

# **Report to Staff and Parents following Board of Management Meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## **Teaching and Learning**

The Teaching and Learning group is preparing short videos on different aspects of AI to support teachers and are also preparing videos on different teaching and learning strategies we've done over the years so we can support teachers to recap on ideas, but also to support our new teachers giving them information on the different teaching and learning strategies that we use in the school. They presented this at our recent staff meeting.

## **November Assessments**

At our recent staff meeting a discussion was held on whether or not to change the way we do November Assessments. With the addition of AACs the calendar for 6<sup>th</sup> years will be very busy with deadlines. The loss of class contact time also needs to be considered. Some teachers expressed that the assessments should continue as they are as it is very important to get students to practice exams and study. It was agreed to return to this discussion at the next staff meeting and make a decision there. The Board reviewed the published exam dates for Leaving Certificate 2027 and discussed the effect this will have on students and the running of the school.

## **Curricular Plan for Senior Cycle**

The Board reviewed the current Curricular Plan for Senior Cycle. It was noted that from 2027 we must provide an hour of SPHE in both fifth and sixth year. In addition the new syllabus for LCVP which begins next year requires 2 hours per year instead of 1. This means that we need to find 2 hours in the curricular plan for both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year. Each year a significant number of our students count LCVP for their points. Different solutions to the difficulty were put forward at our recent staff meeting but we agreed to discuss and look into all possibilities before making a decision at our next staff meeting for the coming year. The Board noted the difficulty with running LCVP over two hours per year.

## **School Policies and Procedures**

It was noted that the school has received a template for a Whole School Inclusion policy from the ETBI which we will be working on for the coming year. It requires customisation to suit our school.

Provision Mapping – The Board was informed that we continue to work on Provision Mapping with the ETBI. We have received feedback from staff and parents and are going to work with a focus group of students after Easter.

Healthy Eating Policy – A group of teachers have been working on a Health Eating Policy for the school and have been working with our canteen suppliers to change the food offerings. The Board was presented with a draft Policy and were asked to review it and send on any comments or suggestions as we will consider approval at the next meeting.

Assessment Policy – It was noted that the staff approved the final draft of the Assessment Policy at our recent staff meeting and the board approved the Assessment Policy.

### **HSA Inspection**

Further to the report following our recent HSA Inspection the Board was provided with a copy of the plan with timelines to complete all items which has been sent to the inspector.

### **Training**

It was noted that we are arranging training with the ETB on Abrasive Wheel Training, Working at heights, Fire Warden training and Occupational H&S for Managers.

### **Roll out of New Senior Cycle**

It was noted that Liz Mc Hugh and Helen Cadogan attended a Senior Leadership training day on Senior Cycle Redevelopment.

### **School Budget**

The Board noted that we have received our Main Scheme budget figure for the coming year.

It was felt that we need to increase the charge for buses from €70 per child to €80 per child given the increase in prices for the hire of buses and this is all that is charged to families.

### **School Calendar for next year**

Following the publishing of the new Standardised School Year Calendar the Board approved the Calendar and Plan for Croke Park Hours agreed with staff.

### **Buildings**

The equipment for the school gym has been installed and it is up and running. The PE department are doing induction for all year groups on the use of the equipment as well as an induction for all staff. We are looking at arranging use of the gym after school on Wednesdays and Fridays for those waiting on the bus. The Board of Management were given a tour of the new gym.

The plan for the Biomass boiler is continuing at present. This will also involve the installation of gas boilers.