

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 27th September 2022

Report from St. Brogan's College

Collegial Partnership Coaching (CPC)

At the end of last year Dr. Joe Moynihan from UCC approached the school to see if we would like to get involved in a new pilot project to develop a coaching model for teachers. This project has the approval of the Teaching Council. A group of teachers volunteered to be involved in the process. They have started being trained in coaching and are all set to coach each other for the year to improve teaching and learning. The pilot is being run with us and a primary school in Carrigaline.

Teaching and Learning

Our new teaching and learning group has begun meeting. The priorities of the group are to work on co-teaching models throughout the school, to look at room layout, support the roll out of Lenovo devices and continue to give support the improvement of teaching and learning in the school. The Board will be updated on outcomes from each of these initiatives.

One to One Devices

The roll out of the one to one devices with first years is going well. All students purchased the device and we have downloaded all their books onto the device. We have developed a roll out plan to ensure that students are not overwhelmed with information. All first years are getting three classes a week on IT.

Leaving Certificate

The Board was provided with a copy of the anonymised Leaving Certificate Results and the congratulated the teachers on the excellent results.

Critical Incident Plan

The updated critical incident plan was presented to all staff.

Whole School guidance Plan

The Guidance Counsellors have begun a three year process to update the Whole School Guidance plan. They have created a guidance team and will be working closely with them and all the stakeholders to develop the plan.

Admissions Notice and Policy

The admissions notice and admissions policy have been prepared according to guidelines from the DE and the ETBI template. The Board of Management approved the admissions notice and admissions policy for 2023-24.

Staff Mental Health

All staff were reminded of details of the Employee Assistance Scheme which allows for 24 hour access to a helpline for staff.

Child Protection training

All staff have been asked to renew their child protection training. This is a short online course and all staff must have it completed by the 6th November.

SNA training

All SNAs were given training in dealing with epilepsy, diabetes and students with shunts at the start of the year. Three SNAs who are not fully First Aid trained will be trained next week and we will renew the training of all other SNAs when it is due in June next year.

Child Protection Annual Review

The Board conducted the Child Protection Annual Review.

Anti-Bullying Policy Annual Review

The Board conducted the Annual Anti-Bullying Policy review.

Break times

This year we have two small breaks but only one lunch break.

- a. 1st, 3rd, 5th – Break 10:25 – 10:40
- b. 2nd, 4th, 6th – Break 11:05 – 11:20
- c. One lunch time for all 1:20 – 2:00

Open Evening

The open evening will take place on the 13th October. In consideration of all the building works and little availability of parking we have divided the schools into two groups and there will be two principal addresses to allow parents and children time to view the rooms and reduce overcrowding given the continuing Covid 19 risks.

Buildings

The Board was updated on all the following works done to the building and updates on current building works.

1. Changes were made to the heating system to enable additional heating to be given to the woodwork and engineering rooms.
2. We have been given approval for a significant amount of new and replacement equipment for the woodwork and engineering rooms following a request to the DE. These items include new lathes. A tender process has been completed by the ETB and purchase orders are currently being prepared.

3. We have applied for and received funding to replace the existing lift in the B and C area. There is a significant amount of work involved in this and since we currently have students to rely on the lift the work will not take place until next summer.
4. We have received funding to replace the existing lights in a large section of the building with new more efficient LED lights. This work should begin after Christmas.
5. There was a delay in the building of the prefabs due to unexpected requirements from the Fire Officer. There are to be two new blocks each consisting of 4 rooms and toilets. The first block called the G block will be given to us at the end of September. The second block called the H block will be given to us at the end of October.

We have kept the four old prefabs which we were due to lose until the end of October and they will be used by the Leaving certs until the new block is finished.

The other classes have been reassigned to the main building and the soccer club for the month of September. Space is extremely tight but we will have the first block ready for 3rd October.

6. A company called Costellos has been appointed to do the first phase of the main building – the three storey building which will contain three science labs, two home economics rooms, an art room and three classrooms. They are starting on site on the 26th September.

A discussion was held around issues relating to parking. As the new builders will need to take over the tennis court staff will no longer be able to park there. We have agreed with the Soccer club that they can park in their car park until the new spaces for staff are completed. It was agreed that the fairest thing to do was to offer staff a space in the school grounds on a rotational basis until the new spaces are completed.

PE Uniform

This year we introduced an optional PE uniform that can be worn on the day students have PE. The uptake on this has been very good especially amongst the younger students. There was a problem with having enough stock in the store that supplies them but this has now been rectified.

Assistant Principal positions

The new roles of the Assistant Principals I and II have been agreed with all staff and were approved by the Board of Management. It was noted that there will be additional APII positions this year.

Report from Kinsale College

The Board was provided with the following report on Kinsale College.

Teaching and Learning

JAM Card

Kinsale Campus will soon be launching the JAM (Just a Minute) Card. JAM Card allows learners with a hidden disability of communication barrier to tell others that they need extra time and understanding in a private and easy way.

