



Coláiste Mhuire Chronicle

Issue 2, December 2024

Coláiste Mhuire Student Leaders Inspired by Road Safety Campaign

Earlier this term, 34 of our student leaders attended a road safety event organised by Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg in Athlone Town Football Stadium. We arrived just before 10am and were warmly welcomed by Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg and Edweena Farrell of Youth Work Midlands. The weather was on our side as we gathered in the stadium. Edweena, and Annette Jordan from Westmeath County Council, went over the plan for this brilliant event. Awards for road safety were presented to Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg by Garda Pat Smyth and Damien Connaughton, followed by an address by Comhairle na nÓg members.

On the day, there was a wonderful display of student leadership from our very own Ethan Coll. Ethan, who is in sixth year, spoke about his road safety video which was released in early September and went viral, both locally and nationally. Ethan explained that the video was created as a key element of a year-long initiative in the school to encourage students to develop their critical thinking around safe driving. The video can be viewed on all of Coláiste Mhuire's social media platforms.

There were talks from guest speakers including Peter Jones, former State Solicitor, who gave us an insight into the legal aspect of road incidents with young people, as well as the consequences of dangerous driving. He also spoke to us about the responsibilities that come with a driver licence in Ireland. Frank Golden, of Irish Rail, spoke to us about level crossings, the dangers surrounding them and the different local incidents he has dealt with.



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Then, we heard from a parent named Leo Lieghio in a speech that was very sad, but incredibly impactful. On Sunday, October 16th 2005, Leo got a phone call that changed his life forever. His 16 year old daughter, Marshia, had been knocked down. He delivered a powerful and moving speech on the effect that dangerous driving can have on people's lives and how the pain never goes away after a tragic incident. Leo is an activist for road safety and has been so good to Comhairle na nÓg to attend this event many times. He hopes his message is taken on board by the attendees of this event.

We then witnessed a car crash re-enactment performed by the emergency services. They demonstrated how they respond to an emergency event of this nature and how they make sure that the safety of the injured party is a priority. This was much anticipated by the attendees and the Coláiste Mhuire students. It was very informative and engaging and gave us a first hand view of the effects of dangerous driving.

We then had lunch and listened to the lively music in the football stadium for half an hour before getting to speak to the professionals from emergency services in the information village. We were given both knowledge and gifts from each of the stands. The event ended at 2pm and we expressed our gratitude to Comhairle na nÓg and the emergency services for organising this event and giving up their time to make it happen!

With over 1100 attendees, the day was a huge success. This youth event has been developed by teenagers, for teenagers. Road safety is a topic that is very important to young people and adults alike, and awareness of safety on the roads is paramount.

This was an amazing event and very well organised. We have learnt so much about road safety and we look forward to returning for the many more fantastic events that will be organised in the future.

Daniel Flynn and Alex Sheridan, 3rd Year

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Photography by Alex Sheridan, 3rd Year

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Touring the Emerald Isle: Top Tourist Destinations

Over the past few years, I have been attempting to visit every county in Ireland. I haven't quite completed the journey yet but there are three places I think every tourist should visit out of the many I have been to so far.

The Cliffs of Moher

Firstly, I recommend taking a drive down to County Clare. The Cliffs of Moher were formed 380 million years ago. They stand at 700 feet tall and stretch to a distance of 14 kms. You can enjoy spectacular views of the Atlantic ocean below. Don't worry if the weather is bad, just pop into the visitor's centre or one of the shops next door. After dark, take the short drive to Lahinch where you can enjoy ceol agus craic go leor.



Blarney Castle

Next on the list, head down to Cork to visit Blarney Castle. Built by Gaelic and Anglo-Irish Lords between the 15th and 17th centuries, its walls measure 18 feet thick at the base. Although the narrow spiral staircases are tough to climb, it's worth every step for the spectacular views of the 60 acres of gardens. There's also the opportunity to kiss the Blarney Stone and earn the gift of the gab for your troubles.



The Marble Arch Caves

Finally, travel north to County Fermanagh to explore the magnificent Marble Arch Caves. Set deep under the foothills of Cuilcagh Mountain, these caves were carved from limestone over 340 million years ago. Discovered in 1895, the caves dive to a depth of 94 metres and stretch 11.5 kms in length. The tour guides will bring you on a boat trip through the most active river cave showcase in Ireland and the UK.



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Open Day: Through the Lens

Our Open Day was held on Thursday 9th of October and TY student Conor McIntyre stepped out of the classroom to capture a unique perspective of the night.



First-year students whipping up a treat for our visitors!



Prospective students and families touring around some of our classrooms



TY and senior students assisting Mr. Boudin in welcoming the Post-Primary students to our school.



Ms Maguire conducting our wonderful musical ensemble, comprising of singers and musicians from all around the school!



Hurricane Season Causes Devastation in the US

In the past couple of months it has been impossible to ignore the constant headlines about the devastating hurricanes that have gripped the southern states of the US.

Unfortunately though, these hurricanes are nothing new, as the US is currently in what's known as the Atlantic hurricane season. This is an annual period lasting from June 1st to November 30th when the vast majority of hurricanes and major storms take place.

The major hurricanes that have hit the United States in 2024 so far are Hurricane's Beryl, Debby, Francine, Helene and Milton. Although multiple US states can experience the effects of these hurricanes, the state which bears the brunt of their force is almost always Florida. The most deadly of these storms as of now is Helene, with the death toll reaching over 230.

Hurricane Milton was set to be the strongest and deadliest storm since Hurricane Katrina, based on early predictions. It was widely believed it would hit as a category 5 hurricane and that it was heading straight for the highly populated city of Tampa. Luckily though, Hurricane Milton instead ended up touching down on the Florida coast as a category 3 hurricane. This unexpected change, combined with a widespread evacuation notice, resulted in a total of 26 deaths. While this number is much lower than what was predicted, it is still unbelievably tragic.

Collectively, hurricanes in the US have caused at least 376 confirmed fatalities so far this hurricane season. The consequences from the hurricanes extend beyond this though as the economic losses from Hurricane's Helene and Milton alone have been estimated at over 100 billion dollars, with many businesses and homes completely destroyed with no hopes of repairs. Some communities in affected areas have also criticised the country's FEMA disaster response agency as being slow and incompetent in their response to the hurricanes.

In conclusion, the US continues to be one of the most hurricane-prone countries in the world, with hundreds of thousands routinely affected by these storms based purely on their location in the country. This much probably can't be changed. However, with advancements in hurricane detection technology and sufficient investment in hurricane preparation, it is clear that any country as wealthy as the US has the potential to put the days of four figure hurricane fatality counts firmly behind them.

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Coláiste Mhuire Chess Students Make All the Right Moves in Granard

The chess club has weekly meetings on Thursdays at big break. The club is run by Ms Duffy. It is a great opportunity for us to hone our skills and make new friends too! Every now and then, the club get to travel to tournaments and take on students from other schools.

Last term, we got the chance to travel to Granard to compete for Coláiste Mhuire. The bus left the school at around 10:30am, promising a full day of fun and competition. There was only space for 16 students, which works out at four teams. Therefore, competitors were selected based on their position within our internal chess club competition.

