

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 3 November 2020

Allocation of places first year 2021

The lottery to determine places for first year 2021 took place in the presence of an independent observer. There were 234 applications for a place in mainstream and only 168 places. There were 9 applications for a place in the ASD base class and only 1 place available. There were 2 applications for the class for students with moderate general learning difficulties and there were two places.

New Staff

A number of new teachers have been appointed:

- Two teachers of Science and Maths
- One Resource teacher
- One English and History

Parent/Teacher Meetings

There are to be no Parent/Teacher/Student meetings for the time being. Instead we will be asking teachers to type a comment in for each student this will probably be through Vsware.

Staff CPD

A lot of Staff CPD is being organised and presented by staff.

- We have focused in our last two staff meetings on continuing to improve digital literacy of staff and students.
 - Staff have been trained in the use of assignments in Microsoft Teams.
 - Brian O'Mahony and Derek Mitchell presented different tips and tricks that they use in teams and one note to support staff.
- Staff were given a presentation on the possible uses of the Reflection Number Line in class by Jenny Kingston.
- Success Criteria – Derry O'Donovan gave a presentation on Success criteria and getting students to co-develop success criteria with students. There were three videos shown of three members of staff developing success criteria with students. These were prepared by Karen Corbett, Amanda Harrington and Michelle Crowley. The learner voice group is continuing to use and refine this technique in classes.
- Helen gave staff a presentation on Looking at our School and the work being done in the school in each of the domains.

November State Exams

Some initial guidelines have been issued regarding the running of the postponed state exams. They will happen in November after school and at weekends.

Studyclix

The school has acquired a school licence with Studyclix which allows free access to all staff and students. This is an extremely useful and helpful website for exam preparation. This service would normally cost €40 per student.

Teaching and Learning

Results of IT Survey – The teaching and learning group did a survey of all students to determine their IT access and access to broadband/phone data. The results indicate that students by in large with a few small exceptions have access to good data and also some device on which to use teams and/or OneNote.

Addendum to Code of Behaviour

The Board of Management approved an addendum to the Code of Behaviour prepared to take account of Covid 19 restrictions.

Curricular Planning for 2021-22

The enrolment of 168 students next year means a net increase of approximately 90 students next year. The popularity of the school is testament to the amazing work being done by the whole team. The increase in numbers in first year will mean 7 first year classes. Offering the taster programme to seven groups like we are doing at the moment may no longer be feasible. It was agreed that the principal and deputy principal would do some research on this and put together a proposal to be brought to the next board of management meeting.

Planning day – 16th November

There will be a new junior cycle planning day on the 16th November. The day will be devoted to Subject Department Meetings.

PPE

A large quantity of PPE has been purchased for use by staff and students. This includes hand sanitiser, disinfectant, disinfectant wipes, visors, masks, PPE in case of suspected case. The PPE is very expensive and the government grant issued for its purchase will not be enough for the full year. This has been communicated to the DES and to the ETB.

We were using some viropro product (bottles of hand sanitiser) and removed these immediately following the DES withdrawal notice. Thankfully we were not using any of the other 52 products withdrawn last week.

Perspex

Perspex has been installed in the two computer rooms between the computers as there was not a one metre distance between students.

Staff Changes

Ms Teresa Vaughan has been appointed as Home School Community Liaison Teacher and she began work on 2nd November in her new role.

Post of Responsibility Review

The Board agreed to initiate a Post of Responsibility Review.

Enrolment

The school did not go around to the different primary schools this year but posted out a brochure and letter to all of fifth and sixth class students giving them a link to an online open evening which involved a short video, speeches by Helen and Derry and an opportunity to ask questions over chat. The deadline for applications was Friday 23rd October.

Build of four additional classrooms

The building of the four additional classrooms is ongoing.

Voice Amplifiers

The school purchased a portable voice amplifier for any teacher who wished to use one given the difficulties of everyone hearing you when wearing a mask.

Report from Kinsale College

Covid 19 Plan and Risk Assessment

A Covid 19 Policy, plan and risk assessment have all been completed and updated. Our current guidelines are for both staff and students to maintain 2 meters and may be under 2 meters in the exceptional circumstance of practical work. A timetable has been designed for this purpose and redesigned in light of the level 5 restrictions. Students are mainly receiving online delivery with an exception for essential practical work. Students have received training on Covid 19 to minimise risk to the college.

CPD

Teachers/ Personal Assistants volunteered to do additional CPD in the area of remote teaching, teams, UDL, Autism and Dyspraxia and Dysgraphia. Liz Moynihan is working with CETB Active Inclusion officer to organise an online conference for Disability in FE for online deliver later this month. Two students with disabilities have been chosen to speak about their educational journey at Kinsale College and how the college has supported them to live an independent life.

Remote Teaching and learning

A huge effort will be made from the start of the year to upskill staff and students to ensure that if we have to lockdown, we will be able to teach remotely in line with the student's timetables. All students are issued with a CETB email address and induction training for remote teaching given to students individually, in small groups and remotely. Moodle has been upgraded so students can now submit assignments online and training is also provided to each student on how to upload.

Needs Assessments

Needs assessments of all students with disabilities is currently being completed and appropriate resources will be allocated.

Outdoor Classroom

The college has designed and put in place an outdoor classroom in the front lawn for teaching on dry days.

Green Campus

Kinsale College will be awarded the green campus status this month. We are the first college of Further Education in Munster to be awarded this with two other FE colleges in Dublin who have the status. Donal Chambers has coordinated this project for the past four years.

Entrepreneurial Project

All students at the college are asked to take part in an entrepreneurial project where they will be supported to set up their own business. Deidre Carney and Thomas Riedmuller are coordinating this project.

Enrolment

Enrolment is now completed for the 2020/2021 academic year. 275 students are currently enrolled.

Erasmus

Plan for Erasmus trips for this academic year are cancelled due to Covid. Leargas.

Device Loan Scheme

The Department of Further and Higher Education has provided funding to Education and Training Boards to assist them in making IT devices available to learners who might otherwise not be able to access such devices, and who require a device to support or engage with their learning programme. Kinsale College had 40 devices.

Marketing Strategy

CETB have proposed to pay Headbox 30 for a virtual tour of all its FE colleges to replace our open days.