

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 13th April 2021

Junior Cycle Assessment and reporting 2021

In order to prepare final results for Junior Cycle it was noted that subject departments are to agree the mode and length of assessments for each subject. A maximum of two assessments will only be given and they will be no more than an hour long. The report going home will include a grade, descriptor for any CBAs done and a statement regarding wellbeing programmes followed.

All students will also receive a certificate from the DES stating that they completed the Junior Cycle.

Assessment of other years

It was agreed that there will be no house exams this year as we have lost a week at the end of the academic year along with other teaching time. All assessments will be done during class time, supervised and corrected by the teachers.

Transition Year Work Experience

Transition year work experience has been cancelled as due to Covid a lot of students may not safely get work experience. If a student has secured work experience and wishes to continue with it then we will support this but otherwise students will be in school and taught.

Teaching and Learning

Work is continuing to improve teaching and learning in the school.

- a. Staff recently had a recap on what teaching and learning strategies were focused on in the school since 2019.
- b. Staff were provided with a booklet called Edison strategies. In this booklet detailed instructions are given on different teaching strategies.
- c. The teaching and learning group is developing a teaching and learning library

Incoming First Year Subject Options

The Board was informed that a presentation was given to all incoming first year parents on 11th March providing them with information on the school and the process for choosing subjects in first year. The night went very well and most of them have sent back their subject choices at this stage.

Covid 19 Response plans and reopening

1. All parents have been asked to fill in a new Return to School Form on behalf of their children
2. All students have been given a refresher on all aspects of the Covid Response Plan.
3. All parents have been sent a copy of the revised and updated Covid Response Plan.
4. All staff have filled in the return to work form again following the Easter holidays.

Draft plans

The first phase of the planning for the new build is being finalised in order to seek planning permission at the moment.

Build of Four Classrooms

The building of the classrooms is continuing ahead of schedule.

Return to School

All students have returned to school since yesterday – 12th April.

Key Dates

- a. All students will be taught until the 28th May as per DES guidelines. The last week is to be used to complete the accredited grade process.
- b. Junior Cycle – Last Day for gathering evidence - 21st May. While this is the last day for gathering evidence we will continue teaching third years up until the 28th May.
- c. Leaving Cert – Last Day for gathering evidence for accredited grades – 14th May. We will continue to teach leaving certs until the 28th May although we will have finished gathering evidence.
- d. We are still awaiting further information on how accredited grades are to be gathered and communicated to the DES.
- e. LC Graduation – students only and some staff in the PE hall on 28th May. Due to Covid 19 we won't be inviting parents to the graduation and it will only have class tutors and year head and management to limit numbers.

DEIS

A group of staff have been working on the DEIS plan for 2021-24.

The Board of Management approved the DEIS Plan.

Transfer Requests

The Board of Management considered Transfer Requests into years other than first year.

Report from Kinsale College

Online teaching

Teachers and students are only permitted to attend the college for essential practical work. Teachers and departments are working hard to finish courses and get students to certification. This involved modified work experience, modified assignments briefs and plans.

Enrolment

Currently enrolling for September 2021 and it is going very well currently.

Online Exams

Students' exams will be organised for online this year in line with CETB policy.

Irish Education Awards

Kinsale college has been nominated for the best Further education College and Best Student experience award for the Irish Education Award.

CPD

Staff are attending weekly training sessions on Moodle to facilitate online exams in May. Two personal assistants are guest speakers at this week AHEAD conference and 7 staff members have completed the Digital Badge UDL over the past five months.

Student Support

Helena Farrell is the student support officer of the college and this involves ensuring all students get support/ help as required to complete their courses. The aim now is to get as many over the line with this support over the next few weeks.

Green Campus presentation and Green Week

Liz Moynihan and Donal Chambers gave a presentation to Cork ETB on the process undertaken by the College on becoming a green campus. They also made recommendations to CETB on what they could do to begin the process for all schools and Colleges in CETB.

Kinsale College will be running workshops and information sessions as part of Green Week which will run from Monday, 19th April.

Thanks to staff.

Liz Moynihan would like to pay 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 amazing to work with such a positive, hardworking group of people.