

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 20th September 2023

Teaching and Learning

The teaching and learning group is focusing on Learning this year and has planned a series of presentations to staff on how to support students with study techniques.

Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied Results

The Board of Management noted the Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied results and commended the teachers and students on their excellent results.

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 the Admissions Policy.

School Self Evaluation (SSE)

The Board was informed that the school is now required to focus on the theme of Wellbeing in the SSE process and for the coming year we will focus on Ethos in line with the work already being done by ETBI.

SPHE

The Board looked through the draft SPHE policy which was prepared to conform with the new SPHE curriculum. The Board adopted the new policy.

Assistant Principal positions

The new roles of the Assistant Principals I and II have been agreed with staff and the Board approved this list.

Child Protection Procedures Revised 2023

The Board of Management Adopted in full the Child Protection Procedures Revised (2023)

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

Staff Mental Health

It was noted that all staff were reminded of details of the Employee Assistance Scheme which allows for 24 hour access to a helpline for staff. This was done at the initial staff meeting.

SNA training

The Board was informed that all SNAs and PE teachers were provided with First Aid Training in June to ensure that their First Aid Certificates are up to date. In addition they received additional training on Muscular Dystrophy, Epilepsy and diabetes.

Lift

A new lift and additional changing facilities have been added to improve wheelchair access.

IT Training

It was noted that all staff have been required to do a course on IT security. This was organised by Cork ETB.

Child Protection Annual Review

The Board of Management conducted the Child protection annual review.

Anti-Bullying Policy Annual Review

The Board of Management conducted the Anti-Bullying Annual Review

Open Evening

It was noted that the open evening will take place on the 12th October. We will be doing two slots again this year with the principals speech happening twice.

Enrolment Figures

The Board of Management was provided with up to date Enrolment Figures for the last number of years and projecting ahead to the next few years. At present there are 831 students enrolled in the school.

Buildings

The Board was provided with the following update on buildings.

1. A new lift has been added to replace the old one in the B and E area.
2. The new build will be handed over to us on Friday 6th October. We will be able to hold classes there from the 9th October which is just in time for the open evening which is on that

Thursday.

3. The main push on now is to get all the equipment and furniture delivered.

We can access the building but not have classes on the week of the 2nd to the 6th October to set everything up.

4. On the weekend of the 7th and 8th October all the rooms will be changed for all the timetables and everyone will be issued with a new timetable on Monday morning – 9th October.

We have received the drawings for Phase 2 which have been presented to the DE since mid-Summer.

Report from Cork College of FET – Kinsale Campus

The following report was provided by the Director of Cork College of FET – Kinsale Campus.

Teaching and Learning

UDL Community of Practice

A UDL Community of Practice has been established. The first meeting took place on Tuesday 5th September. This community of practice has been established so teachers can share experiences and learn from each other.

CPD

Dyslexia Ireland Workshop

Teachers and PA completed a workshop with Dyslexia Ireland on Wednesday 6th September. This was a very informative workshop equipping teachers and PA with the knowledge to help support their students.

Moodle & IT

Farad Raissa facilitated workshops and one on one support tutorial's with teachers on Thursday 7th 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 at various times throughout the year to support staff.

Cyber Security

All staff completed cyber security training at the beginning of September.

GDPR Training

GDPR training was completed by all staff at the beginning of September.

Social Media Workshop

A large number of staff took part in a Social Media Workshop run by Hopkins Communications on Tuesday 5th September. This was aimed and upskilling members of staff regarding social media and the benefits of it to the campus.

AI Training

All teachers will take part in AI Training on Thursday 21st September.

2023/2024 Enrolment

Applications

Applications are still open and interviews are still taking place at present.

Induction Week

The learners returned to campus on Monday 11th September. During the first week a number of events including live music, live DJ, and a 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. Students also visited the new Kinsale Library to register as members. 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

Staff Wellbeing Day

On Monday 4th September we had a Staff Wellbeing Day. The morning began with Mental Health and Resilience Training. This was followed by the option of a Bike Tour or a Guided Walk around the Old Head, Garretstown and Ballinspittle area. A huge thanks to Ruth Hermon of Wild Atlantic Sports for the Bike Tour and to our Guidance Counsellor, Alayne Hynes, for leading the walk. A great day was capped off with food in the Speckled Door.

Events

Graduation

On Thursday 31st August we held our graduation in Actons Hotel, Kinsale. John Fitzgibbons, Director of FET, was our guest of honor on the day. The event was very well attended by learners and their family and friends with a really nice atmosphere at the event. It was an excellent way to draw the old academic year to a close and to begin the new one.

Open Day

We held an Open Day on campus on Friday 8th September. The day was very well attended and it was great to see prospective students on campus speaking with our staff and finding out about courses on offer in Kinsale.

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 as well as numerous promotional visits to different centres and organisations. 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.

Culture Night

Kinsale Campus will host an event for Culture Night on Friday 22nd September from 7 – 9.30pm. The project, SALT, a collaboration between David Bickley and Hina Kahn, explores ideas of liminality with reference to borders both within landscape and cultural identity. Taking a salt marsh in West Cork as a core location, SALT is a multichannel immersive audio visual work based on cinematic sources and animated ink drawings.

Building and Campus Upgrades

Work is completed and ongoing on a number of projects to upgrade the campus. These include the removal of a cob structure, the installation of a new window to upgrade a classroom, the installation of a new storage shed, lining of the staff car park and the replacement of a prefab classroom.

Personnel

New Staff

In June a number of interviews for teaching positions took place. We are delighted to welcome Jessica Quirke, Business teacher, to the team. We are also delighted to add two new PA's in Tristan Cannon and Andrew Kenneally to the team.

Changes in Personnel

Over the past few months we bid a fond farewell to teachers Anne Barry (Business), Marcus Bale (Drama) and David Bickley (Creative Digital Media). I would like to wish all of our former colleagues the very best of luck in the next chapter in their lives.