

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 29th November 2023

November/Christmas Exams

House exams were conducted for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th years last week. The exams ran very smoothly thanks to the work of Zoe Dinneen and Mary Foley.

Parent Teacher Meetings

We will hold our first Parent Teacher Student meeting of the year next Thursday. It is with leaving certs and will be organised using a scheduling system giving each parent an appointment with each teacher.

Teaching and Learning

The teaching and learning group gave a presentation to staff on retrieval practice and the forgetting curve. This is part of our T&L strategy for the year where we are focusing on student learning. Class tutors went through the presentation with students.

SENO request to open additional AS class

It was agreed that as the next phase of the building will allow space for five AS classes in all in the school we wish to wait until it is complete to have additional classes. At present we do not have the space required to open an additional class.

School Attendance Campaign

The school received a grant as a once off payment to all schools to promote school attendance. This funding is to be targeted to students at risk of educational disadvantage and whose attendance patterns were impacted by Covid 19. The school has set up group to determine how best to target this money.

SSE – School Ethos

The Ethos group had their first meeting where they prepared surveys to give out to parents, students, staff and the Board of Management. These are designed to gather data to inform which area(s) we need to focus on for improvement in the ETB values of Respect, Equality, Excellence in Education, Community and Care.

RSE Policy

A group of teachers have prepared a draft RSE Policy taking into consideration the new SPHE specification. The next stage is to consult with parents on the policy.

Fire Drill

The initial school fire drill was held and any areas for improvement have been noted.

Review requests following Refused Admission

The Board considered requests to review refusals to enrol based on oversubscription.

Buildings

It was noted that we now have the go ahead to do the detailed plans for planning permission for Phase 2 of the build. This is currently progressing.

Heating and Toilets

Funding has been sought from the Department of Education replace our old boiler and also to refurbish the existing toilets.

Report from Cork College of FET – Kinsale Campus

Assessments and Feedback

Christmas exams will begin on Monday 18th December with a variety of assessments also taking place before the Christmas break.

All learners will receive formal feedback from their teachers before the Christmas break.

Microsoft 365 and Moodle Workshops

The College recently rolled out in class Microsoft 365 and Moodle workshops to all students.

Basic Computer Classes

Basic computer classes have been running on campus over the past few months. A big thanks to our guidance counsellor, Alayne Hynes, for running these important classes.

Enrolment

Enrollment for 2024/2025 is now open. Potential students can apply as usual through kinsalecampus.ie and also through CAO. A central applications process for Cork College of FET is due to go live very shortly where potential students will apply for all courses across all campuses from the same place.

Fire Drill

A fire drill was carried out on Tuesday 28th November. The Fire Response Team will meet to discuss the feedback in the coming weeks. A Fire Response Workshop will take place with all staff before the Christmas break.

First Aid

Our members of staff trained in first aid will complete a refresher course, before the Christmas break, to keep their qualifications up to date.

Risk Assessments

All staff will take part in a Health and Safety and Risk Assessment workshop before the Christmas break. This is with a view to assessing and updating (if needs be) the current risk assessments.

Halloween Spookfest

An open mic Halloween celebration, talent show and fancy dress took place on Thursday 26th October. This was all capped off with pizza cooked and served by the Professional Cookery students and teachers.

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Market

Our annual Christmas Jumper Day will take place on Wednesday 6th December. This will coincide with the Professional Cookery Department running their annual Christmas Market where they will produce festive treats for all. Our Permaculture students will sell seeds and other produce. The Childcare Department will also be involved on the day, running a raffle and providing hot chocolate

and cookies. As well as this the Healthcare Department will entertain everyone with some carol singing. All proceeds from the day will go to the Simon Community.

Christmas Play 15th December

The drama students will present their play "A Shovel Full of Earth" on Friday 15th December. The students have worked extremely hard in the preparation of this play and it promises to be a fun afternoon on campus.

New Hybrid Classrooms

We recently fitted out two of our classrooms with a hybrid classroom set up. This incorporates an interactive whiteboard, TV screen, two cameras, a microphone and visualiser. These classrooms will greatly enhance teaching and learning and enable easier and enhanced communication across departments of Cork College of FET in the years to come.

New Laptop Loan Computers

This week we will receive 10 new laptops for our laptop loan scheme. This scheme has been oversubscribed this year which prompted this purchase.

Buildings Upgrades

New Storage Shed: Our new shed will be completed this week. This will greatly improve storage on campus.

New Furniture: New furniture will be installed in one of our newly revamped hybrid classrooms this week. This will greatly complement the new IT system and recent renovation of this room.