

Board of Management Meeting

9th October 2017

Principal's Report

1. Events Diary

- 16/08/17 Huge congratulations to all staff for their hard work and dedication as we celebrate excellent LC results. Four students in excess of 500 points, two of which exceeded 600 points. Well done to all students and parents also.
- 17/08/17 D O Rourke attended principals meeting regarding update on current matters with New JC etc...
- 21/08/17 Learning & Teaching Team meet for the first time for academic year 17/18 to discuss current and additional strands.
- 25/08/17 An excited and energetic staff arrives back to school for yet another exciting school year. Staff meeting / workshop on L&T.
- 28/08/17 We welcome our new 1st year students to their new school community. They spend a half day in school for their "Induction".
- 29-30/08/17 2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th years returned to school.
- 31/08/17 Our new Transition Year Programme began with our TY students starting back to school. Thank you to Ms Culligan (TY Coordinator) for all her work last year in preparation for hopefully fruitful and successful programme in the school. Also thank you to all teaching staff who dedicated a lot of time to developing our TY curriculum.
- 04/09/17 Staff meeting: Follow up on L&T. Health & safety risk assessments.
- 07/09/17 Our TY students travel to the Gaeltacht in Dingle as part of their subject Teanga Gaeilge. The group visited an aquarium, took part in

céile dancing, went on a bus tour around Mount Brandon and visited the Blasket Island visitor centre. A big thank you to both Ms Convey and Ms Meaney for planning and giving up their time for the trip.

- 11/09/17 D O Rourke attended Principals meeting at Marshal House. Further updates within LCETB and start-up of new school year.
- 12/09/17 Girls football match against Kilkee. Congratulations and well done to our school team on their successful win. Thank you to Ms Meaney for her time and dedication with the girls football team.
- 13/09/17 Well done to all our students who received their Junior Cert results. Results were well in line with other years. It is the first year that the grading system has changed for English.
- 14/09/17 Ms Convey held a coffee morning in aid of Hospice and managed to raise €102.
- 15/09/17 Our girls football team were yet again successful in another victory game.
- 15/09/17 18 of our 6th year students took part in a walk from Norrie Henchys pub to Feakle in East Clare as part of their Gaisce Award. A lot of credit due to Ms Convey and Ms Doohan for continually arranging for students to take part in a very beneficial awards programme.
- 18/09/17 Boys soccer blitz with Ennistymon. Well done to both Mr O Dwyer and Mr Canny for their success in organising and running the blitz. Both schools really enjoyed the challenge.
- 19/09/17 We held our first Parents Association meeting of the school year. We had a good turn out with some new members. They have already started to organise a monster bingo to fundraise for the school. It is great to see such a committed and active parents association. Thank you to all involved.
- 21/09/17 Ms Meaney and 3 students travelled to Galway to attend a workshop which was our first step towards trying to achieve the Gael Bratach for our school. It is a credit to both our Irish teachers Ms Convey and Ms Meaney for keeping the Irish language so alive and strong in the school. This will be a proud achievement for our school and hopefully we succeed.

- 26/09/17 Ms Convey attended a conference through NAPD. Guest speaker was a Senior Inspector from DES and spoke about SSE.
- 27/09/17 Ms Ryan attended NEPS update in Clare Education Centre re continuum of support.
- 28/09/17 We had a very successful 1st year Mass for all our 1st year students, Parents and Staff. It was a lovely night and credit is due to Ms O'Brien, Ms Vaughan, Ms Doohan, Seamus and Trilby for all their work. Also a big thank you to Fr Albert for yet again giving his time to plan and deliver the ceremony. We also had a guest speaker Peter Casey who spoke about motivation and releasing potential. Thanks to Peter for traveling out to us.
- 29/09/17 Girls football match against Kilmihil. Unfortunately luck was not on our side this time. Commiserations to a hard working team and thank you to Ms Meaney for all her time dedicated to training the girls.
- 02/10/17 Our TY students travel to Petersburg Outdoor Activity Centre where they took part in both land and water activities. The trip was a great success in terms of team building and bonding for the entire group. Thank you to both Mr O'Dwyer and Ms Vaughan for organising and traveling with the group. Such trips are often memorable for our students.
- 06/10/17 We had our Opening Mass with the entire school community within the school. It is a major event to mark the commencement of hopefully an enjoyable year of teaching and learning for all. Thank you to the same team of staff who also helped with our 1st year Mass. Again a special thank you to Fr Albert for his lovely ceremony.
- Later that day we had two female students complete a fundraising challenge to cut their hair in order to fundraise for their trip to Missionvale.
- Both students and staff bid farewell to a long serving staff member Ms Healy who dedicated her teaching career to the teaching of French both in Cahercon and in St John Bosco Community College. Her contribution outside of the classroom as school tour coordinator and Yearhead will be deeply missed and her shoes in that regard will be

