

Coláiste na hInse
BOM Meeting – Agreed Report – Parents

Information for reporting to Parents following meeting of the Board

Date of Board of Management Meeting	1st December 2020
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Sympathy was extended to a member of the board on a recent bereavement. Congratulations was extended to a member of staff on the recent birth of her daughter. Secretary to the board was asked to send a letter of condolence and a letter of congratulations.

Anti-bullying report:

Anti-bullying audit was carried out on 16th November. Any issues identified are being investigated and dealt with in line with school policy. 13 Staff members are currently training with Helping Hands Anti-Bullying Programme. Plan to run the Helping Hands software with 5th and 1st years in January 2021.

Principal's report:

School Management

Feedback from in-school meetings

Optional staff meeting held on Thursday 26th November 2020. The following issues were raised:

- COVID-19 – Barriers have been ordered for the canteen to ensure better social distancing in this area.
- Christmas exams to be pushed back due to loss of teaching and learning time at the beginning of the year – decided week of 14th December.
- Proposal to increase the number of Coiste (working committees) in the school. New Coiste proposed: School Self-Evaluation, student and parent voice, assessment and academic monitoring, attendance, high achieving students. These are in addition to the existing Coiste – health and safety, teaching and learning, wellbeing and dearfachas, Positive behaviour
- 3 Posts of responsibility (AP1) have been advertised and are due to be interviewed for directly before or after Christmas.
- Due to national teacher shortage in some subjects there are still some outstanding vacancies – thanks to teachers who altered their timetables to help with this issue.
- Housekeeping – non-uniform jackets, work experience for LCA and idir bliain (7-11th December), students on corridor during classes – need to have note in cinn lae. Issue of students using electric scooters raised. Principal to contact Gardaí to ask what their position is on this.

Promotion and public relations

Greater emphasis to be put on this area. Proposal that this work will be a full post of responsibility.

Student numbers

Closing date for applicants to 1st year (2021/22) is close of business on Wednesday 2nd December. Waiting list to be addressed after closing date.

General issues relating to education of students

- Classes are progressing well. We have purchased book boxes for most 1st year students and have ordered for the rest of the school. Students will use these as lockers which will allow them bring books to school and home for homework in the usual way. Issue is sourcing boxes – procured supplier cannot get any more stock. We are seeking to purchase elsewhere.
- Studyclix licence has been purchased for all students.
- Amazing brains study skills programme was delivered to all 6th years on 24th and 25th November.
- Renewed focus on academic and attendance monitoring in January.

2. Management of Resources

Staff CPD

- Helping hands training ongoing for staff 13 staff.
- Patient handling training for SNAs and PE teacher
- Facility and scheduler training planned for Senior Leadership Team
- Restorative practice training being held for staff
- 1 staff member currently taking part in Droichead Training to support Newly Qualified teachers.

Curriculum Provision

- There are some issues with staffing at present – due to COVID-19 related absences and/or staff leaving. These issues are almost at resolution.

Staff report

School activities

- Gaeilge 24 – event took place in November for Idirbhliain daltaí where they were encouraged to speak Gaeilge for the day. Lots of fun events such as Bingo as Gaeilge took place
- Caretaker Erasmus Project – We are delighted to be taking part in our first Erasmus Project. Aoife Tiernan and Siofra McKeever are working with a group of idirbhliain daltaí on this. The project will run for two years and sees CNI partnered with schools in Spain, Turkey and Germany. During the two years daltaí will focus on four main themes; Our Future, Personal Development, Mental Health and Sexual Awareness. They will partake in creative projects based around these themes. At the moment we are working on our first task, a video introducing ourselves

Guidance & Counselling

- Educational guidance – the school has hugely invested in empowering students learning this year. 6ú daltaí all attended a study skills workshop from Amazing Brains this week. All daltaí have also been given studyclix accounts to help with study and revision.

- Junior daltaí have been engaging in the NCGE guidance related learning lessons within their wellbeing classes.
- Stand up week is an important week to raise awareness of LGBT+ bullying and focus on creating a more positive school environment. Our students created a beautiful display in an ghríanan, all daltaí received rainbow stickers and lessons were taught through Wellbeing, Guidance and SPHE

Vocational guidance – As part of College Awareness Week we are hosting a virtual CAO parents evening. 3ú and 6ú were treated to a lovely raffle with prizes to help with their study!! We also had some fabulous videos sent in by past pupils highlighting their own college path. 6ú are currently engaging in their one to one vocational appointment

Personal guidance – We are aware that some daltaí are feeling anxious during these unusual times. Ronin guidance is linking with some daltaí virtually. We continue to see daltaí for one to one personal counselling to work on resilience and coping skills.

