

## **Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

### **Pre Exams**

Pre Exams for third and sixth years are currently taking place and will be finished by mid term.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Parent teacher student meetings have taken place for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> years. There are only meetings for first and fourth years to be completed. The automated system for organising individual slots with each teacher is working well.

### **Teaching and Learning**

At a recent staff meeting the teaching and learning group gave a presentation recapping on Blooms taxonomy, placemat, jigsaw and the reflection number line. These are areas covered in presentations during previous years and staff were reminded that these are tools in a teachers toolkit.

Mr O'Donovan and Ms Vaughan also gave a presentation to all Deputy Principals in the ETB on our Teaching and Learning programme this week.

### **Learner Voice**

Our learner voice group are trialling a programme called SPOTLITE – Student Perspectives on Teaching and Learning in the Educational Space. The learner voice group chose a group of students who were trained and three students have gone into each teacher's class and observed. They then collaborated on a feedback sheet. They gave feedback to the teachers and it is hoped that we will do more of this and then the students will present to the staff on what they like in the teaching and learning space in classrooms. A further round of observations is planned for the after mid term. We hope that once the students have presented to staff that they will also present to the Board of Management.

### **Subject Choice for Senior Cycle**

Our current third years are the first group who have 160 students. They will be entering transition year next year. As a result of the bigger numbers we will be offering them two additional subject choices for the Leaving Certificate. These are Computer Science and Economics. The school is now offering twenty one subjects to choose from for the Leaving Cert. The Board commended the fact that new subjects are being introduced and students have a very broad choice.

The Guidance Department have planned a subject options week at the end of February for third years and we are hoping that we can get them to make initial choices at the end of third year so we can create the bands.

### **One Hour Classes**

It was noted that the option of moving to one hour classes next year has been discussed with staff. Initial information was distributed to staff, a discussion was held at a staff meeting and staff were given a vote on whether to try one hour classes next year or not. The majority of staff agreed that moving to one hour classes would be in the best interests of teaching and learning in the school.

The board was presented with a rationale for moving to one hour classes as well as a sample of how the new week would look. It was noted that this is just the initial look at the change and discussion needs to happen with parents and students. A sub committee of staff has been set up to look at the different options to be looked at.

### **JCT Cluster Day**

All teachers took part in training on the New Junior Cycle on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The SNAs did training on patient handling on that day also.

### **Ethos Group**

As part of our School Self Evaluation process having given out questionnaires on Ethos to staff, parents, students and Board of Management the Ethos group have noted areas that may need to be looked at. The group will now choose one area to focus on and make an action plan on how to improve it.

### **Year Planner**

The Board approved the initial Year Planner for next year.

## **School Attendance Campaign**

We have begun our school attendance campaign with first and second years being encouraged to improve their rate of attendance from the month of November to the month of January.

Our analysis of the figures show that overall there is very good attendance.

## **Buildings**

Plans for the next phase of the building are at an advanced stage and will soon be ready to seek planning permission. If all goes well the new building would be completed around Summer 2026.

A discussion was held around raising money for the astroturf. It was agreed that we need to do a lot of fundraising. The Board asked that Helen set up a fund raising committee. It was suggested that a past pupils union should also be created.

## **Lenovo Device**

The cost of the Lenovo device for next year will increase to €589 as the old model is no longer available and a newer version is being sold.

## **Free Junior Cycle Books**

The Department of Education announced at the last budget that there will be free books for all junior cycle students. The school has not received any further information on this to date but the Board welcomed this development.

## **Deputy Principal – Kinsale College**

The Board was informed that Martin Coleman – Deputy Principal – has been appointed as Deputy Principal in Carrigtwohill Community College. The Board congratulated Martin on his appointment and wished him well.

## **My Canine Companion**

The school has been given a school therapy puppy – named Ultan. He is being trained by Allen Cronin (SNA) and Helen Cadogan. His main role will be to support students who are anxious, in Rang Iosaif and/or have a diagnosis of AS as well as putting a smile on everyone's face thereby improving morale.

## **BT Young Scientist**

The Board congratulated the students who took part in the BT Young Scientist competition.

# **Report from Cork College of FET - Kinsale Campus**

The Board was informed of the following:

## **Enrolment**

Enrolment has begun for the 2024/2025 academic year. There is a new application process to apply for courses across all further education campuses in Cork College of FET this year, including Kinsale Campus. Applicants can still apply through our website as normal. However, from here the application process has changed. Applicants will apply through a central application portal where they can view and pick courses across all the campuses of Cork College of FET. Students rank their choices from 1-5 and can pick from courses across all campuses. Students attend for interview at the campus of their first preference. Regular interviews are taking place at present, in Kinsale, with a number of learners having accepted their place for next year.

## **Health & Safety**

We are currently looking at upgrading the health and safety signage around the campus. A big thank you to Linda Davis, our Health and Safety Officer, for her work on this.

## **Marketing, Promotion and Events**

## **Guidance Counsellor Information Day**

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 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 this week from Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> to Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Some of the topics being covered and events taking place are as follows: workout session and information regarding health and fitness, mental health awareness and information stand, goal setting workshop, wholefood and sustainable healthy take away lunch from our professional cookery students and sensory stations and activities.

## **Open Day 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Again, this year Cork College of FET will run two open days. An open day for the city campuses on 5<sup>th</sup> March and an open day for the county campuses on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. We are looking forward to welcoming prospective learners to Kinsale on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

## **Art Exhibition**

The Art Department will host their annual art exhibition on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

## **Drama Department - End of Year Play**

The Drama Department have chosen The Crock of Gold, by James Stephens, for their end of year play this year. The play will run from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Opening Evening 9<sup>th</sup> May**

We will run an open evening in Kinsale Campus on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May.

## **Erasmus**

Learners from Kinsale Campus will embark on two separate Erasmus trips this spring. Some of our Film & TV and Drama students will head for Warsaw from 28<sup>th</sup> February to 12<sup>th</sup> March. A few weeks later another cohort of learners will visit Malaga from 17<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March. Learners will complete two weeks of work experience as well as learning about local culture and work practices.

## **Cork College of FET**

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January a Cross Department Collaboration Workshop took place for all teachers across all campuses of Cork College of FET. The morning and afternoon sessions were facilitated by management of the campuses. The workshops gave staff across all departments a chance to meet, get to know each other, discuss and share ideas and experiences.

An online workshop with a focus on Sustainability is scheduled for Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March and a further cross departmental workshop is scheduled for May.

## **Buildings Upgrades**

**New Front Door:** A new front door will be installed over the February midterm.