The teams who put in a brilliant display on the day were as follows:

Team 1: Samuel Sweeney, James Farrell, Sergio Pinto, Darragh Filtness

Team 2: Michael Doyle, Johan Ribu Chemparathy, Ariq Hamdan, James Handley

Team 3: Alexander Klimantavicius, Hasan Sahi, Max Levin, Caleb Shiels

Team 4: Irfan Mohd, Mikey Forde, Pádraig Regan, Vykintas Rusteika

There was 4 rounds overall and after intense competition across the board, Coláiste Mhuire took home two amazing wins. The senior team and the junior A team both took home some fantastic prizes. The students had a wonderful day and represented the school incredibly well.



Mikey Forde, 2nd Year

Some of our brilliant chess players who competed in Granard recently

Super Mario Party Jamboree: The Mario Party Renaissance

Ever since the handover from Hudson to NDcube in 2012 and the release of Mario Party 9, gaming fans have been waiting for a true return-to-form of the original Mario Party format. One of the more recent releases, 'Mario Party Superstar', was a massive step in the right direction, but sadly everything was based on old content. The brand new Super Mario Party Jamboree then has it all to do! With high expectations to live up to, I am glad to say that after 12 years of waiting, we finally have a true new Mario Party with the original formula.

The bread and butter of Mario Party is the board mode and NDcube has mastered the Hudson formula. The game features five brand new boards and two return boards from the Nintendo 64 era. The main improvement from NDcubes boards in Super Mario Party is the contrast of the boards. Every board has unique aspects that help them stand out. From the option of a fixed star position and the ability to open and close paths, to changing the direction everyone moves in, every board has a reason to be played. As well as the boards having a unique design, items that can be used during the games have been given a massive upgrade from the previous game. Each board now has a new item *specific* to them and there is now no ultimate item that everyone wants, meaning every game is more unique.

Now, the most memorable parts of every Mario Party are the minigames. Jamboree contains 112 minigames, however only 78 show up in the board gamemode. The rest are in extra game modes. Then, remove 15 minigames if you choose to play *without* motion controls. This leaves you with only 63 minigames in the main mode. However, this game prioritises quality over quantity. Every minigame requires a balance of skill and luck. They are easy to learn but hard to master. Some minigames *have* returned. However, there is a reason they came back, they are good minigames. Some of my favorite minigames are Cookie Cutters, Prime Cut and Camera-Ready.

Now, board mode is not the only mode in this game. There are also five different bonus modes as well. Koppathlon is a great comparative mode played online with up to twenty players. Bowser Kaboom Squad is a fun co-operative mode with some great team strategies. Rhythm Kitchen is an interesting rhythm side distraction. Toad's Item Factory and Paratroopa Flight School are the two weak links of the groups as they are very much 'one and done's'. Overall, Super Mario party jamboree is the first Mario Party by NDcube to truly feel like a return to form and NDcube have finally shown that they can make a good Mario Party with relying on old content.

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Irish Peacekeepers in Lebanon

Ireland has kept a peacekeeping battalion in Lebanon on a continuous basis since 1978 . With the intensified Israeli offensive against Hezbollah, the role of the Irish peacekeeper there has been to protect civilians against both militaries. However, even though Ireland's armed forces operates as a peacekeeping force, there are still some dangers that our men and women face while fighting for peace. They work that they do is truly admirable.

The Irish peacekeepers have been active in Lebanon for over four decades and recently Irish peacekeepers have been in direct confrontation with IDF (Israel Defence Forces) troops and anecdotal evidence suggests that shots were fired towards Irish positions. Thankfully, no casualties were suffered. The IDF has also placed Merkava tanks at strategic positions near locations occupied by Irish peacekeepers in an attempt to intimidate them.

This attempt at intimidation may come as a shock to some of you. However, events such as this have not just been happening in recent years. According to Tom Clonan of the Irish peacekeeping forces, he witnessed the IDF firing on Irish positions all the way back in 1996 when he served. Irish soldiers have long been taking the brave and heroic step towards peacekeeping efforts.

This is truly frightening, yes. However, in this time of uncertainty, we must remember to think before we act and not make any rash decisions or panic unnecessarily. We must trust that our forces can handle the momentous task of keeping peace in the war torn Middle-East, while staying safe at the same time.

John Lyons, 3rd Year



Driving Towards the Future: Tesla's 'We Robot' Event Signifies Big Change is on The Way.

On the 10th October 2024, during their "We, Robot" event, Tesla, the automotive giant, introduced two key innovations in autonomous transport. The first was the "Cybercab," a robotaxi designed to offer affordable, driverless rides at an expected price of around \$30,000. Equipped with Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) system, it relies on cameras rather than expensive radar or lidar sensors to navigate roads and traffic. Elon Musk, Tesla's owner, highlighted the potential of the 'Cybercab' to reduce traffic, cut emissions and repurpose parking spaces for other uses. All in all, this sounds like a win-win for climate change and Tesla alike.

Tesla also revealed the "Robovan," a high-capacity electric van capable of transporting up to twenty passengers or large cargo loads. The Robovan is designed to act as a bus. For example, It could be used to drop kids off to school. Like Tesla's other creations, the Robovan is electric so it won't release much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. This futuristic vehicle is intended for urban areas and potentially underground tunnel systems, aligning with Tesla's goals for efficient, eco-friendly mass transit. Both the Cybercab and Robovan reflect Tesla's larger vision of integrating robotics and AI into daily life to create a safer, more sustainable transport future.

And so we must now ask the important question. Are the Robovan and Cybertaxi 's safe? Whilst plenty of prospective customers think these vehicles are cool, there were some incidents reported about the fully self-driving system during testing. For example, the Cybertaxi failed to slow down when an animal was right in front of it. In my opinion, self driving Tesla cars are not yet safe enough to buy. Yes, they are cool, but you really have to do your research before choosing to invest.



Johan Ribu Chemparathy, 2nd Year

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Television Show Review: Total Drama

'Total Drama' is an animated 'reality' TV show where twenty-two teenagers fight for one million dollars. The group is split into two teams and each team completes challenges each episode. Each week, the team that loses the challenge is forced to vote someone off and at the end of each episode, there is an elimination. At the midway point in the series, competitors are faced with *The Merge*. *The Merge* is when there are ten or twelve teenagers left and they all join together to form an alliance. They need to complete individual challenges and when someone wins a challenge, they successfully avoid elimination.

The Characters

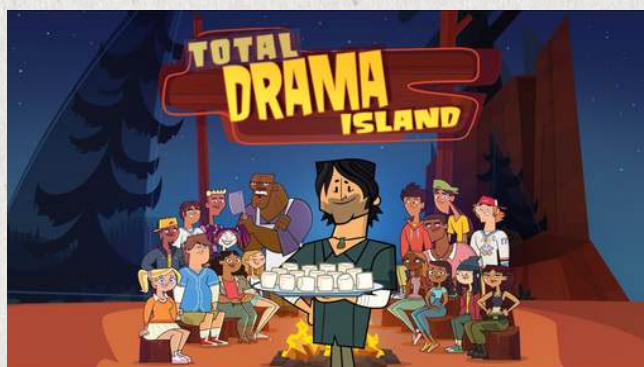
Some characters are brilliant but there are some you might hate! A few of my favourite characters are Tyler, Lindsey, Bridgette and Geoff. Throughout the past few seasons, there have been some iconic characters like Duncan, Heather and Lindsey. However, there are always a handful that never enjoy any success like Ezekiel and Sadie. I love that there are different characters in every season but some of them, like Duncan, are so interesting that they remain for a few seasons in a row.

