

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 27th April 2023

Teaching and Learning

The current Teaching and Learning group are working on a plan for next year which will focus on whole school initiatives to improve students study and study skills.

P-PADE

At a recent staff meeting staff were given a presentation on this new assessment developed by NEPS which can help with RACE, Irish Exemptions, the continuum of support and DARE. This assessment will be administered to all first years next year as well as the NGRT and CAT tests. It will produce reports for the SET team as well as a report for subject teachers. The main SET team have been trained on the administration of the test.

Learner Voice

At a recent staff meeting the learner voice team showed a video of three students explaining how having dyslexia affects their learning and what helps them to learn better. This is to encourage students to express themselves, to give them a voice around teaching and learning and to educate teachers on students difficulties.

DES Subject inspection

We have been informed that there will be a History inspection next week.

DEIS Plan

It was noted that at the end of each year an analysis of how we are doing with the DEIS targets is conducted. The results of the review of the targets at the end of 2021-22 was presented to staff and show some targets met and some with more work to do. At the staff meeting staff were reminded of the interventions at class, subject department and whole school level.

School planning

Senior Management prepared a list of school policies that require reviewing and developing. This review process is ongoing. The list was presented to staff and work has begun on the following:

- Code of Behaviour – A group of staff has begun reviewing this policy and started the consultation process with staff.

- The Guidance team are currently developing a new three year policy on Guidance to take account of the new guidelines from the NCGE. Helen and the guidance teachers have attended two days of inservice on this, a guidance team has been set up and an initial meeting with staff has taken place.
- The Health and Safety Co-ordinator has worked with staff to conduct risk assessments and the Health and Safety policy has been sent to the ETB.
- A group has been set up to develop a new SPHE and RSE policy in line with the changes to the syllabus in both.

Year Planner 23-24

Staff have agreed on the structure of the year planner for 23-24 including Croke Park hours, CBA schedule and assessment schedule. The BOM approved the plan for the year.

Posts of Responsibility

The Board approved the updated list of posts of responsibility following the recent appointment of three new APII posts.

Transfer Applications

It was noted that we will be accepting applications for transfer from the 1st May to the 31st May. After that we will hold another Board of Management meeting to see how many places are available and to conduct any lottery if necessary.

Induction Morning for incoming first years

It was noted that the school held an induction morning for incoming first years on Saturday 25th March.

Feedback from first year parents

A questionnaire was sent to first year parents to get feedback on how their children are getting on in the school and their thoughts on the school. In addition they were given questions on the use of the Lenovo device. The Board was presented with a copy of the feedback. The feedback was very positive with the vast majority of parents saying they were happy with the use of the Lenovo device. The overriding concerns were around parents

parking, shortage of space and disruption due to construction. The other matter that came up frequently was the weight of the school bags.

Buildings

The Board was updated on the ongoing building and maintenance works as follows:

- We have been informed that there will be a delay of three weeks in the handover of phase 1 of the building. We are currently looking at how this will impact us for September and whether we will need to rent additional rooms in the town to tide us over or look again at when transition years do their work experience.
- The architects have provided draft plans for phase 2 of the building.
- We have recovered the floor of the two Engineering rooms and are planning on doing the same for the woodwork rooms.
- We are currently working with the procurement section of the ETB to go through the tendering process for all the equipment needed in the new building.

Fleadh Cheoil

The Fleadh Cheoil will take part in the school over the weekend. It is an honour to have so many people from Cork County visiting our school.

Report from Cork College of FET – Kinsale Campus

Enrolment

Enrolment is ongoing for the 2023/2024 academic year. Regular interviews are taking place with a large number of learners registered to the coming year

Teaching and Learning

End of Year Assessments

Our end of year assessments begun this week with more exams taking place next week. Correction of the assessments, the internal verification and external authentication process will then take place over the coming weeks with the results being submitted by Friday 2nd June.

Subject Department Meetings

All subject department meetings were held the week of 20th March. Planning for the opening day, assessments, work placement, supporting students, student progress, employment opportunities, guest speakers, possible workshops, attendance etc. were some of the topics discussed. All minutes of meetings are saved on Microsoft Teams.

Universal Design for Learning (UDL)

We received a visit from teachers working in vocational education in the Basque region of Spain on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. They came on the visit through Erasmus with a view to learning more about UDL and how it works in further education in Ireland. On Wednesday they met with our Assistant Principal, Helena Farrell and Guidance Counsellor, Alayne Hynes to learn how UDL is embedded in Kinsale Campus. They also spoke to a number of our teachers regarding their use of and experience with incorporating UDL in their classrooms. On Thursday they met with the Active Inclusion Team in Cork ETB (in Kinsale Campus) for further information and discussion.

