

MEÁN SCOIL MHUIRE

NEWSLETTER

October 2025



WELCOME! FÁILTE

We would like to welcome you to the first edition of our Meán Scoil Mhuire Newsletter. The newsletter is edited and designed by our TY Journalism class.

All articles are written by students in our various year groups! There are also photos of multiple talks, events and activities!

The newsletter will hopefully provide you with a snapshot of the effort, work, dedication and achievements of our school community since the commencement of the 2025-2026 academic year.

Happy Reading and Happy Halloween!

JUNIOR CYCLE RESULTS

There were scenes of jubilation and celebration in the gym on October 8th, as the Junior Cycle class of 2025, received their long-awaited and eagerly anticipated Junior Cycle results.

The entire school community were incredibly proud of the students and their results- a testament to the hard-work, effort and dedication of both students, parents and teachers!



LEAVING CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION SUCCESS

We would like to congratulate the Leaving Certificate Class of 2025 on their outstanding results!

We would also like to sincerely congratulate Ríonagh Mc Cormack, of the Leaving Certificate Class of 2025, who was awarded the prestigious Naughton Scholarship on October 18th last in a ceremony at Trinity College!



SPORTS NEWS

October 2025



U19 TEAM

School basketball got off to an exciting start this season! In our first game, Meán Scoil Mhuire came out strong and secured a solid win over Pipers Hill with a score of 51-22. The second game didn't go our way - the energy was a bit low, and we couldn't quite find our rhythm, ending with a 56-45 victory to Tullamore College. However we will learn from it, staying positive and coming back stronger each week. With training every Tuesday, the team is building confidence, improving on our fast breaks, shooting and overall speed! We look forward to playing St Mary's Naas, Naas CC and Ballymahon in our upcoming games.

Special thanks to Mr Sweeney, Ms Flynn and Ms Hardiman for their time and dedication coaching this year!

JUNIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

The junior football team managed by Mr Tynan and Mr Dennigan started their championship out strong with a good win against Granard Convent who are always tough opponents. The girls' confidence was high after the win earlier in the week when they travelled to Dromard GAA pitch to face Moyne in their second round. The girls started off strong but unfortunately Moyne were a stronger team and beat them in the end, but the girls didn't stop trying till the final whistle. The girls' next match was against the Bower in Athlone. They knew these girls would be strong opponents and they did not disappoint. The girls tried to the bitter end but unfortunately it was not enough to get over the line this time.



SENIOR FOOTBALL TEAM

The senior football team managed by Ms Kileen and Ms Devaney started strong with a good win against Loreto Mullingar. The girls worked hard for the whole game and got the result they were all hoping for. The girls next match was against the Bower Athlone and like the junior team they knew they would be strong opponents. The girls started off well with an early goal but the Bower kept going and pushed on to get the win. The girls play their last group game against Ballymahon Convent after the mid term break.

ACTIVITIES

October 2025



MUSIC

Our TY and Third Year music class were invited to go to the Backstage to watch the musical performance. There was colourful lights and three spotlights on each musician. Eight people came on stage and danced to the music. There were so many instruments such as the violin, harp, drums and the banjo. They all wore colourful t-shirts and had silver shirts underneath. It was a very unique experience and we all enjoyed it!



TOURISM

On the 14th of October, a representative from Longford County Council came into our school, on behalf of the Longford Tourism Office, to talk to us about Centre Parks. First he explained all of the meetings and convincing that went into getting the planning permission. The council had to consider all the benefits to bringing Centre Parks to Longford. They also had to convince Centre Parks to come to Longford. Some of the key factors on why they decided to locate in Longford was the fact that it is in the centre of Ireland and the forest in Ballymahon with over 400 acres was an ideal location. We learned about the planning and building process also. The talk was informative and specifically good for anybody interested in tourism.



SCHOOL ETHOS!

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SCHOOL FOR LIFE

Michelle Harding from School of Life came in to complete this module with us. This focused on learning practical life skills like how to shake someone hand properly and how to properly speak to someone that will help us become more independent and confident in everyday life. We finished off the two hour workshop by having an ironing competition as that was one of the topics she covered with us.



CATHEDRAL

The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith-based award for young people. It was created to recognise and encourage involvement in local churches, communities and for personal faith development.

A number of TY students, including myself, are participating in this award and will attend family mass every second Sunday. We engage in various activities with the children at mass, such as colouring and planting seeds, in order to help them understand the religion more clearly. For community involvement, the majority of us are volunteering in local charity shops around town. We are looking forward to working towards this worthwhile award!

-Keira Reynolds



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM!

