



Board of Management meeting  
Wednesday, 23 January 2019

### **Report to the School Community**

1. Opening prayer read by Tony
2. Principal's Report
  - a. A summary of events and achievements was presented. Highlights included:
    - Christmas Mass
    - Whole school awards ceremony. Bishop Dermot Farrell addressed the school and presented the awards.
    - Christmas concert
    - TY: Barista training workshop,
    - Safer internet day.
    - All Ireland Basketball play-offs: Senior and u-15
    - Visit by Irish Ambassador to Belgium and past pupil Helena Nolan. She along with an official from the DFA and a member of the Defence Forces made a presentation to our 5th Years on the role of diplomats and peace-keeping missions on the world stage.
    - 4th Year retreat delivered by Loreto Sisters
    - Junior Cert Music trip to National Concert Hall - National Symphony Orchestra played the coursework pieces.
    - 6th Years - Macbeth in the Watergate.
    - U-16 and U-19 Badminton winners of regional Division 1 titles
    - Win for 1st Year soccer
    - Senior Camogie team defeated in the Leinster final and Junior team play in their final this weekend.
    - Senior Hockey team defeated in the Cup final on penalties today after an excellent performance.
    - Young Scientists Exhibition:

YSE 2019 - 5 projects (top in Kilkenny) made it to the RDS. Team won the Science table quiz at the event.

Group1 Aoibhe Collins and Isobel Caldbeck and Caragh Keating  
The effects of music on mammals

Group 2 Abbie Gilson and Ellen Daly

What causes stress in teenagers and the effects on the body

Group 3 Katy Hynes and Cliona Dunne

Assessing parental attitudes to the HPV vaccine for boys - Highly Commended

Group 4 Shalom Oyenuga and Aoife Mulhall and Isobel Gill

Transition Year 'yay or nay' - Highly Commended

Group 5 Maria Godden and Olive O Keeffe and Sophia O Shea

Hard water heating - energy consumption

b. Health and Safety

- Eamon Jackman attending course on new guidelines and will commence the development of an updated policy subsequently.

c. Building Programme

- Ionad Saoirse:
  - i. Issues with the alarm and heating system resolved.
- Hockey pitch maintenance roll-out: it was reported that a small vehicle to pull the newly purchased drag brush was being purchased.

d. Student Council

- Preparing for February meeting with Board.
- A review of the Student Council Constitution is currently taking place.
- A review into the Cara Programme is also being carried out with two focus groups being organised to get students feedback on the current programme.

e. School Self-Evaluation

- It was reported that the staff committees had upcoming planned meetings.
- Eamon Jackman and Majella Rafter have attended training on note-taking in the context of GDPR

f. Curriculum

- Roll out of subject choice for 1st Years - process outlined.
  - i. All First year classes have had a class with the Guidance Department regarding the Subject Choice Process.
  - ii. The Subject Options booklet has been distributed to first year students and their parents via compass. We would like to thank subject departments for their input into this booklet.
  - iii. As mentioned above the Parent Teacher meeting will take place on 23/01/19.
  - iv. All first year classes will then receive a second class with the Guidance Department on the Subject options process with an input on completing the form.

- v. Students will be asked to submit their choices by the Wednesday 13th February. Students will choose 5 option subjects to continue for 2nd and 3rd year and will indicate a preference also for the Short Course which they would like to continue studying.
  - o TY/LCA parent night
    - i. The event was well attended (95 approx). Current students of both the TY programme and the LCA programme spoke about their experience of the programmes. We were also delighted to welcome back a past LCA student Ms. Siobhan Gannon who spoke about her experience of the LCA programme and her progression after the course to a PLC course in Ormonde College and later to an honours degree in Social Care.
  - o It was reported that the curriculum committee is currently looking at the introduction of new subjects at Leaving Certificate - Politics and Society (2019), Computer Science (2020) and Physical Education (2020).
- g. JMB Bulletins 21 to 23 were summarised.
  - h. Department Circulars 0084/2018 and 0001/2019 were summarised.
  - i. Child Protection - it was reported that new documents from the Dept. regarding inspections had been received. The principal presented the checklist for reporting child protection concerns in accordance with the agreed procedures for post primary schools.
3. Parents' Association Report: a discussion took place regarding how the attendance at meetings could be improved. The following suggestions were made: survey of parents, class representatives to attend meetings, meeting of officers, link with Student Council.
4. Continuing the Journey Reflection -
- a. The Board reflected on the topic 'thinking and acting justly'
    - i. Inclusion: Ionad Saoirse and International Day
    - ii. How to encourage students to treat each other justly
    - iii. Promoting an awareness of the vulnerability of students from backgrounds of disadvantage - Fr McGrath Centre, etc. Awareness of global issues and Sr Orla in Rumbek.
  - b. Next month's topic from the Mary Ward Compass: embracing diversity.
  - c. Student fashion show and jackets for Rumbek also discussed.
5. Finance
- a. The finance committee met last Friday
  - b. The reconciled bank balances were presented to the Board.
  - c. Overall, the committee was happy that the performance to date was satisfactory and that income and expenditure was in line with budget expectations.
  - d. The committee is continuing to work towards increasing the numbers of tax back forms received from parents.

6. Items and times for next meetings:

a. The following dates were agreed:

- i. 28 February meeting, representatives of the Student Council were invited to attend.
- ii. 25 March
- iii. 30 April
- iv. May meeting

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Colm Keher,  
Secretary.