Health & Safety

Risk Assessments & Emergency Response Plans

Many risk assessments have been updated by staff recently with more time being allocated to this in May. All risk assessments, the Safety Statement, Fire Response Plan and Emergency Response Plan have been uploaded and made available to Cork ETB.

Marketing, Promotion and Events

Green Week 13th – 16th March

Green Week with a focus on saving energy ran very successfully from 13th to 16th March. A large number of students and the general public attended the various workshops and talks that were on offer as well as gathering information on how you can save energy in homes and businesses from the many sustainable energy companies that attended. A huge thank you to the Permaculture Department for organising this event.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

We held a maidin chaife le haghaidh Seachtain na Gaeilge on the 16th March. It was great to have staff and students come together chun a chuid Gaeilge a úsáid. Míle buíochas chomh maith to the staff and students that played music and sang creating such a fantastic atmosphere.

Cork Lifelong Learning

Kinsale Campus was extremely busy for the Cork Lifelong Learning Festival the week of 27th March. So much so we gained the status of having a Cork Lifelong Learning Fringe Festival. Many different workshops, talks, demonstrations etc took place over course of the week from many different departments including Drama, Healthcare, Film and TV, Art, Horticulture and Early Learning and Care. A huge thank you to all the teachers for their time and effort.

Open Day 30th March

We held a hugely successful Open Day on Thursday 30th March. A big number of potential students attended to gather information about courses and talk to our teachers and students. The group of students from St. Brogans College enjoyed their day with us with many promising to return.

Sustainable Plant Sale

Coinciding with the Open Day the Permaculture Department ran their annual Sustainable Plan Sale on 30th March. Native plants of varying varieties were on sale. Unique to Kinsale Campus, all the pots, that were be used, are completely compostable. The day raised over €1700 for the Irish Red Cross.

Art Exhibition

The Kinsale Campus Art Exhibition, 'Aurora', will open to the public on Thursday 27th April at 6pm with refreshments provided by the Professional Cookery Department. The exhibition will run from 11am to 5pm from 2nd to 12th May and will showcase many different mediums and techniques including sculpture, combined materials, drawings, paintings and ceramics.

End of Year Drama Show

The Drama Department and their learners will host their eagerly awaited end of year show 'The Miser' on 3rd May in the Cork Arts Theatre (tickets through <https://corkartstheatre.com>) and 5th and 6th May in St. Catherines Cultural Centre Kinsale with all shows taking place at 7.30pm. The final show will take place on 7th May in St. Catherines Cultural Centre Kinsale with a 2.30pm start time (tickets through www.kinsalecampus.ie)

Opening Evening 11th May

Our open evening will take place on Thursday 11th May.

Active Consent Workshop

We completed our first Active Consent Workshop on 27th March. A big thank you to our staff members, Alayne Hynes and Linda Davis, who recently undertook training to become Active Consent facilitators and they will roll out this initiative across the campus in the new academic year.

Competitions & Awards

Cork ETB Enabling Entrepreneurship Awards

On 14th March at Cork ETB's Enabling Entrepreneurship Awards Kinsale Campus took home the award of Entrepreneurial College of the Year. This was a huge achievement and testament to the fantastic work and commitment of both the teachers and students. Further to this, one of our students also received the 'Best Marketing Plan/Pitch' award. A huge well done and thank you to Deirdre Carney and Thomas Riedmuller for their work on entrepreneurship in the college and to all the students also who represented Kinsale Campus with pride.

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

Well done again to our Professional Cookery teacher Jenny Fitzgerald and our students who traveled to France to take part the FICAHT competition on 29th March. While they narrowly lost out to MTU they received fantastic feedback from all at the competition.

Personnel

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

Last week we also said farewell to our long serving Personal Assistant, Angela Fahy. Angela will be sorely missed by the staff and students in Kinsale. We wish her the very best in her next chapter.

Continuous Professional Development

A number of whole staff and individual CPD training opportunities will take place in May. Across topics such as OneNote, First Aid Refresher Training, Health and Safety Updates, Wellbeing, Environment Sustainability Awareness and much more.

Erasmus

Sixteen students recently went to Granada in Spain on an Erasmus Plus trip. The students had a fantastic time completing work experience and learning about new cultures on this trip. A big thank you to Michael Dalton for all his work in organising these trips and to the teachers and Personal Assistants who accompanied the students.