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STEM PROJECT

A group of 23 TY students went to TUS college Athlone on Tuesday, the 21st of October. It was the first day of the STEM passport for inclusion, which is a university accredited module entitled "Introduction to 21st century STEM skills". Students began learning how to code using a Micro Bit and had the opportunity to work with a mentor from industries such as Ericssons, and discuss questions about STEM. Upon completion of the module, students are awarded a level 6 certification in the STEM field that is recognised by universities. They can also avail of the DEIS STEM pathway at Maynooth University and Munster Technological University. An additional 50 Leaving Certificate points are awarded to gain entry to STEM courses at both universities. Students will return to Athlone on November 25th.

BONDING TRIP

TYs kicked off their school year with a bonding trip to Shannon River Adventure Centre. We got an incredible opportunity to work on skills such as archery, kayaking and swimming. This helped massively to build and strengthen friendships for everyone and it's safe to say that no one died-although I did nearly drown. Thankfully I had Lily and Aoife to rescue me before anything disastrous occurred. It was a fantastic way to bring the whole year together and it was great to be able to start the year off with a very successful tour (other than the potential drowning). -Keira Reynolds



GAISCE

Our TY students have the option to participate in the Gáisce program which is aimed at young people in Ireland aged 14-25. It's designed to encourage personal development through participants completing challenges in four areas: personal skill, physical recreation, community involvement and an adventure journey. The program aims to help young people discover their passions, build skills, gain confidence through a self-directed structure. Gáisce is a great opportunity for our TY students at Mean Scoil Mhuire to experience different hobbies and skills and to gain more confidence.

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES!

October 2025



THE DIFFERENCE FOR A GERMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT!

Well as an Exchange student it is not very easy. I arrived in Ireland and started school the very next day! The change from a big city to a small town is a lot. The first couple of weeks went very fast because I had a lot of things to do. The most different thing for me is the whole school system and that I have to wear uniform. Normally I took way too long to get ready for school, because I didn't know what to wear, but here it's different you just put the school uniform on. I miss the school times a little bit in Germany, because we have school from 8 am to 1:20 pm. Mostly you have the first two classes one subject then a break for 25 minutes then the third and fourth class one subject 25 minutes break and the last two classes. After that we have lunchtime but most students go home. Every class gets 1 day in the week where you have school to 3:30 pm. Then we mostly go to a shop to get our lunch and come back to school.

FLYING FROM ITALY TO IRELAND

As an Italian student who moved to Ireland a short time ago, there is a huge difference in the school system. Italian students don't have to wear uniforms, and they start school at 8:00 a.m. School is different here because we start at 9:00 a.m. and we don't have to go to school on Saturdays as I used to do in Italy. In Italy we only had one break but the lessons ended at 13:00 p.m. and at 14:00 twice a week. As a TY student here I don't go to school also on Fridays, instead I go for work experience and I love that. We also had work experience in Italy but it was not as prioritised as here and I think that was not good for us students. Italian students are hardworking without even realising it and that is what I love about their system.



LANGUAGE

Some words in Ukrainian

Hello- Добрий день

How are you?-Як в тебе справи?

How old are you?- Скільки тобі років?

Don't worry-Не переживай

Take your time-Не поспішай

Where you from?- Звідки ти?

School start at 9:00- Школа починається о 9:00

Goodbye- До побачення

Yuliia Morkvych

TALKS, CELEBRATIONS AND CLUBS!

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OPENING MASS

The Méan Scoil Mhuire choir truly stole the show at the opening mass for 2025/26. The students sang stunningly, creating a captivating and mesmerising atmosphere. The choir's performance brought happiness and pleasure to the congregation. It was clear that they put in a lot of effort and time due to the practices during their breaks everyday. Their commitment made a memorable and inspiring start to the school year.



NUTRITION

I attended a presentation on sports and nutrition at room 7 in October. A woman talked to us about the importance of eating well, healthy and strong. Many students from the sports team were there. She said it's very important to eat balanced meals and not skip meals to have energy and perform well in sports. She also recommended getting enough rest and drinking plenty of water before and after exercise. She told us that if we eat well and take care of ourselves, we can avoid injuries and improve our sports performance. The presentation was very interesting and helpful. I liked it because she explained things clearly.



VEX ROBOT

I am in second year robotics, we meet on Wednesdays and we are rebuilding the vex robot, there is a third year and second year robotics club. After a few weeks a team of second and third years are formed and the team will compete in the vex robotics challenge later in the year! - Success Popoola

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

October 2025



GOQUEST

TYs and LCA travelled to GoQuest to experience team bonding with their friends while trying to solve 29 different escape rooms. It was a fun mix of mental, physical and skill based activities which benefited each person greatly! Each group got to experience how to work together as a team. After GoQuest, going to Liffey Valley was a nice to relax.

CONTRIBUTORS

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE STUDENTS WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND INVITE THOSE WHO WISH TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER TO CONTACT MS KEOGH OR THE TY JOURNALISM CLASS!

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