

SCOIL MHUIRE BUNCRANA

NEWSLETTER #8



FEBRUARY 2026

Pope John Paul II Awards 2026



Scoil Mhuire students were honoured at St Eugene's Cathedral, Derry as we received our Pope John Paul II Awards in recognition of our outstanding commitment to Church and community.

A special tribute was paid to our former student the late Emmanuel Familiola, a posthumous recipient of the award.

Over the past year our students fully immersed themselves in service within their parish and local communities. In addition, eight of our students (Naomi, Erick, Maya, Ciara, Annie, Olivia, Eva and Sara) were awarded the very prestigious Papal Cross award.

We are immensely grateful to Ms. O'Connor who was their Award Leader and has spearheaded these awards here at Scoil Mhuire.





Congratulations Eoghan Strain

Congratulations to our past-pupil Eoghan Strain on receiving the prestigious Trinity Entrance Exhibition Award recently. This award recognises exceptional academic excellence and was presented to Eoghan, who achieved a remarkable 625 points in his Leaving Certificate and is now embarking on his journey studying Medicine at Trinity College Dublin. Well done, Eoghan, we are incredibly proud of you!



Agricultural Science

Our 6th Year Agricultural Science students recently swapped the classroom for the sheds as they visited Doherty's Potatoes to gain a first-hand insight into potato production.

Our students discussed the journey from farm to fork, learning about every stage involved in producing high-quality potatoes, from planting and disease management to harvesting, storage, grading and distribution.

This practical experience allowed them to see how theory learned in class is applied on a working farm, while also highlighting the importance sustainability and quality control in modern agriculture.

The visit provided a valuable and engaging learning opportunity, deepening their understanding of one of Ireland's most important crops and the knowledge can now be applied to the completion of their IIS projects and a good practical revision for their upcoming mock exams.

Thank you again to the Doherty family and their staff for hosting us and passing on their expertise. Our thanks to Ms. McKinney for accompanying our students.



Science at Scoil Mhuire

Ms Gralton's 1C Science class undertook individual projects on Celestial Objects this term.

A fantastic effort by the class with 3 worthy winners: Aaron Doherty, Anna Cullen and Faye Doherty.



SEPI Climate Summit

Eight Transition Year students attended the SEPI Climate Summit in Armagh, marking the final day of several outings as part of the programme. They showcased their innovative climate ideas by pitching in teams to a panel of judges and received very positive feedback. It was a rewarding and inspiring experience for the students, and we are very proud of their efforts and achievements. Our thanks to Ms. Gralton for accompanying our students.



Please Vote for ICare

We're thrilled that ICARE have been shortlisted as one of the PTSB Community partners for 2026. PTSB Community provides funding for social good, helping organisations in communities across Ireland.

But ICARE need our votes to be selected!

Click the link to vote for ICARE: ptsb.ie/Community.



i.C.A.R.E.



Senior Cycle Options Evening

A special word of thanks to Cora Caldwell LCA2, Ava O'Donnell 4C and Harry McDaid 4E who presented at our Senior Cycle Options Evening for parents and guardians and spoke about their experience in TY and LCA. Their speeches were powerful, engaging, inspiring and informative.



Ditch the Disposable

Scoil Mhuire recently received four new bins for returnable bottles from Re-turn Ireland. All of our students are encouraged to use these bins appropriately. Our SEN students are leading the efforts of recycling these bottles in an effort to raise funds for their own activities. Please feel free to bring bottles in from home if you wish. Many thanks the Green Schools Team and Ms. Dowds.



Faby, Isabelle and Millie, all from 1A, were busy recently transplanting baby tomato plants grown from only one organic tomato. We look forward to seeing them progress further now and hopefully the students will enjoy the fruits of their labours in time for Summer.



Love and Kindness is in the Air

Celebrating St. Valentine's Day

Our thanks to Ms. Quigley and her students for spreading some love and kindness around Scoil Mhuire.



Valentine's Week Kindness Event
Fill our school with positivity this Valentine's.
Take a heart during break or lunch and write a message that could make someone's day.

HOW IT WORKS

Step 1 – Front of the Heart: Write your friend's **NAME** and **LOCKER NUMBER** clearly.
Step 2 – Back of the Heart: Write a positive, school-appropriate message. All hearts will be read before delivery.
Step 3 – Drop your finished heart into the collection box.
Hearts will be delivered to lockers on Thursday evening / Friday morning.