The Seasons

Many of Total Drama's seasons are really good. My personal favorite is Total Drama World Tour. Each season has a good part and a bad part, parts that are truly enjoyable and parts that are just plain boring. There are 9 seasons so you have plenty to catch up on if you decide to give this show a go. I have watched them all and whilst, I don't like some seasons, there are plenty that I love.

So, Should You Watch It?

I like to watch this show because of the drama and the characters. If I had to rank this show out of ten, I would give it an eight. The reason I'm not giving it a nine or ten is because I don't like some characters and some of the seasons. The characters, the seasons, the content, the detail and the story lines make Total Drama an enjoyable watch overall.



Jake Aldridge, 1st Year

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Donald Trump's Kamala in US Election

On the 6th of November, it became clear that Donald Trump had claimed the required votes to win the Presidential Election, with the swing states, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia, Wisconsin and Michigan all voting in favour of him. In addition to this, Trump won the popular vote by at least 1% and the majority of seats in the Senate. The Republican's also successfully claimed 220 of the seats within the House of Representatives, narrowly eclipsing the 215 acquired by the Democrats. The Republican Trifecta gives Trump complete control over not only the government, but the already conservative Supreme Court. He will become the president on the 20th of January, 2025. The only question now is "What comes next?"

Trump already had influence over the Supreme Court, but now he can use it to prosecute his political rivals, just like he suggested in 2018. There are 3 Democrat appointees in the Supreme Court, 3 conservatives and 3 Trump-appointees. These Justices' ages range from 50 to 74, so at least 1 new appointment is likely. Trump can also use his abilities to pardon himself of any crimes he has or hasn't done.

Trump plans to mass deport immigrants, but not just undocumented immigrants that came in the past year or so. He plans to deport people who have lived in the US for years, decades even. This will not only be horrible on a moral level, but it will also be detrimental to the economy as the additional law enforcement that must be hired for the plan will cost an absurd amount.

Trump plans to enact a tariff of 10% on all goods imported. This will be devastating for many countries, including Ireland. We exported \$58.8 Bn worth of goods to the US in 2023. That is a lot of money and we will most likely be forced to pay the price for this faulty plan. This will also likely cause an increase for Americans on the amount they spend on goods. It could even increase by some 1700 dollars per person. This could be devastating for both the global economy and US citizens.



Teacher Talk: Best and Worst Excuses

Lads, we've all been there! You're walking into your class, you sit down and the teacher says "Take out your homework..." and you've forgotten to do it! You scramble through your mind trying to find a worthy excuse. The time has come. What genius line can you muster up? Does blaming the dog really cut it anymore?

This week, I sat down with a few teachers to ask them to share some of the best and worst excuses they've heard over the years.

Ms A. Casey

Favorite excuse:

"I typed it up on my mam's work laptop and she brought it with her....to work."

Least favorite;

"I don't have it". The story behind this excuse is that it was done, it's just that the student was so embarrassed about how scruffy his work was, he lied and claimed he never did it!

Ms McCormack

Favorite excuse;

"I have it done. But, it's not with me so I'll show it to you in the next class or I can even email it!!"

Least favorite excuse;

"I forgot my books....."(the classic).

Ms Fennell

Favorite excuse;

"I was in a musical so I couldn't do it."

Least favorite excuse;

"My Mam cleaned my bag and she forgot to repack my books."(Poor Mammy!)

Samuel Hunt, 1st Year.

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Film Review: The Hunger Games (2012)

For this week's newspaper review I'm reviewing the film the Hunger Games. It's directed by Francis Lawrence and Gary Ross and is based on a book by Suzanne Collins. This is one of my favorite films because it has many twists and turns and if you haven't yet read the book, you can never predict what's going to happen in the film.

We begin with the plot. In the future, the USA is a new country called Panem. Each year the Capital picks one boy and one girl from each of the 12 districts to fight for their lives on a TV show called The Hunger Games. In this reality TV show, the teenagers have to fight against each other until there is only one contestant left. Katniss, who is one of the main characters, is a strong and determined person who comes from a very poor background. She volunteers to play the game for her sister. She is thrown into the Games with Peeta Mellark who is played by Josh Hutcherson and together they embark on a terrifying and intense journey.

I love the actors in this film. Jennifer Lawrence, Liam Hemsworth and Josh Hutcherson are fantastic as Katniss Everdeen, Gale Hawthorn and Peeta Mellark. Jennifer Lawrence won a lot of awards for her role such as one Oscar, the MTV award for Best fight scene and many more in between. Liam Hemsworth has also won awards, such as the Teen Choice Award for Choice Movie Scene Stealer.

Overall, it's a brilliant film and well worth watching. I really love how they have kept the film so similar to the book. In fact, It could be perfect film for you and your family to watch over the Christmas break with a hot chocolate!

Film rating: 4.5

Reuben Marriott, 2nd Year



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From Halloween to Christmas: A Look Inside Holiday Traditions

We're now in that strange period between Halloween and Christmas where the nights are dark, the shops are bustling and the excitement is building. I find this time fascinating! Recently, I found myself wondering when these holiday traditions began and so, I decided to do some research.

Halloween takes place each year on the last day of October. Its a terrifying night where witches dart across the sky with skin so green! Ghouls shall rise, and you'll hear their cries. Sweets are laid, to keep the demons at bay..... Alright, enough of that. I'd better get back to work before I get fired.

We all know that Halloween is a holiday where kids dress up as the most horrific creatures imaginable and go to houses and ask for sweets. However, I would like to discuss how Halloween actually originated and what the original traditions were like. So come with me on a trip back in time, and don't forget your costumes!

Halloween began in the little country we recognise as Ireland. It started as part of a Celtic festival called Samhain. Samhain is a festival traditionally held from the 31st of October to the 1st of November. In Celtic Ireland about 2,000 years ago, Samhain was the division of the year between the lighter half (summer) and the darker half (winter). At Samhain, It was believed that the division between this world and the otherworld was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass through.

Now, we dress up as monsters or some new popular movie character. But back then, people dressed themselves in animal hide to disguise themselves as spirits. People used to believe that on the night of Samhain, the spirits of the dead could wander around and would only return to their world when the sun rose. To survive, people wore costumes to blend in with the spirits and put food by their door as a peace offering so the spirits would take the food and go away. They would also put out Jack O' Lanterns, which at the time weren't pumpkins, but turnips, to scare away the spirits.

So there we have it! That's the story of Halloween's origin.

But, we're not finished just yet!

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It is now roughly a month before Christmas, and considering I told you the origin of Halloween, I guess it wouldn't hurt to tell you the origin of some Christmas traditions. Now, Christmas is a time for family, friends and of course presents. I'm skipping over the Christmas origin itself because we all know Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. So, let's start off instead with the tree. The Christmas tree originates from Germany. In Germany, families set up a paradise tree in their homes on the 24th of December. This is because the 24th of December is the religious day of the feast of Adam and Eve. The tree was decorated with wafers which symbolised the Eucharistic host, the Christian sign of redemption. Now, to talk about what is on top of the Christmas tree. Yes that's right, I'm talking about the star! The Christmas tree star is based on the star that appeared to the three wise men and led them to Jesus in Bethlehem. Placing a star at the top of the tree is a tradition still warmly welcomed in homes all across Ireland and the wider world.

Now that you are equipped with this information, you can tell your family on Christmas Eve. I hope you all enjoyed Halloween and are going to enjoy Christmas!

