trip

NOVEMBER

- Bank Setup
- Mental Health Talk
- Tuck Shop set up
- CIT engineering week
- UL Nursing Info Day

DECEMBER

- Christmas Trade Fair
- Nursing Home Carol Service
- Driving Course
- Careers Talk
- Mini Company Competition
- Social Action Initiative

JANUARY

- Paired reading in Primary School
- Drama
- Debating
- Gaisce Talk
- Garda Workshop/Talk
- First aid course
- Pre Med day
- Big Brother/Big Sister Training
- Psyhslam Training
- Model UN Conference
- I Wish Week & Conference

FEBRUARY

- Spectroscopy in a suitcase Workshop
- Science buddy program
- Science buddy workshop with primary school
- CIT student experience programme
- MABS Workshop
- First Aid Course
- Sign Language Course

MARCH

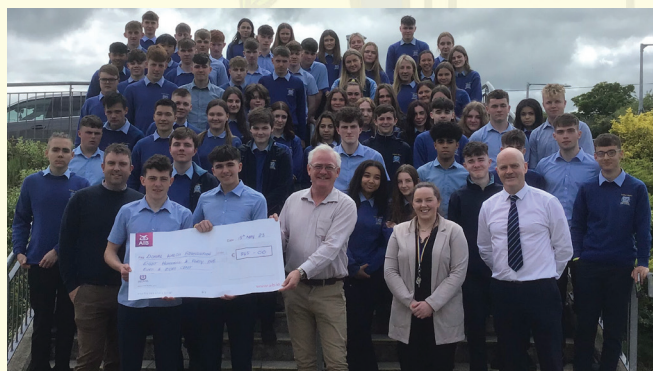
- Mini-Company Regional Finals
- Aware Programme
- Young SVP workshop
- Cork Pops trip
- CUBS Conference
- AIB Bank Competition
- Team Talk
- Spike Island Trip
- Drama

APRIL

- Karate/Drivers Ed
- Fire Safety course
- Road safety talk
- Retreat
- Health & Fitness Workshop
(Health, Exercise & Activity Training)
- Croke Park Trip
- Hope Foundation | Kolkata Trip

MAY

- SVP Youth Celebration | Life coaching
- Awards ceremony | End of year trip



2023 Exam Success

Coláiste Mhuire congratulates all of our 2023 Leaving Certificate students on their outstanding achievements. The school is delighted and extremely proud to see another year group progressing so successfully to the next chapter of their lives in University, College, Apprenticeships or in the world of work.

Here in Colaiste Mhuire, we place a strong emphasis on academic success and we have established an enviable reputation as a school where students of all abilities flourish. Year on year Coláiste exam students consistently achieve significantly over and above national averages in their exam results. The table below clearly illustrates the standards being set by our students in comparison to schools nationally.

| Points | National % | Coláiste Mhuire % |
|-----------------|------------|-------------------|
| Over 600 points | 5.5% | 8% |
| Over 500 points | 25% | 37% |
| Over 400 points | 51% | 60% |
| Over 300 points | 75% | 90% |

We strive to equip our students with the qualifications and skills they will need for their future working lives. We encourage them to become the leaders of tomorrow in whatever field they choose to develop their careers. For some, this will be by gaining degrees in universities and colleges, for others, through further education or apprenticeships. Each route is equally valuable and it is by ensuring that every student is provided with the opportunity to maximise their full potential and thereby achieving the best results possible, that we secure this for every pupil in our school community.

Work Experience

One of the most exciting aspects of Transition Year is getting to go out on work experience. We are very grateful to so many local businesses for offering our students the opportunity to gain insight into the world of work. This insight helps our students research career, college and course options as well as helping them decide on their subject choices. Work experience also teaches students how to go about job-hunting, C.V. preparation, interview skills and even the possibility of securing part-time summer jobs! From the Donkey Sanctuary to Ballyhass Outdoor Pursuits, Primary Teaching to Pharmacy, from Graphic Design to Radiography, Telecommunications to Electronic Engineering, from Sound Engineering to Music Retail and the I.S.P.C.A our students have had the most diverse and wonderful experiences and are growing in confidence with each placement.



2023 Student of the Year Rachel Brosnan achieved outstanding results in her exams and has just embarked on an Honours Biological & Chemical Science Degree in University College Cork

School Meals Service

Our School Meals Service provides hot meals and drinks for all students throughout the school day. Students can choose from a wide variety of free products at morning breakfast club and small break. These include Sandwiches, Scones, Hot Chicken Rolls and Toasted Ciabatas.