- Be kind
- Be genuine
- Make someone smile



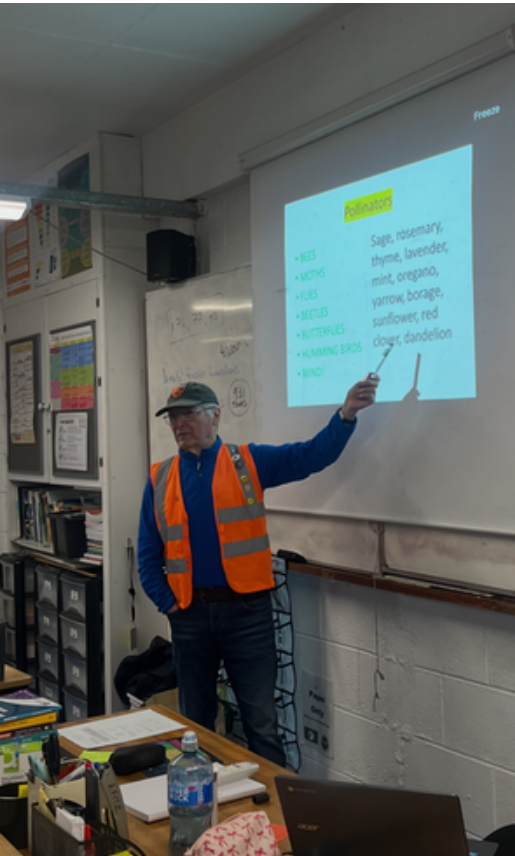
Young Social Innovators

Some of our Young Social Innovators have been engaging with a number of guest speakers as part of their social action project, which focuses on repairing, enhancing, and raising awareness of the Mill River Walkway.

We were delighted to welcome Séamus from Buncrana Tidy Towns; Mark and Polina from Donegal Youth Service; Sally, Maebh and Thomas from the Mill River Conservation Group; and Councillor Jack Murray, all of whom shared valuable insights and helped guide the students as they progress with their project.

Our students have also been working closely with Ms Quigley, who is leading a mural project with her art students as part of this initiative, while also assisting with the coordination of events.

Our sincere thanks to Ms. Craig and Ms. Quigley for all of their hard work with our students.



Young Social Innovators

Five of our Transition Year students pitched to the Young Social Innovators “The Den” team to seek funding for our project. We were the most successful group on the day and were awarded €700 in funding, which is €200 more than we originally requested.

This funding will be used to create a mural and to repair the existing towpath at the river. Our thanks to their teachers Ms. Craig and Ms. Quigley.



An Ghaeilge i Scoil Mhuire

Comhghairdeas ó chroí le scoláirí na chéad bhliana a ghnóthaigh an duais ‘Gaeilgeoir na Míosa’ do mhí Eanáir. Bronnadh teastas agus dearbhán cheaintín orthu uilig. Mar a deir an seanfhocal, mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas ó chroí a ghabhail leis na múinteoirí ó Roinn na Gaeilge as an tionscnamh iontach seo a eagrú.

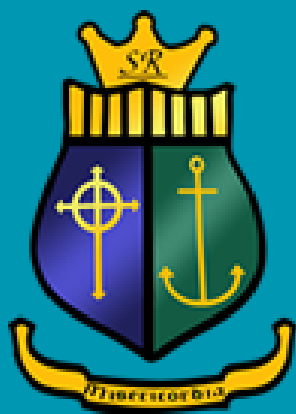


Mí Eanáir

| Rang | Scoláire | Múinteoir |
|-------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1A/1B | Jakub Poglud | Mr. Toland |
| 1B/1C | Oisín Friel | Ms. F McLaughlin |
| 1D | Emily Mooney | Ms. F. McLaughlin |
| 1E | Alex Grant | Mr. Toland |
| 1F | Sophie Doherty | Ms. Ní Dhochartaigh |