Frank Hyland, First Year



Carved turnip Jack
O'Lantern



It's time to turn our
attention towards
Christmas!

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Disco Inferno: Transition Years Superstars Steal The Show!

Attending Coláiste Mhuire's Transition Year musical, "Disco Inferno," was an unforgettable experience that truly brought the spirit of the disco era to life. From the moment the curtain rose, the vibrant colors and energetic dance routines captured the audience. The students offered some amazing performances, showcasing not only their singing and dancing skills but also their ability to connect with the characters they portrayed.

I gathered a few thoughts from others who went to the musical and this is what they had to say. Reuben Marriott, in second year, thoroughly enjoyed the show. "I thought this year's Transition Year play was very good", Reuben said. "It was well prepared by the staff and students. I went to see it on Saturday with my family and we all thought it was brilliant. The songs were really catchy and they were my favorite part of the night".

Rory Morrissey said, "In my opinion, the Transition Year play 'Disco Inferno' was fantastic! I loved all the songs and dances and thought the stage looked absolutely amazing. The staging really showed the work that went into the show. The acting was very good too. The effort that the lads put into it was evident."

I have to say, I totally agree with these statements. There was so much work and effort put into this show by teachers and students. The stage (or gym!) was transformed to suit the Disco Inferno script. The detail, the costumes and the energy of the students really brought the show to life. It was an outstanding performance from start to finish. I, for one, cannot wait to see what's in store next year.

Sam Corrigan, 2nd Year.



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Hard Hearts: Chapter One By Toby McDermott

Normal people don't propose in a military training center, usually they choose somewhere... romantic, like in front of fireworks. But, as one of my fellow recruits, who was apparently Ben Canton, got on his knees and proposed to our instructor, I figured Ben Canton wasn't a normal person.

"What the hell is he doing!?" Hissed a rather athletic trainee.

"Is that... One of those little ring sweets?" whispered a shorter, more timid trainee.

The instructor's eyes practically bulged out of her sockets, and she seemed completely and utterly stunned, then, she suddenly lunged at Ben and grabbed him by the ear!

"DISRESPECT WILL NOT BE TOLERATED!! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!!", she roared, dragging out a now screaming Ben away from the rest of us recruits.

A couple of hours earlier, me and Ava had been on the bus to a newly established military complex in Dublin. The National Bloc, the current governing body of Ireland, had organized the training of three companies of soldiers. The goal was to transform 300 civilians between the ages 18 to 24 who had no prior military experience into a fighting force capable of establishing an outpost in whatever remained of Britain.

Britain had fallen in a rather unique way. When mainland Europe had fallen, the turned had started expelling the virus into the air, making anyone who had prolonged exposure to an infected area get a unique variation of the virus that caused them to turn only after death. Ireland and Iceland had stopped accepting refugees after a couple of days due to the sheer flood of people coming in. Britain had still been letting people in when the virus went airborne which caused survivors from mainland Europe to bring the infection over. At first, it was just a few cases of deceased people suddenly coming to life again and infecting other people. But, as more and more people came, the risk increased until eventually the government was overwhelmed, and all broadcast, signals, and messages from the British mainland just...stopped.

As the bus got closer to the complex, I had been thinking about the circumstances leading up to us joining the companies, or "expeditionaries" as they were called by the Bloc. I had jumped at the chance to fight the turned, maybe out of some deep-rooted desire to get vengeance for my mother, and after a long, grating argument with Ava and my father, I had stormed out the door determined to go on my own. Ava had come along with me out of a desire to protect me, which admittedly made me feel a gnawing sense of guilt.

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A couple of hours later, with all of us having gotten a long speech about how we were going to secure new land for Ireland's rapidly growing population and how grateful fishermen would be to have a naval base for the navy to protect them from the savages that remain on the British coast, we set about finding our assigned barracks and beds.

When me and Ava had arrived inside of the barracks, we spotted 6 other people. There was the athletic recruit from earlier with a name tag displaying the name Micheal O' Riley, who seemed to be eying everyone else with suspicion, and the timid girl who we spoke to earlier. Her tag said the name Lily Downs and she was staring out the window until she winced and ran out to the door, accidentally running into Ava!

"S-sorry!" She said in a panicked tone, quickly checking to see if Ava was alright before bolting out the door with a flask of water.

"What was that about, I wonder?" muttered Ava, as she gently took my bag off my shoulders and walked over to our designated bunks. "I'll unpack for us, go check if that girl's alright, we can introduce ourselves to the others later."

"Alright, I'll try to keep her from running into anything" I replied back. I stepped out of the barracks and looked around, seeing Lily running with someone on a miniature track field who seemed to be on the verge of passing out. I ran over to them and froze as I recognized the man she was running with... It was... Ben Canton! The guy who asked to marry the instructor for literally no reason!

I ran up to the two of them and stood in front of Ben, who seemed grateful for an excuse to stop running. Ben immediately dropped onto the floor and groaned weakly as Lily handed him the flask of water.

"God, you've really done it now haven't you Ben? Almost discharged on the first day, and 280 laps to boot..." Lily said. Her tone was surprisingly sympathetic considering how Ben had stupidly managed to land himself with his punishment.

"Is he alright?" I ask, looking at Ben with a mix of sympathy and amusement.

"I'm okay! Right as... Oh god I'm getting dizzy..." Ben drooped right back onto the ground. I genuinely thought he had passed out for a second until he caught his breath and suddenly got up to shake my hand, scaring the life out of me.

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“My name’s Ben Canton!! You caught me in a wee bit of bother there! I’m alright now though!” he said, sending me reeling from just how fast he was talking. His northern accent was strong to say the least.

“Hi... I’m Anne Murphy,” I say cautiously, slightly afraid that he’d find my slow talking offensive but I was too jarred to really speak normally. Lily opened her mouth to speak but Ben suddenly spouted, “Did ya see that instructor lady? Girl’s the looker I’d say! Jammie lad’s married her already though, got called an eejit for trying!”

Lily tried to open her mouth to speak again but he just kept going!

“I’ve been looking for a girl forever, but they always keep cheating on me...”

My mind suddenly feels a bit foggy, and I furrow my brow in confusion, wondering what’s wrong with me... The words forever, and always... Forever and ever... Always and always... My blood suddenly feels cold, my breathing is faster, why did I run away? Why didn’t I stay with her? If I had just stayed with her she would’ve tried getting on a boat, she only stopped because we... But... My entire body tenses, I look at the floor and the two of them are now looking at me, wondering if something’s wrong. I don’t see their faces for long however, the floor quickly rushes up to meet me and everything goes black... My mind slowly fades to black, a thought lingering in my mind...

Why did I abandon her? Why did I let her die?

Hard Hearts is an ongoing story written by Toby McDermott in Transition Year. If you would like to read the prologue to the story, check out last month’s newspaper on the school website.

Be sure to check in in the New Year to see how Anne, Ava and the gang are getting on!

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Hurling Heroes: Christy Ring

It's no secret that hurling is one of the favoured sports of Coláiste Mhuire. You certainly don't have to walk far to find a hurl in this school. I decided then that it would be a nice idea to look into the history of a sport that is such an important part of our school community.