At big lunch students can choose from an even wider menu which includes Hot Sub Rolls, Deep Filled Sandwiches, Toasted Ciabatas & Wraps or a selection of hot dishes such as Chicken Curry, Lasagne, Bolognese etc. Students must pay for the food at big lunch but items are extremely competitively priced. All Rolls, Wraps, Sandwiches are €2 and hot dishes are €2.20 .

2022/23 Highlights



Sports Day



TY Drama



Graduation Day



Clionas Camino Group



Paris



1st Year Taster Programme



1st Year Bonding Activities



Breast Health Presentation



UCC Special Achievement Awards



**2023 Junior Ladies Football County Champions two years in a row
and 2023 Senior Munster Champions**



Senior Boy's County Finalists



After School Training



**Certified Irish Angus Beef
Schools Competition**



Buddy Bonding Trip



Supporters

Extra-Curricular Activities

There are a wide variety of extra-curricular activities in the school in which students are encouraged to take part. Traditionally hurling and football have been the main school sports. However, today the focus is much wider with activities such as: Soccer, Basketball, Athletics, Camogie, Debating, Traditional Music, Choir, Ag Science Farm Visits, Career Exhibitions, Well-Being Workshops, Senior Science Quizzes, Charity Work, Mini-Company, educational trips and foreign school tours.



**Bord Bia Food For
Thought Programme**

“Creating a Caring Community”

LEARNING SUPPORT/RESOURCE

Coláiste Mhuire fosters equality and inclusion and strives to ensure that the educational needs of all students are catered for in a caring way.

Coláiste Mhuire is equipped with a growing Learning Support Department that provides students who are experiencing learning difficulties with the vital support needed to achieve their potential.

Members of our Learning Support Department liaise closely with the surrounding primary schools to establish the needs of individual incoming students. STen scores and information shared help to determine a student's ability and skills while also highlighting any difficulties a student may be experiencing in numeracy and literacy.

Learning Support encourages students to develop a positive attitude towards learning. It allows students to advance at their own pace, confront their difficulties and concerns with ease while building their confidence and ability in numeracy and literacy.

Students with Special Needs may receive extra help in a number of different ways depending on the needs of the individual child. One to one tuition, small group tuition and team teaching are all utilised within the Coláiste. Students, Parents and Teachers work hand in hand to formulate action plans suitable to the student's needs.

In the Coláiste Mhuire ASD Programme we provide the opportunity for all of our students to achieve the greatest level of meaningful independence whilst at the same time catering for their educational needs.

Classes take the form of supported/unsupported mainstream inclusion, learning support classes involving curricular support or classes unique to the ASD Programme such as non-curricular Literacy and Numeracy, Social Skills, Music/Yoga, Personal Care/Occupational Therapy, Cooking etc. and Social Outings into the wider community.

We cater for a wide range of students from those looking to pursue state examinations (Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate) to those focusing on personal skills aimed at increasing their quality of life, independence and life skills.

Book Scheme

The Colaiste provides a Book Scheme for 1st Year through to 6th Year Students. Subject E-books downloaded on to iPads, School Joutnals, School Insurance and Photocopying/Printing costs are all covered in the scheme. Allowances are made for families with multiple students attending the school as follows. Cost per student/family per year: 1 Child = €130, 2 Children = €220, 3 Children = €270, 4 Children = €320

Home School Contact

The student journal is used for monitoring homework assignments. Parents or guardians are asked to indicate their awareness for absences in a signed note in the student's Journal. Parents/Guardians are asked to sign this journal on a weekly basis and are requested to attend the annual Parent/Pupil/Teacher Meetings. Our HSCL Rep is also a vital link between home and school as previously mentioned. Parents are always welcome to meet the Principal , Deputy Principal or teacher(s) by making an appointment.

School Completion Programme

The Coláiste provides a number of services through our School Completion Programme. We offer Homework Club Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 4.00-5.00 (5.30 for J.C. & L.C. students) daily to all students. Activity clubs are organised during lunch time each day for Junior Cycle students. Summertime leisure activities are organised to affirm and reward students who work hard throughout the year.

Supervised Study

The Coláiste organises intensive supervised study programmes. Supervised study runs every evening after school during the following times:

Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 4.10 – 6.10p.m.

Wednesday 1.45 – 3.45p.m.

Students are supervised in a quiet environment which is conducive to study and learning. Students are encouraged to get involved in supervised study programmes in all year groups. Supervised study is also provided during the mid-term breaks depending on demand.

“Recognition of Efforts”

Continuous Assessments

Each student's academic progress is assessed on a continual basis by subject teachers. A system of formal periodic assessments in each subject encourage students to remain motivated and focused throughout the year. The results of each set of assessments is monitored closely by the school to track student progress. Progress reports are issued every 7/8 weeks as a result of these assessments so that parents can also closely monitor how well their child is doing.

