



Colaiste Muire

Ballymote, Co Sligo, F56 NA09



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Website: <https://www.cmbm.ie>

Acting Principal: Ms. Dayna Byrne Acting Deputy Principal: Ms. Maura Cullinan

13th June 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope this letter finds you well and looking forward to a lovely summer of good weather! It has been a very successful year at school and congratulations to all students on their achievements. In April I was appointed as Deputy Principal of Colaiste Muire and will be taking on the Acting Principal role until August 2024.

School Reports

School reports have now issued via our school management system VSWare. Congratulations to all students on their achievement of personal bests – we look forward to a continuation of this in the coming academic year. If you have any difficulty accessing your school report(s) for your child(ren), please email Ms. Cullinan at deputyprincipal@cmbm.ie.

Re-opening Dates

Planning for the new school year is already underway and we look forward to welcoming our new first year students to Colaiste Muire and wish them the very best for their transition into secondary school. Our return to school dates will commence **from Friday 25th August** as follows:

- **Friday 25th August** – 1st year students and mentors only
- **Monday 28th August** – 1st year students and mentors only
- **Tuesday 29th August** – 6th and 1st year students and mentors only
- **Wednesday 30th August** – 3rd, 6th and 1st year students
- **Thursday 31st August** – 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 1st year students
- **Friday 1st September** – all students with the exception of TY
- **Monday 4th September** – all students including TY

Please note that **school will finish at 1.25pm each day for the first week** (Monday 28th August – Friday 1st September). This is to facilitate essential staff planning. Buses will run at 1.30pm each day.

When the normal school timetable resumes from Monday 4th September, classes will start at 9.10am each day and will end at 3.55pm Monday-Thursday. On Fridays classes will end at 1.25pm. All students will be provided with an individual, colour coded timetable on return. In addition, you will have the facility to check your child's timetable in VSWare.

Book Rental

Thank you to those who have paid for the book rental scheme. **If you have yet to do so, please contact Ms. McNamee to discuss a late payment.** For students in 1st year, arrangements will be put in place for you to collect your child/s books from the school at the end of their first day on Friday 25th August. 5th year students new to the scheme will receive their books in the days after they return to school. All other students will have their books at home for the summer. Please note that there will be certain items including stationery which are not provided on the book rental scheme and the enclosed list gives you an approximate guide as to what will be required for your child's subjects. Please check this to ensure that your child has the necessary items/copies/pens/equipment for his/her return to school. Any queries relating to the book rental scheme or the materials/stationery lists should be emailed to Mr. McNamee at fmcnamee@cmbm.ie.

School Calendar

The **calendar** for the new academic year will be available on our school website <https://www.cmbm.ie> on the **Calendar** page. It will also be printed in your child's school journal.

Communication & Contact Details

All communication is on **our school App** which will be launched last year. This has been a **wonderful development for parents** as you have the facility of a one-stop shop through the app to submit absence/late notes, to check reports in VSWare and to make payments to the school. We will continue to progress the use of the app over the next year. We encourage you to download the app to ensure open communication between home and school. ***Please ensure you keep us informed of any changes to your email address or mobile telephone number*** so that you can be fully informed from the beginning of term.

Uniform

Uniform provides students with a level playing field which ensures that we are all treated equally, it is for this reason that the uniform policy must be adhered to.

Students wear our school uniform very well at Coláiste Muire. Please be reminded that students must present to school every day in **full uniform**. Uniform details are available on our website <https://www.cmbm.ie/pages/downloads.php>. Lavins and O'Dowds in Ballymote stock our uniform.

PE Uniform

The **link to order sizes** is open at <https://www.grg-sports.com>. The **link to order will close on Sunday 28th June at 5pm**. GRG are also offering a warm navy puffer jacket with hood which may be of interest to students.

All students are expected to wear the PE uniform from the start of the school year **on their timetabled PE day only**. Along with the PE top and t-shirt, a plain navy bottoms (shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms) must be worn. The navy bottoms must be **unbranded to be fair to all students**.

Student Services Charge

Our Student Services charge of €100 per student includes a locker, school journal, all photocopying, StudyClix subscription for the school year, access to the school's Microsoft Teams platform and school WIFI, access to the school App and ability/attainment (CAT) testing. **This is payable before the start of**

the new term through the App. You will receive a notification on the app when this is ready and available.

Practical Subject Charges

For the school to facilitate practical subjects, materials are required, which are a significant cost to the school. To help us fund this, students studying **Art, Home Economics and Woodwork, are required to pay for materials as follows:**

- **Art €25** per student across ALL year groups
- **Woodwork €25** per student across ALL year groups
- **Senior Home Economics €25** per student for 5th and 6th year
- **Junior Home Economics €10** per student for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

The facility to pay these charges will be available in the app.

First year students are not required to pay the practical subject charges until later in the term as they may make changes to their subject choices. Parents will be notified of this payment towards the end of October. **Practical subject charges must be paid for all other year groups before returning to school in late August.**

White Coats for Home Economics

For students taking Home Economics, a **white coat** is required for practical classes. The school has a limited number of white coats which can be rented for the year from the school secretary, at a cost of €5, on a first come first served basis. Parents and students will be required to sign a rental contract for same. Please contact Mary at the office on 071 9183086 or at office@cmbm.ie to enquire about a renting a white coat.

School Journal

All students must obtain a **school journal** and the journal will be provided upon payment of the Student Services charge and practical subject charges. The journal is an important communication tool between parents/guardians and teachers and you are required to **examine and sign the journal on a nightly basis for students in 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. 5th & 6th year students must have their journal signed on a weekly basis.** This year, we will continue with our exam feedback sheets and students will be required to complete these following term tests at Halloween, Christmas and Easter/Mocks. You will also be required to sign them.

Student Insurance

When Allianz provide us with the update information regarding student insurance, we will issue it to you. If your child participates in sport it may be advisable to consider the purchase of student insurance in the event of any injuries.

Policies

Thankfully we are the far side of Covid19 restrictions so we will be back to the full implementation of all our policies.

Please ensure you and your child have read the **code of behaviour, anti-bullying policy and acceptable use policy** (also available on <https://www.cmbm.ie/pages/downloads.php>). Your child will be asked to sign the school journal to indicate acceptance of school policies. Please note that enrolment to the school

pre-supposes acceptance of these policies.

School Development & Parents' Contribution

A number of developments to our school environment will be taking place over the summer months. We are providing new lockers and system for students along with the internal painting of the school, parts of this will be starting this summer. We will also be doing some repair works to our toilets. Whilst there is some funding available from the Department of Education, it will never cover all the developments to provide a comfortable and positive environment for students. In the past parents have been very supportive of this and we are very grateful. If you would like to contribute further to our school and help us provide a comfortable and positive environment for your child, please use the "Parents Contribution" facility on the school app. All support will be greatly appreciated.

Making Payments

All **payments should be paid in advance** by using the app facility. If you have difficulty with the app please contact support@unique.ie. For all other queries, the school office will be open during the months of **June and August from 9am to 1pm Monday to Thursday**.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will be happy to clarify them for you. In the meantime, enjoy the summer holidays and stay safe. We look forward to a positive return to school in the autumn and to welcoming all students back to Coláiste Muire! Thank you for your support in 2022-23.

Kind regards,



Dayna Byrne