Let me begin by introducing you to Christy Ring, a legendary figure in Irish hurling. He is often celebrated for his hurling abilities and his addition to the sport. Born in County Cork, Christy Ring's journey began with local his club, Cloyne GAA, before moving on to Glen Rovers at a later stage. His career is marked by remarkable achievements, including eight All-Ireland titles, which shows his skill and dedication to the sport.

The impact of Christy Ring extended beyond the field; he was cherished by teammates and fans alike. A former teammate Colman O'Donovan described him as simply the best ever and a tremendous player. He had an extremely long career playing across an amazing three decades. That truly is an incredible feat.

Ring was in his late fifties when he passed but there were no signs that he was in ill health. A non-smoker and non-drinker throughout his entire life, he remained active in retirement by regularly playing squash, something he did just two days before his death.

On Friday 2 March 1979, Christy Ring had a heart attack and sadly passed away. His death cast a dark shadow over his beloved sport.

In his memory, a new second tier championship was introduced in 2005, known as the Christy Ring Cup. It is a fitting way to remember a sporting legend. Christy Ring will always be remembered as one of the greatest hurlers, not just of his time, but of all time, and there are several young men in this school who strive to emulate his success.



Seán Craig, 2nd Year.

A statue commemorating Christy Ring
at Cork Airport

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Teacher Talk: Mr. Daly

This month, I sat down with Mr. Daly to ask him the questions we all want to know about. What's his favourite food? Does he have a preferred sport? Well, let's find out!

Carl: What's your favourite food?

Mr. Daly: My favourite food is crispy duck with hoisin or plum sauce. Duck was always a treat meal that I could only get when I went out for a fancy meal and so I always associate it with that. I also got to eat traditional duck dishes in Asia when I travelled there last summer and they were all fantastic!

Carl: What about your favourite drink?

Mr. Daly: My favourite drink is tea. I could drink 10 cups of tea a day! Tea has always been a big thing in my house and I have carried that forward with me. Barry's is also miles better than Lyons and that's a fact.

Carl: Do you like sport? If so, what's your favourite?

Mr. Daly: My favourite sport to watch is easily football. I absolutely love it and I'm glued to it every weekend. I'm a massive Liverpool fan and my Saturdays would usually consist of watching the 12:30, 3:00 and 5:30 kick offs and then I will switch over and watch the French league matches. I love going to games and it has become something that I weave in to my holidays now. I have been to a Borussia Dortmund game in Germany, a Herculés game in Spain, many Saint-Étienne games in France, a few Liverpool games and multiple Ireland matches, including the famous game against Germany when Shane Long scored THAT goal.

I play multiple sports and I'm always up for trying new things. I love playing pitch and putt and I've had great success in that. I'm currently trying and failing to transfer those skills over to the golf course. I play 5-a-side soccer regularly with my friends as well as playing badminton, chess, bowls and darts, where I recently won a league competition.

Carl: What was your favourite subject in school?

Mr. Daly: English. I always had a great interest in the subject and I am a big reader. When I was much younger I used to regularly go to the library after school and I could breeze through piles of books. I must have read the Harry Potter books three times over!

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Carl: What's your favourite TV show?

Mr. Daly: My favourite TV show of all time is Breaking Bad. Game of Thrones could have been the answer to this question if they hadn't absolutely ruined the last season. Breaking Bad is one of those shows that kept me clicking the "next episode" button on Netflix. It also spawned a great prequel series called *Better Call Saul*.

Carl: What's your favourite film?

Mr. Daly: My favourite film of all time is Shutter Island. I love a good plot twist movie or a movie that keeps you guessing throughout, and Shutter Island is fantastic at delivering those qualities. The plot was really engaging and Leonardo DiCaprio is a fantastic leading actor to have. I highly recommend it if you haven't seen it.

Carl: As an English teacher, could you pick a favourite book from all the one's you've read?

Mr. Daly: My favourite book is one from an author that I only discovered last year. It is called "Thirteen" and it is by Steve Cavanagh. It is part of a series of books known as the "Eddie Flynn" series. I did not know this before I read it and so I read it as a standalone book, which it worked brilliantly as. The series of books follow the adventures of American lawyer Eddie Flynn. I was first attracted to the book by the little blurb on the front cover. It read "The serial killer isn't on trial, he's on the jury".

Carl: And finally, Do you like music?

Mr. Daly: Yes, I'm a huge music fan and my taste in music is very broad. I flip-flop between genres constantly and I could quite easily go from Arctic Monkeys, to Paolo Nutini, to Fred Again, to Kendrick Lamar. Lately I have been listening to a lot of Wunderhorse and I have just bought tickets to see Sam Fender. My top artist on Spotify last year was Tame Impala. The last concert I went to was Paolo Nutini. I also went to Electric Picnic this year and I really enjoyed the Wolfe Tones.



Carl Handley, 2nd Year.

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Transition Year: The Story So Far.....

Transition Year in Coláiste Mhuire is an exciting and valuable year for our students, but don't take our word for it! We recently asked some Transition Year students to reflect on their year so far and whether or not they think Transition Year is worth the hype!

In third year, I wasn't planning on doing TY at all. All of my friends were skipping straight to fifth year and I didn't want to be alone if I did choose TY. Boy was I wrong! I found someone I knew doing TY, so I gave it a go and it was one of the best decisions I've made in my academic career. I have gone on trips with more to come and had two great weeks of work experience. I was very surprised that the school allowed me to do my work experience in Dublin, and even in Spain! I had a great two weeks of work experience in Dublin in a law firm. I got to experience what it was like to be a solicitor. I got to go to court and read some files in the office!

Seth Creagh

From experience I can say that TY is great, you're always busy with activities, trips and taster subjects. During TY you also get four different work experiences per year which offers an insight into what working in different places can be like. This is great if you pick a job you enjoy, but if you don't, well at least you know that job is not for you. You rotate time tables three times per year which means you get to try any subject from PE to biology to construction, showing you which subjects you might or might not pick for Leaving Cert. There's also the trips and activities, which are my favourite part. Right from the start of the year you're heading straight into the action with a two day trip, followed by multiple other day trips before Christmas. There are also many extracurricular activities offered, like BT Young Scientist, Enterprise and Social Dancing. One of the best parts about TY is bonding with new people. In TY you are much closer to others, you do everything with them, from the school play to the ski trip and sports. You will probably start talking to people you never even thought of talking to. Overall I am really enjoying TY so far and I can't wait to see what else is on offer.

Mark Bennett

When I was a third year student, I didn't know if I should take TY or skip straight to fifth year, but a number of reasons led me to picking TY. It was an amazing decision. I still hadn't decided on which subjects to take and TY has helped me by letting me try different subjects so I can choose which ones I want in 5th Year. I have also found the work experience element very useful to me.

Aleksandar Pavlovic

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TY will be a year I'll never forget. It's not just because of the craic we have or the variety of work and classes I have done. It's also the experiences I have had. From performing the TY play, entering BT Young Scientist or even just trips we have done and much more to come. TY will always have a place in my heart because of all the good stuff we get to do!

TY student

When I was in third year, I was unsure on whether to pick TY or not. But, after we had a year - group assembly, I realised that TY was actually worth trying, and the rest is history. In my opinion, TY should be compulsory for all students as it challenges young people to step out of their comfort zone and challenge themselves. It helps you make new friends that you thought you would never actually be friends with also.

Adam McCormack

My experience with Transition Year has been great so far. It is a year to take a break from all the stress and work from school, while still learning. I think the opportunity to try out many new subjects in Transition Year is amazing as you can begin to figure out what subjects you will want to do before choosing in fifth year.

