

# Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022

## Report from St. Brogan's College

### Parent Teacher Student Meetings

It was noted that following consultation staff and the parents association agreed to hold in person parent/teacher/student meetings with first, third and sixth years next year and meetings for second, fourth and fifth years online. This will be reviewed at the end of next year.

### Incidental Inspection

The Board was informed that an incidental inspection into the implementation of anti-bullying policy in the school was held on the 10-3-22. The inspection found that the school was in full compliance with the policy, procedures and legislation.

In addition during the inspection the inspector visited a number of classes and gave feedback to management at the end of the day. The feedback received was excellent and commended the relationships between staff and students, the positive learning environment and the excellent teaching. The feedback received was presented to the Board:

*Fantastic – Relationships are so positive – between staff and students and between students themselves, positive learning environment, learning environment is safe, positive and affirming. The learning tasks were engaging. The use of ICT was excellent. Students were very well engaged. Engagement was at the core of lessons. Tasks were so varied, interesting and positive. Students were engaging very well and there was good follow on and understanding from previous lessons. There was good consolidation of learning. Students were very co-operative and very respectful. There was a safe learning environment.*

*Progress was well developed. There was great questioning and answering. The questions were appropriate. Students were very willing to volunteer questions and answers. Lesson preparation was excellent, there were clear learning intentions and they were achieved, there were structured learning tasks and exemplary use of ICT. There was very good use of Assessment of learning and Assessment for learning.*

*There was great variety in tasks, plenty of scope for students to ask questions and students answers if incorrect were very sensitively handled. The schools approach to the use of mobile phones in the classroom was good.*

### Teaching and Learning

The principal reported that the teaching and learning group are planning for the roll out of one to one devices in September.

It was noted that at staff meetings staff are continuing to focus on teacher collaborative practice and quality subject department meetings and the roll out of the DEIS plan to staff continues as well as upskilling staff on Learning Support resources and teaching.

It was noted that the SET co-ordination group is working on different methods of identifying and targeting supports to students with learning difficulties. Part of this is categorising students into All, Some and Few in the Continuum of support.

### **Year Planner 22-23**

The Year Planner including CBAs, Croke Park hours and assessment dates as agreed with staff was presented to the Board. The Board approved the year planner.

### **Buildings**

The Board was updated on the building plans as follows:

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

The tender process is proceeding. The architect has been contacted to make sure works relating to the safety of students and staff are done prior to our return in September. These include a footpath for students all the way up past the existing tennis court and parking for staff.

### **Acceptable Use Policy**

The Board was informed that a draft Acceptable Use Policy has been discussed with students, parents and staff. This is an essential policy to get right as students coming into first year next year will have their own devices. The Board approved the new Acceptable Use Policy.

### **Child Protection Policy**

The Board of Management approved the updated Child Safeguarding Statement and Risk Assessment.

### **Ukrainian Refugees**

It was noted that over the last number of weeks the school has been asked to enrol some Ukrainian refugees. We will do our best but we are unlikely to be able to take in all students who request a place oversubscription.

### **One to One Devices**

The Board was informed that a presentation was made to incoming first year parents about the one to one devices. The credit union has made a very reasonable loan offer to parents who wish to borrow the money for the device. A presentation was made to primary school principals and SET teachers about the device and some Reasonable Accommodation and SET matters.

### **PE Uniform**

A discussion was had with the parents association around the purchasing of a PE uniform. The general agreement was that it is a good idea. Students are currently voting for the different designs to see which they would like.

## **ETB Core Values**

The Board was informed that Derry O'Donovan is our representative working with the ETB on promoting and discussing the Core Values of ETB schools. These core values include:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

He has made an initial presentation to staff and will be presenting to the parents association and also our Board at the next meeting.

## **Report from Kinsale College**

### **Cork College of FET**

On Friday 25th February Minister of State for Skills and Further Education, Niall Collins TD, officially launched Cork College of FET. As a result of the restructuring of FET within Cork ETB Kinsale College is now known as Cork College of FET Kinsale Campus.

Coinciding with the launch and rollout of Cork College of FET both the Chief Executive of Cork ETB, Denis Leamy and the Director of FET, John Fitzgibbons, visited Kinsale Campus on 8th March. Denis and John meet with the director, followed by an informal meeting with staff over lunch, prepared and served by the Professional Cookery learners. Both Denis and John engaged with the staff over lunch answering all questions in what was a very positive and engaging discussion.

### **2022/2023 Enrolment**

Enrolment for the 2022/2023 academic year is ongoing. Marketing and promotion continues to attract future learners to the campus. A substantial number of interviews have been held over the last number of weeks and months with many learners offered a place and having registered for the 2022/23 academic year.

### **Open Evenings and Events**

#### **Open Evenings**

Kinsale Campus held a successful online Open Evenings on 3rd March as well as two, on campus face to face Open Evenings on 9th and 10th March. These open evenings gave prospective learners an excellent chance to learn about the courses on offer in Kinsale, with many signing up for interviews and doing interviews at the events. Prospective learners also had an opportunity to learn more about the different grants and funding options that are available.

There are many more events including, coffee mornings, pizza days and afternoon tea planned for before and after Easter to help create links and attract potential learners to Kinsale Campus.

#### **Green Week**

Green Week took place in Kinsale Campus from Tuesday 22nd March to Monday 28th March. It was run by the Sustainable Horticulture/Permaculture department and their learners. There were many features of the week. Including a local seasonal low carbon lunch prepared, cooked and served by the Professional Cookery learners with all of the ingredients locally sourced. There were also a number of excellent talks on sustainability with the week finishing with MEP Grace O Sullivan giving an excellent talk about her time with Greenpeace. Money was also raised during Green Week with all of the proceeds going to Save the Trees.