2022/2023 Enrolment

Applications

Applications are still open and interviews are still taking place at present. The delay in the issuing of CAO places has been a contributing factor in relation to this.

Induction Week

The learners returned to campus on Monday 12th September. During the first week a number of events including live music, live DJ, cinema club and drama performances took place to help the new learners settle into life in Kinsale. The students also got to sample some pizza cooked by our staff and there was even ice-cream to enjoy. Details in relation to student support services, accommodation and Green Campus were discussed and distributed as well as setting students up with their college Office 365 accounts.

Staff Health and Wellbeing

Surfing and Walking

The first day all teachers returned to campus, after our staff meeting, all staff took part in a wellbeing afternoon. This included a choice of surfing in Garretstown or a guided walk around the Old Head. All followed by food in Stranded Café in Garretstown. A great afternoon was had by all.

Events

Graduation

On Thursday 1st September we held our graduation in Actons Hotel, Kinsale. This was the first graduation since 2019. Comedian, Bernard Casey, was our guest of honor on the day. The event was very well attended by learners and was an excellent way to begin the academic year.

Open Day

We held an Open Day on campus on Friday 9th September. Again this was the first open day at this time of year since 2019 and it was great to see prospective students on campus speaking with our staff and finding out about courses on offer in Kinsale.

Culture Night

Kinsale Campus hosted an event for Culture Night on Friday 23rd September. This event was an exhibition of multichannel immersive artwork. The exhibition, MAPS, is a collaboration between

miniaturist / watercolorist Hina Khan and film maker / composer David Ian Bickley (teacher at Kinsale Campus). The video, and augmented reality elements, are created using Hina's paintings, wrapped and animated to make immersive environments around themes of borders and migration.

Other Events

Over the past few weeks we have run a number of promotional and informative events. These include shopping centre promotion in Bandon, Wilton and Carrigaline shopping centres, a coffee morning in Kinsale Campus as well as the events mentioned above. I would like to take this opportunity to mention how well the staff worked and collaborated in the organisation and running of these events and to thank them for this excellent work.

Ukraine

Ukrainian Workshop

On Thursday 8th October we held a workshop for Ukrainian nationals who had registered to do a course with us in Kinsale Campus. This workshop was to assist the students with grant applications and to inform them of their entitlements in relation to studying in Ireland. This workshop was excellently ran by our Guidance Counsellor, Alayne Hynes and one of our teachers Anne Barry. Anne did English language classes with many of the students over the summer months.

English Language Classes

As previously mentioned, we ran English language classes for Ukrainian's over the summer months. As we have returned to college these classes have ceased but they are due to begin again in Kinsale in association with the West Cork Development Partnership.

Personnel

New Members of Staff

During May and June a number of interviews for teaching positions took place. We are delighted to welcome Eimear Walsh to the team as our new Early Years teacher. Also we are very happy to welcome Colin Wong (Outdoor Education), Eilish Munday (Healthcare and ESOL), Marcus Bale (Drama) and Anne Barry (Business) back to Kinsale.

Changes in Personnel

Over the past few months a number of valued employees have moved on from Kinsale Campus including the retirement of one of our administrators, Marian Dorgan. Steven Jeffers (IT Support) has also moved on.

Our caretaker is to take up a new roll with Bandon YouthReach. Our new caretaker is due to begin with us on Monday 10th October.

I would like to wish all of our former and soon to be former colleagues the very best of luck in their new roles and chapters in their lives.

CPD

Fire Safety

All members of staff took part in Fire Safety Training on Wednesday 7th September. We also conducted a Fire Drill for staff on the same date and another one for both staff and learners on Thursday 22nd September.

Prior to both fire drills fire safety meetings took place and a review of last Thursdays drill will take place this week.

Moodle & IT

Farad Raissa facilitated workshops and one on one support tutorial's with teachers on Thursday 8th September. This was in relation to using Moodle as a platform to support students learning as well as general IT assistance. Farad will return to Kinsale again this Wednesday 28th September.

IT Equipment

New Equipment

We have secured funding for some additional IT equipment to help support and enhance the students learning and to improve the IT equipment in Kinsale. This included some new iMac computers, a photo scanner, laptops, laptop trolley and multimedia equipment.

Devices for staff

I would like to thank Helen Cadogan for her help in relation to organising and including Kinsale in the managed service agreement for devices for teachers and PA's in Kinsale. Wriggle have given us a delivery date of 7th October for the new devices and all old devices will then be returned within two weeks.

Erasmus Visit

Over 20 teachers from 6 different countries will visit Kinsale Campus on Wednesday 28th September in connection with the Erasmus Programme. These teachers are visiting with Edmond Rice College Carrigaline this week. They are coming to Kinsale Campus to learn about the creative spaces and opportunities that are available in Kinsale, in relation to teaching and learning.

Accommodation

Accommodation is an issue for many students attending and thinking about attending Kinsale Campus. Dónal Chambers has done a lot of very good work in relation to linking students with accommodation by promoting a Rent a Room scheme in the town and surrounding areas.