TY student

TY has been incredibly beneficial to me so far. TY gives time to perfect personal skills and improve as a person. The musical at the start of the year was a great opportunity to improve confidence and get talking to people that I wouldn't have talked to in second or third year. TY is a great opportunity to take a step back and find your hidden talents.

Aonghus Mathews



Some of our Transition years with Seán, a former Coláiste Mhuire student and current Irish Air Corps trainee pilot, at the recent Aviation Convention.

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Transition Year Trip to Dublinia.

On Wednesday, the 9th of October, the Transition Year students who weren't involved in the musical went on a day trip to Dublinia, organized by Mr. D. Lawlor. We met at the Carey Bridge at 7:45 AM and boarded the bus, arriving in Dublin around 9:00 AM.

Once we arrived, we had about an hour to explore the city. Dublin is rich in history and culture, so we took the chance to visit landmarks and experience the atmosphere. We walked along historic streets, visited local shops, and observed the city's character. After our free time, we regrouped at our meeting point to continue.

Next, we visited Dublinia, where we split into two groups to engage with the museum's exhibits. Dublinia offers an interactive look at Dublin's Viking and medieval history, featuring various artefacts and informative displays. As we moved through the exhibits, we learned about the daily lives of the Vikings and medieval Dubliners, enhancing our understanding of this important period in Irish history.

After exploring Dublinia, we took part in a guided walking tour focused on key sites related to the 1916 Easter Rising. Our guide shared stories about the events of this significant moment in Ireland's struggle for independence. Visiting important locations, we learned about historical figures and their contributions, reflecting on the impact of these events on modern Irish society.

Following this, we went to Christ Church Cathedral. This historic building is one of Dublin's oldest cathedrals, and we learned about its architecture and history. We explored the interior, including the stained glass windows and the crypt, which holds many historical artefacts. This visit connected well with what we had learned earlier in the day about Dublin's heritage.

James Handley, Transition Year



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Pokémon Sword and Shield: A Look At the Characters

Today there are any number of video games for teens to choose from and it can be hard to find the perfect game for you. With that in mind, I've decided to review an icon, Pokémon Sword and Shield, focusing specifically on the characters involved. Before we begin, let me just say this. This is only my opinion. If you have a different opinion, then we'll agree to disagree!

We begin with the starter trio of Scorbunny, Grookey and Sobble. Their first forms are all great and have a lot of personality. Scorbunny is the energetic fire rabbit, Grookey is the cute and curious monkey and Sobble is the timid, baby lizard. These three evolve as the game progresses into Raboot, Thwacky and Drizzle during the middle stage. I think Raboot is the best second stage starter ever. I just love the teenager vibe he gives off and his hoodie looks awesome on him.

The final evolutions sees the creation of Rillaboom, Cinderace and Inteleon. Now, some people believe these final forms are "too gimmicky" but to me, their gimmicks are all pretty creative. Rillaboom is my favorite of the bunch. I still remember my first playthrough and I was a bit disappointed, but he grew on me fast. He's just so powerful in battle. Cinderace is probably the best from a battle standpoint with its signature move pyro ball and court change.

Next, we have the gym leaders like Milo. Milo is nothing to sweat over since he only has two Pokémon. He can be challenging if you don't have fire, flying or bug types but that's about it. Nessa is an interesting gym leader. If you pick Grookey as your starter, enjoy your free victory. If not, she can be a real struggle to get past because her ace, Drednaw is pretty darn strong. Kabu, well, he's straight up unfair. He may only have three Pokémon but they're all so good, especially Arcanine. I also really like his animation when he's telling his Pokémon what to do.

I will finish my character analysis with a look at Piers and Raihan. Piers is the only dark gym leader to feature. Despite being the first dark leader, he gives off an amazing first impression. His Pokémon make Cinderace look pretty average in battle, especially his Obstagoon. It's my favorite Pokémon in the whole series. It's stats are awesome, it's not ugly and it's fantastic in battle. Speaking of favourites, Raihan is my favourite gym leader ever. His team is so strong and I love his weather strategy. I also love how he's the only gym leader that does a double battle. This makes him a pain to defeat. He truly is awesome.

So, there we have it. These are just some of the incredible characters in Pokémon Sword and Shield. They form the backbone of what is a really solid game and one that is well worth playing.

Cian Hyland, 3rd Year.

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Library Life: A Review of 'Gone' by Michael Grant

In Coláiste Mhuire, we are proud of our reading culture and it is wonderful to see new students giving their all within the Accelerated Reader programme. In this book report, Killian Doyle, one of our new Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires, tells us about one of his favourite books, 'Gone' by Michael Grant.

Hello! This is my first book report and I've got a good book to tell you about. Have you ever, oh I don't know... wondered what would happen if your parents, or in fact anyone you know, disappeared? Well then 'Gone' is the right book for you.

Set in Perido Beach, which is a small town on, you guessed it, a beach, 'Gone' is an exciting read! The protagonist of the story itself is a kid named Sam. He has been feeling the pressure of being raised by a single mother, and of school life in general. He has a best friend named Quinn and likes to surf. One day in class, Sam and Quinn were listening to their teacher going on and on, when all of a sudden, their teacher just disappears. As in, they were looking straight at him and he seemed to just melt away! After speaking with their super-smart friend Astrid, they soon found out the rest of the teachers and indeed anyone over 15 years old has disappeared.

The story may seem far-stretched but in fact, its very realistic. It shows that even though having no parents or teachers can seem like fun, society can begin to fall apart and bullies can have more power. Unlikely people seem to turn against each other, but to learn more you'll just have to read the book!

That's the end of my report on 'Gone' by Michael Grant. I hope you enjoyed it.

Killian Doyle, 1st Year



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In Memory of Chris Keaney

In September of this year, staff and students in Coláiste Mhuire learned of the sad passing of a much treasured former teacher, Mr. Chris Keaney. In the days that followed, teachers shared stories and memories of Chris, fondly remembering the joy he brought to the school.

In his memory, we asked some of the teachers who worked with Chris to tell us about the type of man and teacher he was and just how much he contributed to life within the school.

Mr. Kieran McLoughlin

'There was great sadness when Chris passed away suddenly on September 16th. He was a member of staff from 1976 until 2014; where he taught French and Latin initially. Later on, he began teaching Business Studies. I remember that he was always very helpful and encouraging to new staff members in their early days in Coláiste Mhuire. He always welcomed them on board.

He was the main organiser of many 'EPIC' school tours, in the 80s and 90s. He arranged for us to head off to 'EPIC' destinations like Rome, Paris, Berlin and London, all by overland bus trips before the cheap air travel began! Chris will be sadly missed by all his former colleagues and friends in Coláiste Mhuire.'

Ms. Gemma Costello

'Started as a colleague, but rapidly became a friend - Chris was such fun to be around! Chris became my go-to person if I was stuck about what to do regarding pretty much everything. If he didn't know the answer then and there (which he usually did), he would ring later with an answer. As a member of the ASTI (teacher's union) Chris helped very many of our colleagues sort out pay and pension issues. A great wit, and storyteller... I always loved when he dropped into my classroom. Whatever the reason for interrupting, I usually ended up in a fit of laughter!

