

Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 19th September 2024

Teaching and Learning

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

Studyclix

The school has again paid for all students and teachers to have access to Studyclix Plus. Staff had a training session at the start of the year to ensure that they can make full use of this aid to improve teaching and learning.

Athena Tracker

The school has invested in Athena Tracker which is a system used to track student performance. The system will be rolled out with staff and students/parents with the support of the Teaching and Learning group. The Board agreed that this would be very beneficial for students, parents and staff.

It is hoped that once students and parents have been given access it will support students in setting targets and improving motivation. It will also support staff to identify students who are underperforming so interventions can be made to support the student.

Transition Year Structure

To give students a rounded Transition year and allow them to pursue their own interests in addition to leaving cert subjects and transition year modules this year we have asked students to choose one project to focus on for the year.

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 are approved the Policy and the Notice.

Focus Points for the year ahead in School Planning

The Board agreed on a number of priority items to focus on for the year ahead.

- a. Post of Responsibility Review
- b. Provision Mapping – Planning for SET
- c. New DEIS Plan
- d. Teaching and Learning – continue to focus on study incorporating Athena and Studyclix
- e. Sustainability
- f. One-hour classes - review
- g. Digital Learning Plan
- h. Mobile Phones
- i. Developing a new Anti-Bullying Policy following the new guidelines
- j. Review of Transition Year to determine changes required under new guidelines.

Staff Mental Health

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

All SNAs were provided with additional CPR and Defibrillator training at the beginning of the year to support a student with particular difficulties.

IT Training

All staff have been required to do a course on IT security, GDPR and Child Protection. This was organised by Cork ETB.

Fire Safety

New signage has been purchased for assembly points in case of fire. These will be erected in the coming weeks.

Open Evening

The open evening will take place on the 10th October. It will take place between 6:00 and 8:00 with the principal's address at 8:00.

Buildings

1. The old boys bathroom has been reconfigured. The urinal has been removed and replaced with individual cubicles.
2. A new storage shed has been purchased and installed for PE equipment. The shed has replaced the storage container which was old and allowed the equipment to get damp.
3. Now that we have storage new equipment is being ordered and delivered for the PE department. This is part of an upgrade which we applied for to the DES and will involve a large quantity of equipment including outdoor and indoor gym equipment.
4. Steps have been installed to make an area behind the school accessible. Teachers on our sustainable committee along with transition year students are working on making this area accessible for students.
5. All plans for the next phase of building have been sent into the Department of Education since the beginning of the summer however, as of yet despite regular contact we have not been given the go ahead to seek planning permission.

Gym

The Board agreed that the new outdoor gym equipment will go on the avenue inside the footpath.

Retirement

Therese O'Mahony has retired from her role in admin following 46 years of service to St. Brogan's College. The Board commended Therese on or fantastic service and support for all in the school community

One hour classes (58 minutes)

As planned the school has moved to 58 minute classes for all students. Feedback at the moment is good however, the Board agreed that a review of the change should be undertaken at the end of the academic year to ensure that it is benefiting students.

School Attendance

The school will continue with the attendance campaign for the coming year. As an initiative last year the parents of any student who had full attendance was not charged for any of the usual expenses for the coming year. Six students fell into this category. The Board commended this idea.

Report from Kinsale Campus

1. **Current Enrolment update:** Level 5 & 6 QQI Enrolment figures on September on 16th September 2024 comprise of 138 registered students.
2. **Courses 2024-2025:**
New courses: 0
Course cessation: 3 (Level 6 Film & TV, Level 6 Drama and Level 5 ESOL)
Cessation due to low enrolments.
3. **Policies 2024-2025:**
1 new policy in development currently: AI AUP
1 policy amendment: Health & Safety
4. **Graduation & Open Day 2024:**
Graduation of Class 23-24 took place on Sept. 5th in Actons Hotel, Kinsale.
Campus Open Day took place on Sept. 6th onsite.
5. **Buildings Update:**
Small 2 room building being considered for demolition on health and safety (mould, structural issues) grounds.
New gas heating system has been fitted for main building.
A new bike rack is due to be installed.
All alarm systems have been serviced.
All main buildings and walls painted during summer break.
Public usage of amphitheatre paused due to health and safety issues. No scheduled classes timetabled for same.
6. **Calendar/Important Dates Sept. – Nov. 2024:**
PLSS/October Returns: October 6th, 2024
Alignment Clarification expected mid-October 2024.
7. **Haddington Road & Croke Park Commitments:**
All staff are engaged in both.

