



Cumann Tuismitheoirí Coláiste Bhrógáin Naofa

St. Brogan's College Parents' Association

Meeting 23rd January 2017

AGENDA

- Introduction by Chairperson – Sandra Corcoran
- Address by Principal – Ms Helen Cadogan.
- Apologies
- Condolences.
- Minutes from last meeting 7th November 2016, and matters arising.
- Any other Business (A.O.B.).



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Minutes of meeting held in the school on Monday 23rd January 2017 at 8pm

Present: Sandra Corcoran (Chair); Siobhán Markey (Sec + minutes); Jennifer Collins; Eunice Doyle; Beth O'Sullivan; Sinéad Moloney; Caroline McSweeney; Martha Ascote; Julian McCarney; Ron de Bruin; Marie O'Callaghan; Maora O'Donovan; Geraldine Farrell (Treasurer); Helen Cadogan (Principal),

Apologies: Maureen Power, Fiona McCarthy, Ann-Marie Ryan, Sadie Coughlan

Update from Principal:

The Principal, Ms. Helen Cadogan, provided an update of events in the school.

Changes to New Junior Cert. curriculum- update

- Current First years have started new curriculum for English, Business, Science. From September 2017, new curriculum will start for Irish, Foreign Language and Art. All subjects will be following the new curriculum by 2020.
- The aim of the new curriculum is to encourage students to learn in a more independent way, incorporating more team work and collaborative teaching methodologies. Children will be encouraged to problem solve themselves, where the emphasis is more on the processing and collating of information for each subject.
- From September 2017, the Department of Education require all classes to be 40 minutes. This means that there will be less classes in the day but each class will increase in time

Ms Cadogan has recently met with the four principals of the secondary schools in Bandon. She presented two samples of a consultation document detailing proposed changes to the structure of the school to deal with the New Junior Cert. Ms. Cadogan has a preference for Sample B. which would involve starting the tutorial each day at 8.57am and reducing the session to 8 minutes, so the first class would now start at 9.05am. The lunch-time period would still be 40 minutes. The school day would extend to 4pm on a Tuesday in line with Hamilton High school (re: bus sharing). Classes would finish at 3.20pm on all other days.

Ms. Cadogan also presented some consultation documents detailing proposed changes to the New Junior Cert timetable:

- **Junior Cert at present**
- **New Junior Cert 2017, 2018, 2019**
- **New Junior Cert 2016, 2017, 2018 Current First years**
- **New Junior Cert 2015, 2016, 2017 current second years**
- **Leaving Certificate: Pre and Post Change**

- **Wellbeing – New subject**

This new subject will incorporate P.E., SPHE, CDSPE and Religion and will initially involve 300 hours. This will increase to 400 hours by 2020 and could include talks on drug and alcohol misuse etc. There could be choices of short courses e.g. P.E. and I.T. (programming and digital media) that will involve continuous assessment i.e. setting of goals with certificate for completion of same. The tutorial class is to be counted as part of the Wellness programme.

Core Subjects

Irish, English and Maths are core subjects in all schools, nationally. All other subjects can be decided by school. Currently in St. Brogan's, history and geography are considered core subjects There was some discussion about the following at the meeting:

- ? consider including Business Studies as core subject at JNR Cert
- Explore if choice of foreign language could be available e.g. French or Spanish
- ? if some options could be made before starting in First year e.g. metal work, wood work, foreign language.

Religion

Religion could be included under the new Wellness programme, if the school patron agrees. Ms. Cadogan explained that this school is a multidenominational school (not a faith school) and the E.T.B. is the school's patron. The Board of management have already suggested that religion classes be reduced from 2 per week to 1 class.

Learning Support inspection during December 2016.

Ms. Cadogan confirmed that the recent learning Support inspection went well and full report is pending.

AOB

- New stage is fully operational and worked well for the recent Christmas play
- Sandra Corcoran is to follow up on potential sponsoring of curtains for the stage.
- Building of new extension is proceeding well.
- Replacement of new windows to start over the February midterm – communal areas first and then to proceed to one room at a time. Some classes will need to be in canteen during these works.
- Re: 2017 State exams: Parents of students in the Leaving Cert cycle have been notified about all project deadlines.

- Cardiac Screening programme (private service) to be offered to all 1st – 3rd years. This is an optional screening assessment that will cost 67 euros per child and will involve an online booking system.
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Condolences: Condolences expressed to Sandra Corcoran on the recent loss of her mother.

Next meeting: ??? March 2017