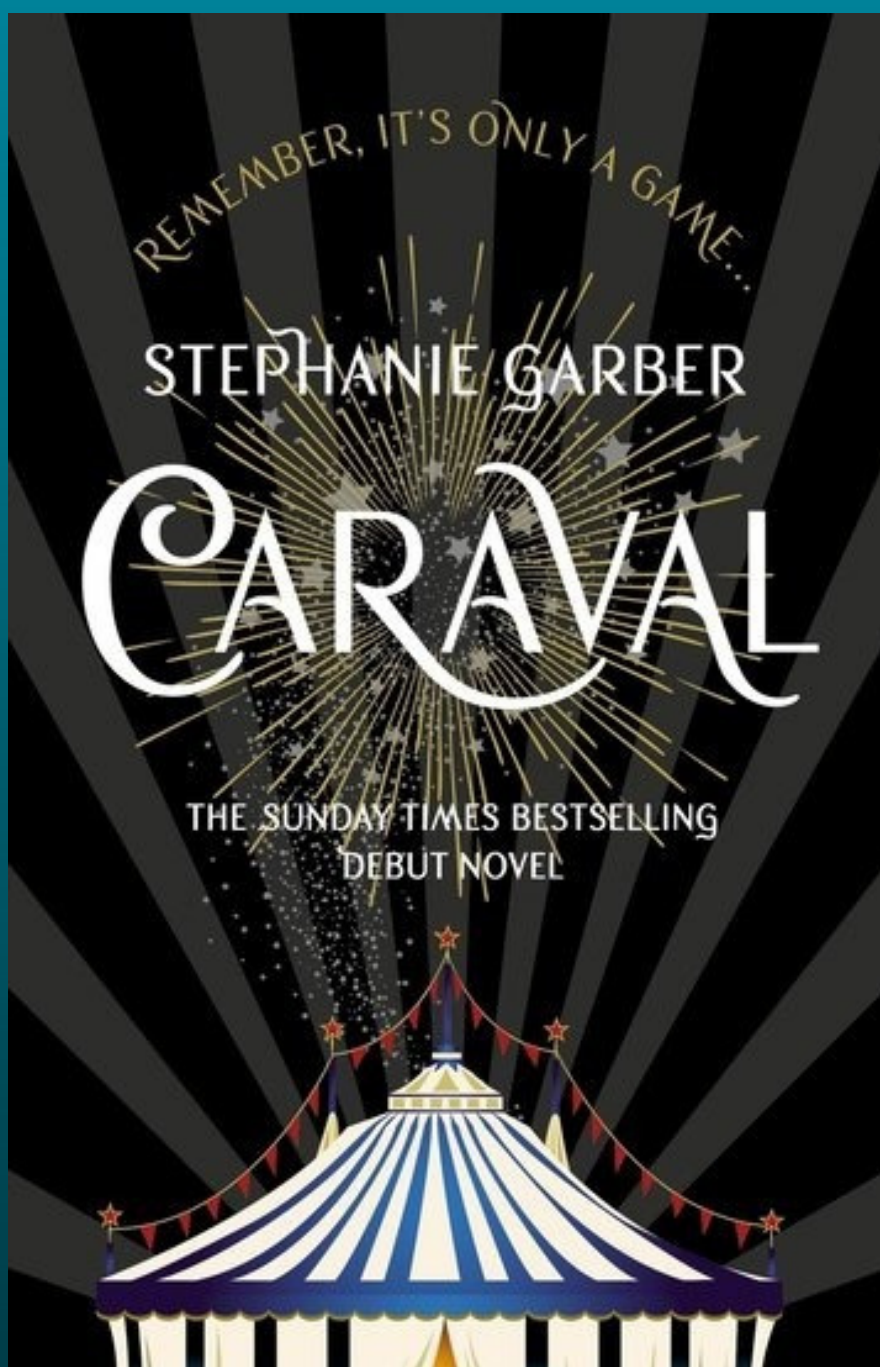
Scoil Mhuire Buncrana



BOOK CLUB



Meets every Thursday at Lunchtime in the Library



Everyone Welcome!

Spórt i Scoil Mhuire

Inisowen Sportshall Competition

Well done to our 1st year students who represented the school in the recent sportshall competition for the Inishowen region.

Our boys team finished in 2nd place with our girls team coming in 4th.

A fantastic day of competition for all of the athletes involved.

Special thank you to SNA Vinny and our TY students Alex and Kate for their help in officiating on the day.



Ski Trip 2027

All 3rd Year students have been sent a email about Ski Trip 2027. Please complete the attached form before the deadline.



Our School Ethos

Ceiliúradh CEIST 2026



Lent 2026

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and this year it falls during our Midterm break. Lent is a 40-day season in the Christian calendar that begins on Ash Wednesday and leads up to Easter. It is a time for reflection, prayer, and acts of kindness, when many people choose to give something up or take on a positive habit. Lent encourages people to think about helping others, growing in gratitude, and making thoughtful choices in everyday life.

Our Pope John Paul students will be organising various activities in the school during the Lenten season and some students will lead the Stations of the Cross in our Parish Church on Fridays.

Prayer
Fasting
Almsgiving



Ramadan 2026

This year Ramadan and Lent coincide and it offers us an opportunity to engage in interfaith dialogue and learning. Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community. Like Lent, Ramadan is a moment to time of self-reflection and reassessment of my relationship with God and my fellow human beings. We wish our Muslim students observing the month of Ramadan; a Ramadan Mubarak meaning we hope you have a blessed month.



