

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 28th February 2023

The Chairperson offered condolences to all on the passing of Paudie Palmer and noted his incredible contribution to the St. Brogan's College Community.

Teaching and Learning

At a recent staff meeting the following Teaching and Learning items were covered with staff:

- Blooket – Michael Connern and Sinead Lane gave a presentation on how to use Blooket which is an online resource similar to Kahoot.
- Geraldine O'Halloran presented two simple assessment techniques that can be used to reinforce material. They were Connect 4 and Traffic Lights. Four members of staff took part in Connect 4 as a demonstration.
- SET Presentation – Michelle Ryan gave a presentation with ideas on running a learning support class with first and second years. She noted an idea she is rolling out to work on spellings. Michelle also noted the great work being done in learning support classes and how great it is that learning support teachers are liaising with mentors.
- Accelerated Reader – Chris Prout gave a presentation on Accelerated Reader and how it works. This will be rolled out with a select group of Junior Cycle students to help improve their reading ability. Chris and Josie are working on setting all this up. The mentors will inform staff of those who will be participating in it in their years. It was noted that the books in the library are colour coded depending on the reading ability of the students. There is a plan to put a cupboard in the back of some of the rooms to make the books more accessible.

Pre Exams

Pre Exams were held before mid-term. These ran very well and a lot of work was done to support students using Assistive Technology, accessing scribes and separate centres.

Parent Teacher Meetings

We have been using an online scheduling system for parent teacher student meetings and it is going well. Parents get an appointment time and room to meet each teacher.

Wellbeing

The wellbeing team are building a calendar of events that promote wellbeing. Teachers were encouraged to add in any events they are doing that coincide with the indicators of wellbeing and also those that align with national events.

Year Planner 23-24

The Board approved the year planner for holidays in 2023-24.

Induction Meeting for incoming first years

An induction meeting was held for the parents of incoming first years. This is the first part of the induction programme. The meeting outlined how parents choose subjects and also gave information on the devices students need to purchase. We will have an induction morning on Saturday 25th March to do a reading age test and give students a tour of the school and we have another meeting planned to give parents further details on books and so on before they join the school.

Buildings

1. A meeting was held with the DES regarding plans for phase 2. They have requested an additional Autistic base class and will also provide 9 additional SET rooms as well as a classroom for Rang Iosaif. The SET rooms will be provided throughout the building.
2. We requested a number of items such as canopies joining the prefabs, additional porches and changes to entrances to deal with cold and access.
3. The building of phase 1 is on schedule to be completed by September.

The Board considered a recommendation for expulsion.

Report from Cork College of FET – Kinsale Campus

Enrolment

Enrolment has begun for the 2023/2024 academic year. Regular interviews are taking place with a number of learners having already accepted their place for next year.

Teaching and Learning

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

We are currently looking for feedback from teachers in relation to UDL and CPD completed on this topic in December. Further CPD, training and initiatives will be planned based on this feedback and input from teachers.

Health & Safety

Risk Assessments & Emergency Response Plans

Risk assessments were updated by staff as part of a Health and Safety Workshop before Christmas. Signage in relation to emergency response plans have also been updated around the college. A number of risk assessments have been updated in relation to our Outdoor Education Courses.

Marketing, Promotion and Events

Online Information Evening

We ran a very successful online information evening on 31st January. At this session we went through the courses on offer in Kinsale Campus, the student supports and funding options available as well as answering questions and queries from the people in attendance.

Coffee Mornings

We have run a number of coffee mornings on campus over the past few weeks and months. We have a series of further coffee mornings planned also. Each department will run their own coffee morning bringing back past learners as well as attracting new ones.

Guidance Counsellor Information Day

On Friday 24th February we ran a very successful information day for guidance counsellors. Our guests were treated to lunch, information about our courses, a quick tour and a questions and answer session.

Health Promotion Week

Health Promotion week takes place on campus from 27th February to 3rd March. Events such as a Free Porridge Morning (sponsored by Flahavan's), Mental Health Talk, Coffee Morning, Culture Day and Fun Food Facts will take place during the week.

Green Week 13th – 16th March

Green Week will run from 13th to 16th of March this year. The focus this year is on saving energy. There will be a number of companies available on campus during the week providing information on how you can save energy in homes and businesses. This week is organised by the Permaculture Department.

Open Day 30th March

This year Cork College of FET will run two open days. An open day for the city campuses on 7th March and an open day for the county campuses on Thursday 30th March. We are looking forward to welcoming prospective learners on the 30th.

Art Exhibition

The Art Department will host their annual art exhibition on Thursday 27th April.

Drama Workshops and End of Year Play

Our Drama Department have a number of taster workshops planned as follows (all 7.30 – 9.30pm):

- Tuesday 21st March – O’Donovan’s Hotel, Clonakilty
- Thursday 23rd March – Kinsale Campus
- Monday’s 3rd and 17th April – The Roundy, Castle Street, Cork.

They will also put on a number of showings of their end of year play at the end of April and the beginning of May.

Opening Evening 11th May

We will run an open evening in Kinsale Campus on 11th May.

Competitions and Nominations

France-Ireland network for Culinary Arts Hospitality and Tourism (FICAHT)

Two of our learners have been shortlisted for the finals of the Cook and Serve competition FICAHT 2023. The learners, along with their teacher, Jenny Fitzgerald will travel to France to take part in this final on 29th March.

Dublin International Film Festival (DIFF)

A short film created by Kinsale Campus learners and one of our Multimedia teachers, David Bickley, was shortlisted for the First Frame competition in this year’s DIFF23 programme. “*Something to Declare*” was created in collaboration with the Drama and Multimedia departments. Drama students acted while augmented reality was used to create their surroundings.

Erasmus

Ten learners from Kinsale Campus took part in an Erasmus trip to Granada in Spain, before Christmas. The students took part in classes and work experience in their chosen courses. A further sixteen students will head back to Granada again for the last week of the current term and one week of the easter holidays.

Cork College of FET

A briefing session for all Cork College of FET campus staff will take place next Monday 6th March at 3.30pm. This will be an online event live on Teams. The event will be hosted by Denis Leamy, Chief Executive and John Fitzgibbons, Director of FET. The various boards of management and unions also received an update recently.