We spoke often about the singer Leonard Cohen - both of us had been lucky enough to be at his concerts in Lissadell House, Sligo. A couple of Cohen's lines seem appropriate when I think about Chris -

"Ring the bells that still can ring
Forget your perfect offering
There is a crack in everything
That's how the light gets in."

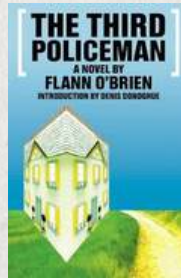


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Teacher Talk: Ms O'Donnell

Dylan: Where is your favourite place to go on holiday?

Ms O'Donnell: I went on a camping trip all around Scotland during the summer. I loved the Isle of Skye in particular, it's a magical place.



Dylan: Do you have a favourite book?

Ms O'Donnell: *The Third Policeman* by Flann O'Brien.

Dylan: What is your favourite film?

Ms O'Donnell: *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* or *The Dead Poets Society*.

Dylan: What is your favourite subject (apart from Irish)?

Ms. O'Donnell: I'm an English teacher so I should say English but my favourite subject in school was actually history!

Dylan: What is your favourite food?

Ms. O'Donnell: Pizza with nduja and hot honey from The Forge in Castlegregory or fish and chips from The Fish Box in Dingle.

Dylan: What is your dream car?

Ms. O'Donnell: I know nothing about cars, so if I had to pick it would be purely on looks - a green jeep with vintage leather.

Dylan: What is your favourite music?

Ms. O'Donnell: I listen to indie/ rock music. My favourite band is an Irish band called The Fontaines D.C.

Dylan: What is your favourite sport?

Ms. O'Donnell: Gaelic football.



Dylan: What are you watching on TV at the minute?

Ms. O'Donnell: I'm watching *Yellowstone* which is about a ranch in Montana. It's brilliant!

Dylan: Do you have any pets?

Ms. O'Donnell: I have one dog, a cocker spaniel called Misneach here in Mullingar, but I have many more back in my parents farm in Kerry.

Dylan Clarke, 1st Year

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Mental Health Matters: First Years Share Their Happy Places!

Mental Health month takes place throughout October and the 10th day of the month marks *World Mental Health Day*. The day is about coming together to talk about mental health and show everyone that mental health matters. Talking about our mental health can help us cope better with lifes ups and downs.

The overall objective of World Mental Health Day is to raise awareness of mental illnesses around the world and to mobilise efforts in support of mental health. This is something that is of great importance to the Coláiste Mhuire community. This year, some of our first years took part in different activities to raise awareness for World Mental Health Day.

This included a photography competition where students were challenged with the task of capturing their 'happy place'. Lots of students participated and shared photographs which represent the places, people and moments that bring them a sense of joy and happiness in everyday life!

Pictured below is the photograph taken by one of our winners, Ollie Byrne, who captured this sweet snap of his pet pig Winnie. Well done to Ollie and to all others who took part!

Rory Morrissey, 2nd Year



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The CBS “Reeling in the Years”:

Take a Trip Back in Time to the Year Our Leaving Cert’s Were Born

Sport

We begin with GAA and the 2006 and 2007 “All Ireland Hurling and Football ” winners. On the 3rd of September 2006, Kilkenny defeated Cork 1-16 to 1-13 to take the hurling title after a terrific performance from both sides. In 2007, Kilkenny clinched victory once again with a whopping 2-19 to 1-15 victory over Limerick. Then over to football, in 2006 Kerry achieved a great 13-point win against Mayo, before claiming a back to back victory in 2007 with an outstanding winning margin of ten points!

Italy claimed the top prize in the 2006 FIFA World Cup, while the Pittsburgh Steelers grabbed the Superbowl with both hands over in the US. In 2007, demolition began on the old Lansdowne Road stadium as God Save The Queen rang out in Croke Park just before Ireland's 43-13 rugby victory over England.

Entertainment

The most played song of 2006 was Daniel Powter's "Bad Day" as it topped the prestigious Billboard Hot 100 Hits list. Also in 2006, Pat Kenny demonstrated the new Nintendo Wii on The Late Late Toy Show, Pat Shortt sang about the Jumbo Breakfast Roll, while The Podge And Rodge Show was the big TV hit of the year.

The most played song of 2007 was played by Shaffer "Ne-Yo" Smith. ‘Irreplaceable’ was the best-performed single of the calendar year, topping the Year-End Hot 100 singles of 2007 for seven consecutive weeks. 2007 was also the year of music reunions as both the Spice Girls and Boyzone decided to give music another go!

Ciarán Coyne, 5th Year



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Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar Impress in Dominant Display Against Moate in Challenge Game

Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar showcased their firepower in a dominant performance against Moate in early November, running out comprehensive winners in this challenge game at St. Loman's GAA grounds. The final score of 5-21 to 0-6 was a reflection of the home side's total control throughout the match.

Though the game was a challenge match, Coláiste Mhuire made sure to put on an entertaining and dominant display. From the outset, they were the stronger side. Dillion Burke opened the scoring with a point (0-1), and Aaron Connaire quickly followed with two more, establishing an early lead. Following more points from Connaire, and Niall Brady, Sean Byrne struck the first goal of the match, making it 1-4 to 0-1. From there, the floodgates opened.

Connaire was in superb form, finding the net again to make it 2-6 to 0-1, and moments later, Conor Cleary added a third goal (3-6). Moate's defence was under pressure from all angles as St. Mary's continued to pile on the points. By the time the first half came to a close, St. Mary's had established a terrific lead of 4-10 to 0-4.



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The second half was much of the same, with Aaron Connaire continuing his stellar performance, adding more points to his tally (4-11). Sean Graham and Dillion Burke chipped in with their own contributions, pushing the score further out of reach for Moate. While Moate managed a few late points, the game was already beyond their reach by the time Josh Murtagh and Hugo Corroon rounded off the scoring with a couple of late points. The final whistle blew with St. Mary's comfortably ahead, 5-21 to 0-6.

While it was just a challenge match and not part of any competitive campaign, St. Mary's showed real intensity, precision, and cohesion. Aaron Connaire was the standout performer, but there were solid contributions all over the field, from Sean Byrne's goal to the work of Conor Cleary and Dillion Burke. It was incredible teamwork from start to finish and now the Coláiste Mhuire men march on!

Final Score: St. Mary's Mullingar 5-21 - 0-6 Moate

Ushnagh Fitzpatrick, Sports Reporter - Transition Year
Conor McIntyre, Sports Photographer - Transition Year



Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar Triumph Over Naas in Hard-Fought Cup Clash at Shamrocks GAA Pitch

Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar earned a well-deserved victory over Naas in a tightly contested cup game on Tuesday afternoon at 12:30 PM at the Mullingar Shamrocks GAA pitch. The final scoreline of 2-11 to 1-2 reflected a dominant second-half performance from the home side, although the match remained competitive, especially in the first half.

The game started at a fast pace, with Coláiste Mhuire quickly asserting control. Will Scahill opened the scoring with a point in the first minute (0-1), and Daragh Smith followed up with another (0-2). Mikey Weir made it three points for Coláiste Mhuire (0-3), and Oisín O'Hara added a fourth (0-4). Despite some promising attacking moves, Naas struggled to find a way through the CBS defence, and it wasn't until the 13th minute that they finally got on the board with a point (0-5 to 0-1). Naas managed just one more point in the first half, but Coláiste Mhuire had already built a commanding lead, ending the half 0-10 to 0-2.