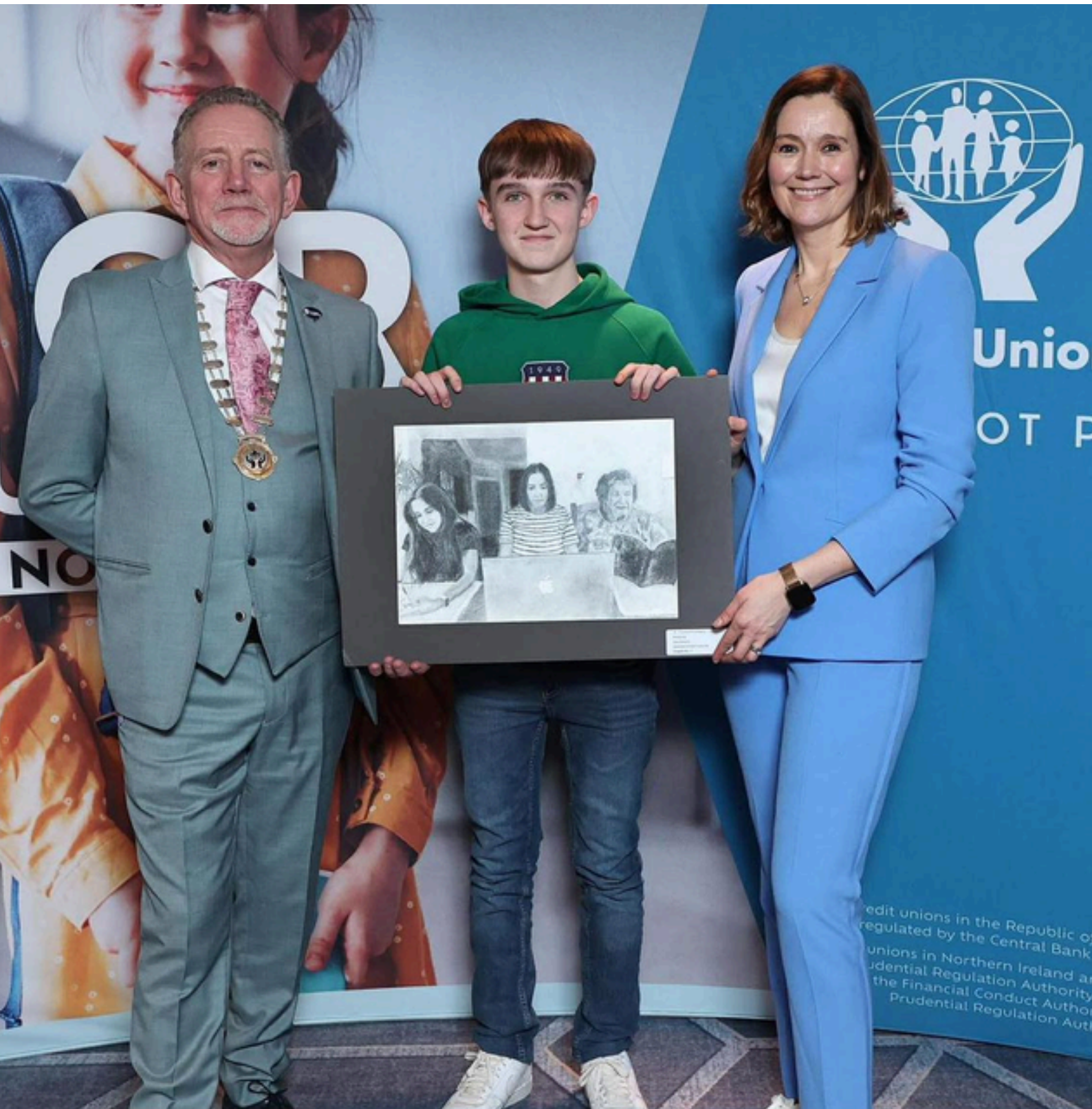
1st Year Religion

Some First-year students recently enjoyed sampling foods similar to those eaten at the time of Jesus including dates, olives, figs, grapes, hummus and flatbread, learning how simple, fresh ingredients were part of everyday life in ancient times. The activity was both educational and enjoyable, and students loved exploring history through their taste buds.



Credit Union Art Competition

Congratulations to our 2nd Year student, Rian, who won 2nd prize in the National Credit Union Competition recently. This competition typically receives 25,000 entries each year. Well done Rian, we are incredibly proud of your talent.



Traffic Management at Scoil Mhuire

In the interest of health and safety and out of a duty of care to our students, the following traffic management measures are in place. We appreciate your cooperation with these measures.

