

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 3rd March 2021

Leaving Certificate and LCA 2021

The school is keeping the Board of Management updated on arrangements for the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied assessment process for 2021.

Staff CPD

The ETB has signed all staff up to an online training programme on Office 365– Wriggle Connect which staff are engaging with.

Teaching and Learning

At the moment all our focus is on remote learning and remote learning strategies.

Transition Year Subject Options

All third years and their parents were given a talk on subject choices for the leaving certificate on Zoom. Parents were also asked to fill in a questionnaire on how their children are getting on in school.

Whole School Guidance Plan

The Board of Management approved the Whole School Guidance Plan which is now on the website.

Covid Response Plan

The Board of Management approved the updated Covid Response Plan.

Annual Review of the Anti Bullying Policy and its implementation

The Board of Management completed the annual review of the anti bullying policy.

DEIS

The Board was updated on progress being made with the new DEIS plan.

Transfer Requests

As per the enrolment policy the school is now accepting transfer requests until the end of March.

One to one Devices for Students

It was agreed that following on from all that has been learnt about using technology for education a consultation process would begin to look at the idea of getting students in first year in 2022 to purchase and use devices in school to support teaching and learning.

Covid 19 Response plans and reopening

The following preparations have been made to prepare for the return to school.

1. All staff have been asked to watch the Covid 19 training videos prepared by the DES again.
2. All staff have been asked to fill in a new Return to Work Form
3. All parents of students or students over 18 have to fill in a learner declaration form.
4. The Covid 19 response plan has been updated with changes suggested by the DES and is being issued to parents in advance of student return and has been issued to all staff.

Remote Learning and Phased Return

Special Classes – Rang Iosaif and ASD classes returned on 22nd February. Leaving Certs and Leaving Cert applied sixth year students have returned to the building since Monday, 1st March. Fifth years and LCA fifth years are due to return on the 15th March. All students are due to return after Easter.

Remote learning continues for all students during the phased reopening.

Draft plans

Initial plans have been prepared for the new build. The Board had a detailed look and discussion about the plans. It is proposed to apply for the major extension in two phases. The initial phase is a three storey building and the second phase is a two storey building. The permission is being sought in two phases to speed up the building of the initial phase.

Sports Hall

It was noted that further representations are being made to the DES regarding funding for a new sports hall.

Build of Four Classrooms

The building of the classrooms is continuing ahead of schedule and the roof is currently being added.

Sports Capital Grant

The school has made an application for the sports capital grant. An agreement has been made with Bandon GAA and all the necessary documentation has been prepared and sent in for the deadline of the 1st March.

Report from Kinsale College

Online teaching

All teachers are teaching remotely at present in line with guidance until the 15th of March. The target date for return to onsite essential practical work is Monday 15th March 2021. Teachers are focusing on getting the theory elements of courses and completing risk assessments for any onsite activities.

Work Experience

Courses were unable to do the full number of hours of work experience this year and teachers had to submit Work Experience simulation suggestions/ ideas and additional work to cover this and this had to be approved by QA office in CETB. This is now completed.

Enrolment

The College is working on the process of marketing the college for students for September 2021. Online applications are now open. Staff are currently virtually presenting to youthreach centres, senior students around the county with the hope of enhancing enrolment. Kinsale College is exhibiting in the Career Path Expo 2021 this year where it will have a virtual platform over 2 days to showcase the College. Social media is also being used to promote the courses as we are unable to have an Open day in Spring 2021.

Aontas nomination

The national organisation Aontas has nominated Kinsale College for a national award *Sustainability Development through Education*. Denis Leamy has invited the college to present our work to him on green campus as this is one of the pillars of the FET colleges of the future and incorporated into the Solas vision for this.

IT audit

The college is currently doing an audit of its IT equipment with the hope of putting a proposal to CETB for upgrades.

Support staff

All teachers and support staff are working very hard to support students remotely at this difficult time. They meet weekly and any student who is not engaging is contacted to encourage them to stay on track and complete their course.

Contingency arrangements

College staff and management are putting plans in place to for practical work of courses to be completed once the college is back open again. These arrangements vary depending on which course as we have lost valuable onsite practical experience.

CPD

College staff have attended workshops on Dyslexia and specific learning issues. A member of staff is being training as an assessor for dyslexia screening and other educational testing materials.

Thanks to staff

Liz Moynihan paid tribute to the amazing staff who have done their utmost to keep a positive connection and learning environment for students at this time. The college ethos of kindness to staff and learners at this time is wonderful to see in action and it is amazing to work with such a positive, hardworking group of people.