

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 9th February 2022

Report from St. Brogan's College

Parent Teacher Student Meetings

The school held online parent teacher student meetings for all years except for first years which will be held in March. Feedback from parents and staff is that it worked extremely well and there appears to be interest in this continuing on post Covid restrictions. This will need to be looked at further with parents to see if this is the way they want to run these meetings going forward. The Board noted that it is very important that there is face to face contact with parents.

Teaching and Learning Group

The teaching and learning group are currently working on a bank of information for teachers with ideas for how to use devices to support teaching and learning.

In addition, at staff meetings there is a continued focus on teacher collaborative practice and quality subject department meetings.

At staff meetings we continue to roll out the DEIS plan to staff and also to upskill staff on Learning Support resources and teaching.

The SET co-ordination group is working on different methods of identifying and targeting supports to students with learning difficulties.

Year Planner 22-23

The Board was shown the draft year planner for 22-23 which has been prepared and sent to staff for consultation.

Buildings

The Board was provided with an update on buildings:

Prefabs – A contractor has been appointed for these. The prefabs are being prepared and will be in place for September. They are expected to come on site in May/June.

Expressions of interest have been received to tender for Phase 1 of the new build. The design team will now request tenders from contractors and then once they are in the tenders will be sent to the DE for approval.

Acceptable Use Policy

The Board was presented with a draft Acceptable Use Policy which is currently being discussed with students and staff and will be discussed with parents in the next few weeks. This is an essential policy to get right as students coming into first year next year will have their own devices. The Board will review the draft policy.

Additional Bank Holiday

The Board approved taking the 21st March off instead of the 18th March which is now a bank holiday.

IT Grant

We have received a grant of toward ICT with particular emphasis on the disadvantaged.

Ventilation Grant

We have received a grant towards ventilation and heating in the school and we are currently working with an engineer to look at how we can improve the heating in the four practical rooms.

Devices for Incoming First Years

The Board discussed the purchasing of the devices for incoming first years and where they will be purchased.

Induction of Incoming first years

The Board was informed that the ETB has outlined that schools cannot have an induction day or entrance assessments for incoming first years. The Board agreed that the school will need two half days with just first years at the start of the new year with the first half day being for the normal induction and the second half day for getting used to the new devices.

The school has contact with all the primary schools to get information on the incoming first years and their relevant needs and are currently seeking resources such as AT, transport etc. for them.

PE Uniform

During Covid we were not allowed to use the changing rooms for PE so students wore sports gear one day a week when they had PE. The PE department would like this to continue next year as they feel it adds a significant amount of time to their classes and now that we can have two to three classes in the PE hall at one time the changing rooms are not big enough.

The need to have windows open and the wearing of sports clothes one day a week has eroded the school uniform and parents have also noted the increased cost of purchasing 'fashionable' clothes for PE. To combat this we are investigating the roll out of a PE uniform for next year. The rough cost of the uniform would be €75. We would not make it compulsory for parents to purchase the uniform but note if they wish their son/daughter to wear sports clothes all day they can only wear the PE uniform and if they don't wish to purchase the uniform they can wear their normal uniform all day and change for PE as normal. The Board agreed that this should be explored with the Parents Association.

Report from Kinsale College

2022/2023 Enrolment

Enrolment for the 2022/2023 academic year began in January. A substantial number of interviews have been held over the last few weeks with many learners offered a place and registering for the 2022/23 academic year. Advertising and promotion of our courses is ongoing and constant.

Open Evenings

Kinsale College will hold an online Open Evening on Thursday 3rd March at 8pm. There will be face to face open evenings on 8th, 9th and 10th March. These open evenings will give prospective learners a chance to learn more about what Kinsale College has to offer. While providing a chance to meet some of the teachers and current learners. It will also be an opportunity for prospective learners to learn more about the different grants and funding options that are available.

Cork College of FET

Cork ETB recently unveiled Cork College of FET (previously referred to as FET College of the Future). The new structure for FET in Cork will incorporate six current colleges offering PLC and Apprenticeship Programmes, namely Kinsale College, Cork College of Commerce, Coláiste Stiofáin Naofa, St. John's Central College, Cork Training Centre, and Mallow College. Going forward, all colleges will be known as different campuses of Cork College of FET. Kinsale will be known as the Kinsale Campus.

Visit of Chief Executive of the ETB and the Director of FET

On 8th March the Chief Executive of the ETB, Denis Leamy and the Director of FET, John Fitzgibbons, will visit Kinsale College. This visit is part of the roll out of Cork College of FET. It is envisaged that Denis and John will meet with the Director in Kinsale, followed by an informal meeting with staff over lunch. This will be a chance for the staff to ask questions in relation to Cork College of FET.



Cork College of FET
Cork's Further Education & Training Service

KINSALE CAMPUS
A Pathway for Every Learner

Teaching and Learning

New Level 6 Early Learning and Care Course

Kinsale has made an application to run the new Level 6 Early Learning and Care (ELC) Course. This is the first year this newly structured course will run. It is a follow on (phase 2) from the new Level 5 ELC course which is in its first full year at present.

Subject Department Meetings

All subject department meetings were held the week of 24th January. Planning for upcoming assessments, work placement, supporting students, student progress, online learning, employment opportunities, guest speakers, possible workshops, attendance etc. were some of the topics discussed.

Course Reviews

The college is currently reviewing some of the courses in Kinsale. They are investigating if they can improve links to third level, strengthen job opportunities and respond to changing industry needs.

Continuous Professional Development & Health and Safety

Fire Safety Training

The training will now take place on 23rd and 24th March. A scheduled fire drill will also take place at this time after a number of postponements due to Storm Barra and Covid-19.

Manual Handling

Manual Handling training took place for the staff of the college, on Tuesday 1st and today Wednesday 9th February. There is one further day of training on 7th March at which time all staff will have completed the training.

Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Statement

All risk assessments have been carried out and the college's Safety Statement is ready to be finalised.

Health and Wellbeing

Consent Talk

All students will take part in a talk on consent tomorrow Thursday 10th February. The talk will be delivered by one of the Health Promotion Officers in the Sexual Health Centre.

Sexual Health Awareness

On 14th February we will be receiving a visit from the Sexual Health Centre. They will speak with the students about drugs and alcohol as well as STD's, Gender/LGBTI and other topics.

0 – 5k

At present the college is taking part in a 0 to 5k challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to encourage learners and staff to get out and exercise and keep active and healthy. The challenge will culminate in a college wide fun walk/run on 16th March, where funds will be raised for SVP.

Yoga

We currently offer yoga to all our staff and students, online, every Tuesday evening at 7pm. Depending on Covid restrictions it is hoped to offer face to face Yoga for staff again in the near future.

Erasmus

Our learners and teacher will head to Poland on an Erasmus trip on 5th March for two weeks.