

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 12th February 2020

Teaching and Learning

A group of teachers continues to meet each week and roll out new teaching and learning strategies to teachers. This group is also supporting teachers in making use of technology to support teaching and learning.

Leaving Certificate PE

The school has been accepted as one of the schools to roll out PE as a leaving certificate subject next year.

Student Focus Group on Wellbeing

The Board considered the feedback from a junior and senior wellbeing focus group looking at the proposed content of our wellbeing programme for the New Junior Cycle.

School Building/Enrolment and School Size

The Board was given details of recent meetings held with the Department of Education and Skills on Thursday, 6th February. The first meeting was between the Department of Education representatives and the three principals regarding this year's waiting list. The Boards of Management of the other two schools have agreed to open up their enrolment process again and offer places to all students without a place for the coming academic year.

The second meeting held in the school was between the two Department officials, principal, deputy-principal and three representatives from the ETB. At the meeting we were informed that the school will get a major extension which will bring the school to 1000 students and from 2021 onwards the school will need to take in 7 classes of first years each year. We will at that stage have the additional four rooms and we can keep the prefabs for the time being. The new build is expected to be ready for 2023.

Enrolment & Admissions Act

The Board looked at the draft admissions policy. It was noted that consultation has to begin with all the stakeholders.

It was proposed that a line be put in the application form for enrolment noting that if any false information was provided on the application then the students place would be forfeited.

Whole school Guidance Plan

A group consisting of the two guidance counsellors, principal and deputy principal are working on updating the whole school guidance plan following new guidelines from the NCGE.

Solar Panels

As a result of being a Microsoft Showcase School Microsoft has agreed to provide the school with solar panels which will provide the school with electricity equivalent to that used by ten houses. These solar panels will be installed by Airtricity in the next few months and will significantly reduce the school's electricity bill.

Planning Permission

An Bord Pleanála has granted planning permission for the four classroom extension. The architect had made some changes to allow for disability certificates. Following this the ETB will tender for builders. It is expected that building will begin in July 2020 and the additional rooms will be completed by September 2021.

Induction Morning

We held our induction morning for incoming first years on Saturday – 8th February. We can confirm following this morning that all the students who are enrolled will be attending.

Autism Friendly School

We are taking part in the ASIAM Autism friendly school pilot project. Claire Murphy and Norma Sheehan are working on this with the principal.

Rental of PE facilities

Once the building of the four new classrooms starts in July our existing gym will be demolished. This brings with it a huge shortage of PE facilities. The school has been looking at the PE hall in Scoil Phadraig Naofa and they have agreed that we can hire it from them in the afternoons after two o'clock.

Results of First Year Parents Anonymous Questionnaire

The Board was provided with a copy of the results of an anonymous questionnaire given to the parents of the current first years.

Report from Kinsale College

Irish Education Awards

Kinsale College is delighted to have been nominated in five categories in The Education Awards 2020. They are as follows:

- Best Further Education Provider
- Best Erasmus Programme
- Best Student Experience
- Best Green Campus Award
- Best College of Arts & Social Sciences

The award ceremony will be held in Dublin in February 2020 where the winners will be announced. Regardless of the outcome, the nominations are a wonderful recognition of all the hard work done by the staff at the college.

QQI Statutory Review

The inaugural review of Quality Assurance of CETB is now taking place.

Erasmus

On Sunday January 19th eighteen students from Kinsale College of Further Education embarked on their Erasmus+ trip to Katowice in Poland. The students travelling included those from our Multimedia, Film & TV, Outdoor Adventure Education and Office Administration courses. On Sunday February 02nd students from our Sustainable Horticulture/Permaculture & Theatre Performance courses travelled to Granada in Spain to complete work experience. Our third Erasmus trip this year will see students from Professional Cookery & Healthcare travel to Rimini in Italy.

Video SECAD course

Our Office Administration students were recently offered the opportunity to partake in a video marketing course with SECAD in Kinsale

Marketing for September 2020 intake

Kinsale College has embarked on a targeted marketing campaign to advertise courses for September 2020.

SVP link

This year we have formed a strong link with the local SVP conferences in Bandon and Kinsale providing financial assistance and bus tickets to those in need.

Upgrades to College – Outside lighting

Recent upgrades included refurbishment of the Main Office to include a hatch to secure data and comply with GDPR, refurbishment of the men's toilet in the main building and the creation of a new office. Outside lighting was erected for staff car parking. Further outside lighting is due to be erected shortly.

Entrepreneurial Award Win

Two students at Kinsale College were awarded Best Overall Project and Best Marketing Plan at the recent CETB Enabling Entrepreneurship Exhibition at Cork City Hall.

Finance

Support for students with disabilities budget was reduced by 19%. The college is making every effort to gather overdue fees that are due for this academic year.

Ahead conference

Christopher Good and David O Rourke are invited to present at the AHEAD conference in March 2020. They will outline how the college has supported them with their studies.

Health promotion week

Health promotion week is just completed. It was organised by the healthcare 6 group which included many activities for the entire college for the week.