Student Council

- 1st meeting of the senior student council due to be held on Thursday 3rd December. Junior student council to meet Thursday 10th December. Aim of the council is to promote ‘Student voice’ in the Coláiste.

Parents Association Report

Welcome and Thanks

PA Chairperson expressed the following:

- Welcome to Gabrielle Harte, our new CNI Deputy Principal.
- Words of thanks to the Teachers, Secretaries, Caretakers, Cleaners and all members of CNI staff for all their work to get school reopened safely.
- Wellness Day much welcomed.

Current Committee for CNI PA

Chair – Emer Reilly, Vice Chair – Linda Burke, Treasurer – Cathy Mooney, Secretary – Sasha Byrne. This committee will stand until September 2021.

Update from School

- Most important that Students and Staff feel safe.
- Students coping extremely well.
- The ethos of positivity in the school resonates very much at this time and teachers are continuing to keep this going with days such as the Wellness Day and Teacher Fancy Dress for Halloween
- Extra-Curricular activities on hold until such times allow once more.
- Everyone is finding their way through this – but so far so good.
- It has been noted by teachers in the school that many students who cycle to school are not wearing helmets.
- Also due to the nature of the busy road, students who cycle, tend to cycle on the path for safety reasons – but this often forces students who are walking to step off the pavement into the road.
- A suggestion was made that any students who do cycle to school must step off their cycles and walk with them on the pavement when cycling on a busy pavement.

- It was also stated that the new road does look to have a cycle lane which may ease this issue for the future.

Parents Questions for School

- Communication from School – Has been a breakdown in communication it was agreed.
- Outgoing principal's leaving was not announced to school. New Principal arriving has again was not communicated. Some parents not receiving texts. An audit of this to be undertaken as some parents may have changed number without informing school.
- PE Lessons – There has been an issue with PE lessons not able to happen as actively as before. Following Covid Advice, the PE Department are trying their best to work within the guidelines of no contact sports and equipment use. Taking baby steps forward with these classes as pupil and staff safety is of importance. PE Department are looking at ways to mix up the tempo of the classes and discussions will happen expressing parents' concerns.
- Assessments, Tests and Exams – Leaving Cert 6th Year – Formal Timetable Exams w/c 9/11/20 – Mock Exams February 2021. Junior Cert 3rd Year – Assessment Exams w/c 9/11/20. 1st, 2nd, 5th and TY – Christmas Exams mid-December.
- 1st Years will have an assessment and update sent to parents before end of the year regarding their academic progress and how they are adjusting to their new school.
- 3rd Year will have communication from school regarding the Parent Evening that cannot go ahead and will be informed of alternative arrangements. 3rd Year students will be given a grade from their exams.
- School urged parents to regularly check with their child's Cinn Lae as to their progress.
- School doors Open – The school doors are now open at 8.15 each morning due to the cold weather.
- School Bags – It has been noted that for some students their bags are extremely heavy. The idea of keeping textbooks at home is not always possible School are introducing a Plastic Box system, such as in operation in many primary schools – so that books can be left under their desk.
- Teachers Absenteeism – This has been an issue for obvious reasons at this time with teachers needing to self-isolate etc. School is aware of this and are ensuring all classes are supervised.
- School is trying its best to make sure work is set by the absent teacher and the possibility of the teacher remotely teaching from home while another teacher supervises the class if the need arises.
- School are very much aware of the need to continue students' academic learning and asked for understanding that they will do their best to make sure all classes are covered with academic learning and not just supervision classes.
- School Uniform – It will be discussed that students may be able to wear PE uniform on colder days during the winter months as the windows need to be open for ventilation but the students also need to be able to keep warm.
- Christmas at Colaiste – Not going ahead in its usual format this year. Staff are working on providing other positive activities. PA say they are happy to help. All ideas welcomed by the PA.

- Anti- Social Behaviour – It has been noted by several parents that some students are openly smoking close to school premises in the mornings before school. This does not give a good impression of the school and sets a bad example to the younger primary school children who have to pass them each day on their way to school.
- Spanish – It was mentioned that the Spanish in the school has appeared to be limited on the curriculum due to staff shortages. School are aware of this and are happy to work with parents to resolve.

Finance report

- Some student direct costs remain outstanding and will be followed up on in the coming weeks.

AOB

No matters raised under AOB

Date of next meeting

9th February 2021