### **Seachtain na Gaeilge (Red Cross)**

A coffee morning was held during Seachtain na Gaeilge nuair a bhain an fhoireann agus na foghlaimoirí triail as a gcuid Gaeilge a úsáid accompanied with traditional Irish music agus comhrá. All proceeds went to the Irish Red Cross.

### **Link and Progression Week**

This week is Link and Progression Week in Kinsale Campus. One of the objectives of this week is to get our current learners to start thinking about their future and what they plan to do next year. It is a chance also for current level 5 learners to find out more about level 6 courses on offer in their chosen subject area and also to find out about the other courses on offer outside of their current field of study. Learners are encouraged to engage with their own and other teachers from across the campus to learn more about what course or path of study might suit them next year and into the future.

### **Sustainable Plant Sale**

The Sustainable Horticulture/Permaculture department and their learners are holding a Sustainable Plant Sale on Friday 8th April, beginning at 10am. Native plants of varying varieties will be on sale in the campus. Unique to Kinsale Campus, all of the pots, that will be used, are completely compostable. All proceeds from the sale will be donated to the Irish Red Cross.

### **Art Exhibition**

The Kinsale Campus Art Exhibition, 'Ebb & Flow', will open to the public on Thursday 5th May at 6pm with refreshments provided by the Professional Cookery learners. The exhibition will run from 11am to 5pm from 6th to 18th May and will include sculpture, combined materials, drawings, paintings and ceramics. The exhibition will reopen again, in the campus, for Kinsale Arts Week on 7th and 8th July.

### **End of Year Drama Show**

The Drama Department and their learners will host their eagerly awaited end of year show 'A Midsummers Night Dream' on 6th, 7th and 8th May in Ballinspittle. Tickets will be available to buy in Kinsale Campus, online and at the door.

### **Sustainability Conference**

The Sustainable Horticulture/Permaculture department and their learners will end the year with a Sustainability Conference on 28th May. This conference will host many excellent talks and workshops in the field of sustainability.

## **End of Year Celebration**

An end of year celebration will take place on Friday 3rd June to celebrate the learners completing their chosen course. We hope to hold a graduation for these learners in September.

## **Ukraine**

Initially one of our learners started a collection of clothes, food etc in the campus and made us a hub for others in the community to drop similar items so they could be shipped to Ukraine. We have also held a number of fundraisers for Ukraine in Kinsale Campus.

Recently we have welcomed our first prospective learners from Ukraine with three signing up to do our courses in September. At present there are 65 Ukrainian's being provided with accommodation in a local hotel with more staying with local families. It is thought that many more will come into the area.

The director attend a public meeting in Kinsale on Monday 4th April where supports for Ukrainians were discussed and offered. There are many practical things that Kinsale Campus hope to help out with over the coming weeks and months as well as providing a path to education. We hope to visit the families after Easter and also hold a coffee morning in the campus to invite them to visit and see what we can do to help.

## **Teaching and Learning**

### **End of Year Assessments**

Our end of year assessments will begin after Easter with some exams taking place the week of 25th April with all others taking place the following week. Correction of the assessments, the internal and external verification process will then take place with the results being submitted by Friday 3rd June.

### **New Level 6 Early Learning and Care Course**

We were successful in our application for the new Level 6 Early Learning and Care (ELC) Course. This is the first year this newly structured course will run. As this is a follow on (phase 2) course to the new Level 5 ELC course, which is in its first full year at present, it will provide an opportunity for learners to enhance their skills and learning in this field in Kinsale.

### **New Outdoor Education Modules**

We recently engaged with Quality Assurance (QA) in Cork ETB in relation to submitting an application to QQI to enable Kinsale Campus to use two new modules (developed by Kilkenny/Carlow ETB) on our Level 5 Outdoor Education Course. The Lowland Leader and Stand Up Paddle Boarding Instructional Skills modules will give greater flexibility in relation to the modules we can offer learners in Kinsale. They will also enhance an already excellent course. Special credit needs to be given to Jeff Cochrane and the Outdoor Education Department for pursuing this and for their expertise in relation to the application process.

### **Subject Department Meetings**

All subject department meetings were held the week of 28th February. Planning for the opening evenings, assessments, work placement, supporting students, student progress, online learning, employment opportunities, guest speakers, possible workshops, attendance etc. were some of the topics discussed. All minutes of meetings are saved on Microsoft Teams.

### **Personnel**

At present we are waiting to receive our final teaching allocation with a number of teaching posts due to be advertised in May.

We have been unsuccessful to date in securing a cleaner on a permanent basis. Discussions continue with Cork ETB HR and the Department of Education.

## **Continuous Professional Development & Health and Safety**

### **Quality Assurance (QA) Refresher**

Katie O Reilly from QA came to Kinsale on Monday 4th April to do a refresher workshop with teachers in relation to the end of year assessments and the internal and external verification process.

### **Manual Handling**

The final Manual Handling training for the year took place on 7th March with all eligible member of staff having now completed the training.

### **Erasmus**

Our Erasmus learners were due to go to Poland, for two weeks, on 5th March. Unfortunately due to the crisis in Ukraine a decision was taken to cancel the trip.

### **Staff Health and Wellbeing**

Plans are in place to finish off the academic year with two health and wellbeing activities planned for the staff to acknowledge the fantastic work they have done during the year.