Awards System

Our Annual Awards ceremony honours our students who work diligently throughout the year. Gold and Silver Certificates are presented based on attendance, behaviour, effort and academic progress. Special awards are also presented to students for exceptional achievement in Art, Music, Sport, Drama, Culinary skills, Debating and Craftsmanship. Our Silver Medal Awards are presented to the overall Student of the Year from the Leaving Certificate class. Presentations are also made to students for exceptional achievement in State Examinations.

"The acknowledgement, encouragement and facilitation of continuing professional development as an essential component of good planning exemplifies the schools' high aspirations of staff members"

"Teacher competence in their subject was observed to be high"

"Among the outcomes of such good practice have been the high achievements by students in the Certificate Examinations"

"The supports available to the students and the adherence to good planning practice have added to the richness of the school and classroom environment"

"The work of the school exemplifies the value of effective collaboration and management support in the provision of an environment conducive to the work of teachers and to positive outcomes for students, both academically and personally"

"Support and guidance for the learning and the personal needs of students are the major focus of the school"

OBSERVATIONS OF COLÁISTE BY DES INSPECTORATE

A whole school evaluation of management, leadership and learning (WSE-MLL) was undertaken in May 2012 in the Coláiste. The report which represents the findings of the evaluation was published recently. The content and findings within the report are so positive that the CEO of County Cork VEC (Ms Joan Russell) personally wrote commending the school on the exceptionally high standards being set. The following are just some excerpts from the report which give an insight into how the school is viewed by the Inspectorate. Should you wish you can view the full report on the DES website (www.education.ie).

"Good practice was commended in all of the lessons observed. Lessons were well planned and structured"

"Student progress was evaluated continuously throughout the lessons"

"In establishing the planning process, the school benefited from ...co-ordination of the highest standard"

"The provision of programmes, such as the Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) and the optional Transition Year (TY), in addition to a large range of subjects, exemplifies the school's aspiration to provide for the needs of all students"

"Student input was welcomed and encouraged. Students were active, engaged and well-mannered throughout"

"Teachers have succeeded in creating affirmative learning environments in which good relationships prevail. This enabled good communication and mutually respectful interaction in each lesson"

"The quality of teaching observed was very high, echoing the current priority being given to reflection on teaching practice"

Coláiste Mhuire is an iPad School. Student devices were introduced into the school in 2016 and rolled out to every new 1st Year cohort since then. Every student in the school, from 1st year through to 6th Year, will have their own personal device to support their learning. Regular use of such technology to support and scaffold learning in meaningful ways helps our students to develop IT skills so critical for today's ever changing and dynamic world. Students & teachers adopt online workflow systems similar to those used in workplaces across the globe and will leave school with this vital skill set developed to a high level.

While these devices help to support learning and teaching,



it is important to point out that students will still complete the majority of classroom activities and homework using traditional methods and traditional copy books are core to each and every subject. While our teachers have embraced all of the advantages this technology provides, both for in class and online learning, every teacher combines a multitude of the up to date teaching strategies and resources to ensure lessons are engaging and interactive.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Address: Coláiste Mhuire,
Buttevant, Co. Cork.

Tel Number: Office: 022 23733
E-Mail: admin@buttevantcolaiste.ie
Web: www.buttevantcolaiste.ie

School Day: 8.45a.m. - 3.50p.m.
Mon. Tues. Thurs. Fri.
8.45a.m. - 1.10p.m.
Wednesdays.

School Hours:
Morning Assembly: 8.50a.m.
Classes: 8.50a.m. - 12.30p.m.
/ 1.10p.m.
Lunchtime: 12.30p.m. - 1.05p.m.
/ 1.10p.m. - 1.45p.m.
Classes: 1.10/1.50p.m.
- 3.50p.m.
Classes Wednesday: 8.50a.m. - 1.10p.m.



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES FOR COLAISTE ENROLMENT PROCESS

- Commence accepting applications for enrolment on **Sunday 1st October 2023**
- Final deadline for submission of applications is: **Monday 23rd October 2023 at 4pm**
- Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision on their application by **Friday 10th November 2023**
- Applicants offered places must confirm acceptance of an offer before **Friday 24th November 2023 at 4 pm** by submitting a completed acceptance form
- Failure by an applicant to accept an offer by **Friday 24th November** may result in the offer being withdrawn

“The work of the school exemplifies the value of effective collaboration and management support in the provision of an environment conducive to the work of teachers and to positive outcomes for students, both academically and personally”

(Department of Education & Skills Inspectorate, May 2012)