

## **Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019**

### **Guidance Counselling**

There are now two career guidance teachers and they are each responsible for three-year groups.

### **Introduction of New Languages**

First year students are being offered a taste of Spanish and it will then be offered as one of the options in second year. In addition, with the help of the Post Primary Languages Initiative the school is offering a short course in Polish to first and second years for their Junior Cycle and in the senior cycle they will get help after school to do the Polish exam for the leaving certificate.

Mandarin Chinese has been included as an option for some transition years. This takes place with the help of the Confucius institute and our students will take part in a competition with a prize of an all expenses trip to China.

### **Assessments for the Year**

As a result of changes made in the New Junior Cycle there are now three reporting moments in the year. The first is after the week of the 11<sup>th</sup> November when there will be Christmas assessments. The next reporting moment will be the pre exams for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years and class tests for the remaining students. The final reporting moment will be at the end of the year for non-exam classes.

### **Digital Roll Out**

Each teacher in St. Brogan's College and Kinsale College of has been given a Surface Go device.

A number of teachers are timetabled for a teaching and learning group each week and that group trains a number of members of staff each. These teachers practice different programs, apps and techniques and then pass them on to staff. The whole process will be a three year one.

All teachers are at different levels and the only expectation is that they engage with the training and push themselves outside their comfort zone.

The school has been announced as a Microsoft Showcase school.

### **Teaching and Learning**

In addition to the digital roll out the group of teachers who meet each week are also rolling out new teaching and learning strategies to teachers. They have rolled out a strategy called jigsaw and we will continue to focus on this and success criteria.

### **Student Voice Project**

The school has been accepted into a project run by ETBI to encourage student voice in the school.

### **Enrolment Process**

The Board of Management conducted the enrolment procedure. It had been agreed that we would take 120 students. There were 218 applications for a place in first year. The board agreed to take 120 students.

There were 70 applications from brothers and sisters of pupils who are already or who previously attended the school. Firstly, all siblings would be offered a place. This left only 50 places to be determined by lottery.

The applications were in three boxes –

- First in family from a feeder school.
- Not first in family but attending a feeder school.
- Not attending a feeder school.

Each member of the Board participated in the lottery. The first fifty students out of the box with first in family were numbered and it was agreed that all of these would be offered a place.

The remaining students taken from the box were given a number in order which denoted their place on the waiting list. The same procedure was followed for the box with students who are not first in the family and finally those not attending a feeder school.

### **Canteen and Break Times**

Small breaks are now staggered as follows due to increased numbers:

1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> years at 10:25 – 10:40  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> years at 11:05 – 11:20

There are some changes to the food in the canteen. As before there is a free breakfast club for all. All students are now being offered free food at small break. Students can take either a cold sandwich or a hot sandwich each for free. Lunch time involves paying as normal.

### **Shortage of space and facilities**

The school continues to struggle with space issues and discussions are ongoing with the ETB to seek a long term solution.

### **Planning Permission**

An Bord Pleanála has granted planning permission for the extension in the last two weeks. We now need to go to tender for builders which will be managed by the ETB.

## **Report from Kinsale College**

### **Nomination for Best use of Digital West Cork Business and Tourism Awards**

Kinsale College was delighted to receive a nomination for an award in the Best use of Digital category at the prestigious West Cork Business and Tourism Awards 2019.

## **Erasmus**

In 2020 60 students from across all disciplines in the College will travel to Spain Italy and Poland to complete work placements and gain experience expanding their geographical and intellectual horizons through studying and working throughout Europe. This follows the success of the colleges first Erasmus trip to Granada in Spain in February 2019.

## **Active Inclusion**

Kinsale College has led the Active Inclusion project and the formal report was launched on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2018. This project involved a root and branch assessment of the systems in place for students with disabilities in FE and recommendations are put in place to improve the system going forward.

## **Entrepreneurial Awards**

The Film & TV students in Kinsale College took part in a pilot course on Enabling Entrepreneurship set up by Mary Lenihan, CETB and Liz McAvoy, Junior Achievement Ireland. Kinsale College currently has 20 entrants in an initiative called the “Enabling Entrepreneurship 2019/2020 Programme” with the aim of creating exciting opportunities for students to immerse themselves in the world of enterprise – helping to stimulate a culture of innovation and encouraging students to explore the building blocks of setting up a business through an interactive programme of activities and engagement with business volunteers.

## **Transition Year Work Experience**

Kinsale College is offering transition year students an opportunity to sample courses as part of their Transition year work experience. TY students can apply for a place to sample Sailing, Cooking, Film and TV and Horticulture.