

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 20th September 2021

Calculated Grades – Leaving Certificate

All teachers completed the Accredited grades process and students received outstanding Leaving Certificate Results.

Staff Changes

The Board offered congratulations to Ms Teresa Vaughan on being appointed to the role of Deputy Principal and also congratulations were offered to Ms Liz Moynihan, Director of Kinsale College who has been appointed as Principal of Colaiste Stiofan Naofa.

Two Deputy Principals

The school is now divided into 1st, 3rd and 5th years and 2nd, 4th and 6th years with each run by a separate deputy with a separate care team and different guidance counsellor. The year heads attend the respective care teams.

Leaving Certificate 2022

The Department of Education has published revised guidelines for examinations in the leaving certificate for 2022. These guidelines allow for more choice in examinations to allow flexibility for teachers around covering all of the curriculum. Junior Cycle students also only need to do one Classroom Based Assessment and do not need to do Assessment Tasks. These guidelines have been distributed to staff and students.

One to One Devices

A discussion was held around the proposal to ask incoming first years to purchase a device before they join us.

Last year management set up a parent focus group and a student focus group to look at introducing one to one devices for first years next year. The feedback on this has been extremely promising.

The Board was unanimously in favour of this new initiative with the agreement that the school will reduce the costs for parents to an absolute minimum to ensure parents are supported as much as possible in purchasing the devices.

Enrolment & Admissions Act

The Admissions Policy and Admissions notice were considered and approved by the Board. The Admissions notice will note 160 first year places. We will have 4 students leaving our ASD classes and we can take 2 students in our moderate class and these places are noted in the Admissions Notice.

We will only be accepting applications for a place from the 1st October to the 22nd October. The application form will go up on the 30th September. The applications this year will be through an

online form. We will have a Board meeting after mid term and offers will be out by the 10th November with acceptances having to be back on the 26th November. We will be having an online Open Evening on the 7th October. It will be over Zoom.

Covid 19 Plan and Risk Assessment

The updated Covid 19 Policy, plan and risk assessment have all been prepared. The Covid 19 response plan has been sent out to all parents and all staff and students have been trained on the Covid 19 procedures for the year.

A huge amount of gratitude must be given to the admin staff, caretaker and cleaners for all the work done in preparing the school for the return. They have worked so hard to make the school ready.

Child Protection Annual Review

The Board conducted the Child Protection Annual Review and approved the updated Child Protection Risk Assessment and Child Protection Safeguarding Statement.

Anti Bullying Policy Annual Review

The Board completed the Checklist for Annual review of the anti-bullying policy and its implementation.

Return to Work Protocols

All staff filled in the Return to Work form.

We continue to have two Lead Worker Representative. Their role is to support staff and management in implementation of the Covid 19 Response Plan.

PPE and Enhanced Cleaning

We continue to purchase PPE and have enhanced cleaning in the school to help prevent the spread of Covid 19.

CO₂ monitors

We have received CO₂ monitors from the Department of Education and these have been deployed throughout the building. They will be used to determine whether or not there is sufficient ventilation to prevent the spread of Covid 19 or if more ventilation or an air cleaner is required

Updates on Covid Restrictions

1. Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings – no face to face meetings prior to 22nd October - after 22nd October – it is possible need to consider how they might be managed – queueing systems etc.
2. Staff meetings – online until after 22nd October
3. Open days/nights – remotely is the only option available for now.

4. After school clubs/activities – can take place provided Public Health guidelines can be followed.
5. TY activities – no mixing of schools or stop overs in crowded areas.
6. Training of teams – can commence – no use of changing rooms.
7. Games/matches – will be commencing in October
8. We can provisionally book overnight activities for after the 22nd October.
9. At the moment it looks like we will still be wearing masks after the 22nd October but awaiting confirmation.
10. Buses are still at 50% capacity for now

Microsoft Showcase School

We have received the honour of being a Microsoft Showcase School for the third year.

Building

The four classroom extension has been completed to a very high standard and we are very happy to have it.

We have received planning permission for Phase 1 of the build.

The Design team is currently preparing documentation relating to costings for the Department of Education following which there will be a tender process. The building will be a pre-cast structure.

In the event that the building will not be ready for September we are working with the ETB on prefab requirements until the building is completed.