hard to fill. We wish her every happiness and good health in her retirement.

6 Departmental Reports (including programmes)

6.1 Special Education Needs (SEN) –

We officially held our SNA allocation of 1.5. This is due to be cut to 1 next year which means that we may lose one SNA. Ms Ryan is currently updating our student support files and adjusting our approach in line with the new SEN model.

6.2 Student Support Team (SST) – The SST team will meet on a weekly basis as before. We have been following up on cases from last year and we also have referrals for a number of our new first years.

The team continues to support many other students in a less formal way.

7 Leading Learning & Teaching

7.1 Our LLT team are now timetabled to meet on a weekly basis. This helps greatly to aid the continued support needed to keep our SSE process in motion. We now have added a strand called “ Active Teaching Methodologies “ to our SSE process. We are currently finalising targets for Numeracy, Literacy and ATM strands with the aim to produce our 2017/2018 School Improvement Plan before

our midterm break. We hope to utilise and include Dáil na Scoile to advise and assist with surveys with all 3 strands in the school. We also intend to raise awareness of our strands by erecting banners in the GP area, which will graphically explain our current SSE status.

8. Building / Maintenance Works

8.1 The courts were finally relined over the summer break.

All shrubbery areas have been re-stoned.

New school sign has been erected and looks impressive. We are very pleased with it. Designer/printer has agreed to supply new fire assembly point signs and subject signs for notice boards around the school at no extra cost.

Large flat screen has been mounted in the GP area for showcasing school events and promoting upcoming events.

24 New PCS have been installed in computer lab. This lab has also added security of CCTV surveillance. 5 DCG spec PCS are to arrive in coming weeks and installed to the rear of the room along with an A3 printer to facilitate introducing DCG on the senior curriculum.

A lot of credit is due to our school caretaker for his commitment to the school. Seamus is very dedicated to his work and ensures all duties/maintenance is carried out where necessary.

9. Three students fundraising to travel to Missionvale

Competition was very strong for the two positions available for students to travel to Missionvale this school year. Mr O Rourke and Ms Culligan had tough decisions to make to try and narrow down student names to two successful candidates. Three students were chosen in the end and they are busy holding fundraising events to raise the funding needed for the trip. To date there was a table quiz held in O Deas in Lissycasey and raised in excess of €1600. Huge effort was put in by Bríd Browne from our parents council and her daughter Lilly.

Two students travelled to Kilrush Mart on bucket collection and another student

went busking during Fleadh in Ennis. Well done to all of them for their efforts. There are a number of upcoming events also planned. A traditional music night will be held in O Deas pub on this Friday night coming and also a concert is planned to be held here in the school sports hall. Davan Livingstone's Father David, is putting in huge efforts in the organisation of both events.

A lot of credit is due to Ms Convey for her continued efforts to ensure we have students on an annual basis traveling out to Sr Eithna to help in Missionvale.

10. An Gael Bratach

As per explanation from our two student representatives we are doing a lot in terms of supporting the Irish language at present. If we follow the conditions and targets associated with the terms of qualifying for this award we hopefully will have the status of holding the Gael Bratach by this time next year. Thanks to Ms Meaney and Ms Convey for taking on this task and spending time on it. Best wishes to all involved.

11. 4th Theme for our green flag

As everyone is aware we are proud to hold our third green flag status which is down to the efforts of Ms Moroney, Ms Convey and our students in this area. We have now applied for our fourth green flag status which involves an additional set of criteria. We hope to be successful as before and best wishes to all involved.

12. Feedback from Board of Management Meetings to all Partners.

Suggestions are welcome from the board.