In the second half, Coláiste Mhuire struck a decisive blow late in the game. Will Scahill found the back of the net in the 55th minute for a crucial goal. This goal seemed to deflate Naas, and Coláiste Mhuire took full advantage, continuing to dominate possession. In the 60th minute, Eoin Conlon added a second goal for Coláiste Mhuire to seal the win (2-11 to 1-2).

Will Scahill was the standout performer for Coláiste Mhuire, contributing 1-2 in total, including that important goal late in the game. He played a key role in CBS's attack and was involved in numerous attacking moves. Ben Thornton and Conor Heffernan also impressed, each contributing crucial points. At the back, Coláiste Mhuire's defence, led by Oisín O'Hara and Mikey Weir, was solid, limiting Naas to just two points from play.

In the end, Coláiste Mhuire's energy, clinical finishing and ruthless defending were the key factors in securing their comfortable win. Naas put up a solid fight but CBS were the better side on the day and fully deserved the victory. They will now look ahead to the next round with confidence following this solid performance.

Final Score: CBS Mullingar 2-11 : 1-2 Naas

Ushnagh Fitzpatrick

Kilkenny CBS Claim Dramatic Victory Over Coláiste Mhuire in Semi-Final

Leinster Cup Semi-Final: Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar vs. Kilkenny CBS

Venue: St. Oliver Plunkett's GAA Pitch

In a thrilling Leinster Cup Junior Hurling semi-final at St. Oliver Plunkett's GAA pitch, Kilkenny CBS staged a dramatic second-half comeback to defeat Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar 3-21 to 4-16, securing a place in the final. The match was an exhilarating contest, with both teams producing some scintillating hurling. Coláiste Mhuire looked set for an upset at half-time, having built a strong lead. However, Kilkenny's resilience and clinical finishing in the second half ultimately saw them through in a game full of drama and late twists.

First Half:

Kilkenny made a solid start, taking an early lead with a goal and a series of points. However, Coláiste Mhuire, led by the impressive Conor Williams, quickly responded. Williams was in superb form, scoring a brilliant individual goal and adding several points to keep his team in touch. By the 18th minute, Coláiste Mhuire had leveled the match at 2-2, with Williams' second goal putting them firmly in control.

Despite Kilkenny's best efforts, Coláiste Mhuire continued to dominate the first half, with Williams and Padraig Monaghan contributing significantly to their score. Kilkenny's reliance on frees and points saw them struggle to break down Coláiste Mhuire defence. At the half-time whistle, Coláiste Mhuire were in a commanding position, leading 4-13 to 2-13.

Second Half:

Kilkenny came out for the second half with renewed determination and it didn't take long for them to begin closing the gap. Coláiste Mhuire, while still dangerous, found it harder to contain Kilkenny's wave of attack. Williams continued to lead by example, scoring another stunning goal, but Kilkenny's response was just as clinical.

As the game wore on, Kilkenny began to capitalise on Coláiste Mhuire's mistakes, scoring freely. Kilkenny were reduced to 14 men following a red card late in the match, but despite this, they remained composed and in control all the way to the final whistle.

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Substitutions and Cards

Coláiste Mhuire made several substitutions, with Hugo Corroon coming on for Cillian Walsh and Will Scahill replacing Liam Heffernan.

In the second half, Niall Brady of Coláiste Mhuire received a yellow card, while Kilkenny were shown both a yellow card and a red card in the final stages of the game.

Top Performers

Coláiste Mhuire's Conor Williams was the standout player of the match, finishing with an outstanding 3-6, but his efforts ultimately fell short. Pdraig Monaghan also contributed well, adding 0-2 to the scoreboard.

For Kilkenny, their victory came from a collective team effort. While Williams was dominant for Coláiste Mhuire, Kilkenny's forwards, including crucial contributions from their full-forward line, were relentless. The depth in their attacks and their clinical shooting ensured they stayed in touch and eventually overtook their opponents.

Kilkenny CBS will now look ahead to the Leinster Cup final, where they will face the winner of the other semi-final. Coláiste Mhuire, despite a heroic performance, will be disappointed to have been pipped at the post. Nonetheless, their fighting spirit and wonderful performance will be remembered as highlights in an unforgettable semi-final.

Final Score:

Kilkenny CBS 3-21

Coláiste Mhuire Mullingar 4-16

Ushnagh Fitzpatrick



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Sports Round-Up



Nothing could dampen these spirits! Our second year footballers enjoyed an incredible victory over Coláiste Choilm Tullamore in the North Leinster Junior A final on November 29.



Our junior rugby team after an impressive win against Wilson's hospital in the Duff Cup Quarter Final on November 27.



Our senior footballers don't need to wait for sunrise to get training. The boys are pictured here following a recent early morning training session!



Our first year soccer players following their outstanding 9-0 victory against Athlone Community College on November 25!

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School Snapshots: Coláiste Mhuire 1st Year Football Blitz



Caylyb Douglas, Transition Year

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CANAL WALK



WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

**CODING
CLUB**



F19



**Every
Tuesday**

**GERMAN
CLUB**

**F9
On
Mondays**



**MONDAY LUNCHTIME
IN F10**

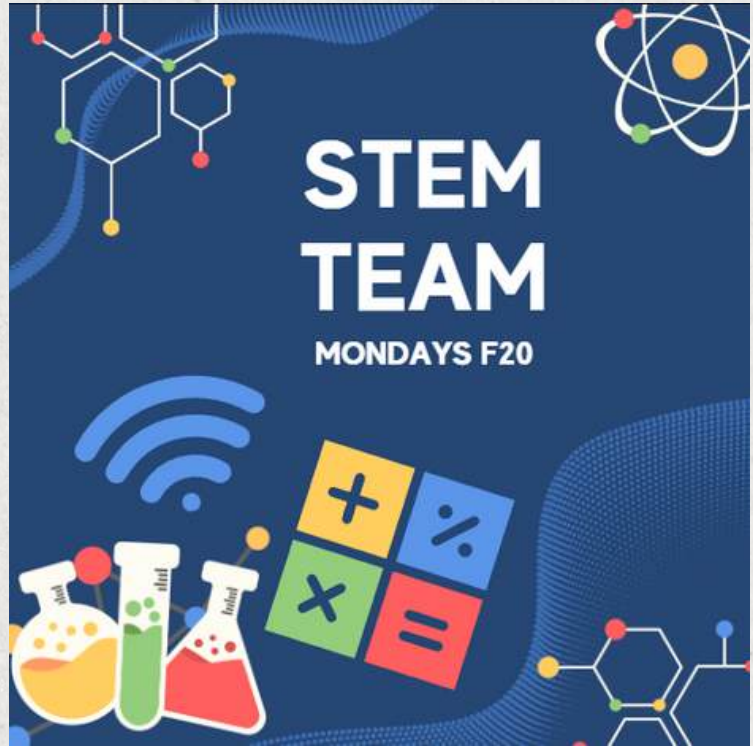
DUNGEONS & DRAGONS

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Starbooks Cafe
Every Lunchtime in
G5



STEM
TEAM
MONDAYS F20



THURSDAYS
AT LUNCHTIME
IN F10

DRAUGHTS AND
CHESS CLUB



JUNIOR DEBATING

New members welcome- come along!



Every Wednesday



1.15pm in G21



DEBATE



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Coláiste Mhuire Chronicle Team for October/November

Adam McCormack
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