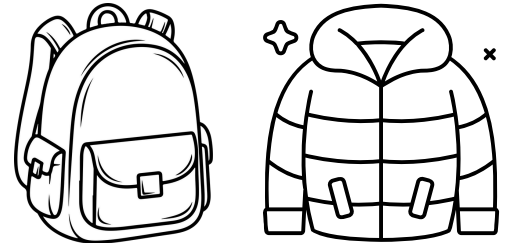
1. Students cannot be dropped off by parents/guardians at the gate on St. Oran's Road. This creates dangerous traffic congestion and puts students at risk from oncoming traffic.
2. Parents/Guardians are not permitted to enter the Shorefront Gate in the morning to drop-off students. We want our campus to be safe and therefore we seek to minimise unnecessary traffic.
3. Students are not allowed to drive or park on campus.
4. Think 30. At 30 km/h the risk of fatality in a collision with a pedestrian is drastically reduced compared to 50 km/h.

VISION
ZERO



Personal Belongings

Scoil Mhuire is a big and busy school and it is not unusual for personal belongings to get mislaid. We ask that all items of uniform and school bags are clearly labelled and identifiable. We do not encourage students to bring non-school coats to school and they do so at their own risk. Scoil Mhuire does not take responsibility for missing bags as all students have been given the opportunity to avail of a locker in which they can keep their personal belongings safe and secure.



Supervised Study

After-school supervised study runs every day in the Study Room from 16:00-18:00. The cost is €2 per session and this is paid to the supervising teacher. Supervised study offers students a fantastic opportunity to complete homework and study without distractions. Students who regularly attend supervised study report that they are less stressed at school, and say that they are able to stay on top of their work and have more free time at home. There is no need to register, simply turn up at the Study Room.

Deadlines for Projects and Coursework

Please see below links to information on the deadlines for Junior and Leaving Certificate students in relation to projects, coursework and practicals. Should you require any additional information, please contact the subject teacher.

[Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme \(LCVP\) LCVP Deadlines](#)

[Junior Cycle Completion Dates Junior Cycle Deadlines](#)

[Leaving Certificate Completion Dates Leaving Certificate Deadlines](#)

DEADLINE



The background features several shelves of books with colorful spines. Some books have illustrations like a swan, a cat, a rabbit, and a bear. There are also potted plants with green leaves. The text is centered on the page.

1ST YEAR HOMEWORK CLUB

EVERY TUESDAY 3.50 - 4.50

SM106

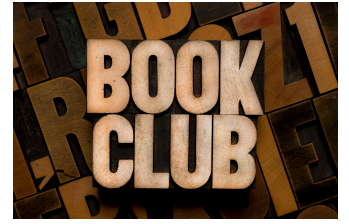
Contact Ms Folan
with any questions



Extra-Curricular Activities

Clubs/Activities 2025/26

Book Club Ms. Malone, Ms. Quigley, Ms. Craig



Trad Group Ms. Byrne, Ms. Furey, Ms. McKinney, Ms. Mooney

Cli-Mates - Foireann Ghlas Ms. Dowds, Ms. Doherty, Ms. Galton



Musical Ms. Byrne, Ms. Mooney, Ms. Doherty

Concern Debates Ms. Gorney, Ms. H. McDermott, Ms. Malone

Art Club Ms. Quigley



Warhammer Club Ms. Quigley

Gaming Ms. C. McDermott

Bake Club Ms. L. Doherty



Student Council Ms. O' Sullivan

Ukulele Club Ms. Mooney

Library is open at Breaktime and Lunchtime every day

Pope John Paul Awards & Papal Cross Awards Ms. O' Connor



Choir Ms. Byrne

Junk Kouture Ms. Quigley

Revolve Fashion Ms. Quigley



Young Scientist Ms. Galton



Upcoming Events

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 23 February | School Re-Opens |
| 24 February | Irish Mock Orals begin |
| 24 February | Spanish Mock Orals |
| 2 March | French Mock Orals |
| 4 March | School Closed for OIDE Training |
| 5 March | Scoil Mhuire STEM Fair |
| 9 March | Commencement of Wellbeing Week |
| 16 & 17 March | School Closed for St. Patrick's Day |
| 27 March | Last day before Easter Holidays |

Stay in Touch

Keep up-to-date with the latest news from Scoil Mhuire on our social media accounts.



[Facebook](#)



[X \(Twitter\)](#)



[Instagram](#)

If you have something that you would like featured in our school newsletter, please email micheal.clancy@scoilmhuirebuncrana.ie and we'll do our best to have it included in our next issue.

