

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

Miontuairisc:

Tues 10th May 2022 8.30pm

Lucht Freastail:	Micheál Ó Tuama Diarmuid Ó Rinn Breda Dennehy Des Connolly Denis Twomey Tricia Ní Riain	Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin Catriona Hogan Twomey Carmel Ní Bhrúadair Colette Ní Fhionnagáin Suzanne Moloney	
Lucht ar Líne	Clíona Fergy Winnie Lynch	Josephine Sugrue Elaine Hill	Sheelagh McCarthy Paula Kennedy
Leithscéalta	Helen Mannion	Mark Chu	Caroline Ní Mhurchú

Minutes Issued by: Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin

AGENDA:

- Fáilte (Julie)**
- Apologies (Julie)**
- Minutes from previous meeting (Nicola)**
- Imeachtaí Scoile ón Príomhoide (Micheál)**
- Golf Classic Update (Julie)**
- Feedback from Parents re: Parent/Teacher Meetings (Parents)**
- Discuss upcoming changes to Leaving Cert (Mícheál)**
- Actions' List Update (Nicola)**
- Roll Call (Nicola)**
- AOB**
- Date for next meeting**

Imeachtaí Scoile:

1. 05-04-2022 B11 took part in Orienteering day in John O'Callaghan Park. Coláiste is developing its own orienteering pathway at the school for both PE and regular classes
2. 06-04-2022 Online information night took place for BL4
3. 08-04-2022 B15 took part in a Drum Workshop
4. 24-04-2022 Following the Easter break B15 went to Ballyhass

5. 25-04-2022 Home Economics practical exams took place
6. 28-04-2022 As part of the Leaving Cert Biology course, B16 went on an Ecological Tour
7. 29-04-2022 Workshop for B14 Subject Choices. Their subject selection has now been completed
8. 03-05-2022 Staff Meeting
9. 04-05-2022 B11 took part in a Football blitz where there were also other games and competitions
10. 05-05-2022 Gaeloideachas Conference in the Rochestown Park Hotel
11. 06-05-2022 B15 went on an Ecology Tour
12. 09-05-2022 – 13-05-2022 Wellness week to include activities such as a sound bath, Zumba, singing and dancing
13. 09-05-2022 B14 Presented their portfolios digitally and were interviewed and graded

Additional Items of Interest:

The two ladies who were in the Ladies Minor Football All-Ireland Final, won their match at the weekend and brought the cup to the school for display.

5th Year senior hurling team won the Lord Mayor's Cup.

B14 will be going to Allihies for 2 days.

Technology partner, Wriggle, will be giving a presentation to this years' First Years as well as the incoming First Years for 2022/2023 on 17-05-2022. As part of the new technology drive these classes will be purchasing Surface Pro devices through Wriggle. It is hoped these devices should last them through to Leaving Cert. Teachers, students and parents completed surveys before and after the Technology trial and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. These devices will be used as an aid to learning. Textbooks will still play a vital part and parents will need to buy these also. These textbooks will be uploaded to the devices. Firewall software etc will be installed by Wriggle prior to supply. This will prevent unauthorised activities on the devices, which has proved problematic in the past. Mícheál explained there is a grant available should parents need help in covering some of the costs involved.

Denis asked about laptops already purchased. Mícheál agreed these may be used until the end of this academic year but from September the school standard device will need to be in use. This will be clearly communicated.

Denis highlighted the fact studies have shown that studying and learning from hard copies, rather than through devices, produce higher results. Mícheál clarified they will be used as an aid to learning. It will work better for some subjects such as languages where you can record, listen back, improve pronunciation etc. It may not be as effective for subjects such as English or Maths. The devices will only be used when required. Carmel pointed out that the school

bags are already very heavy and adding a device to that won't help the situation. Mícheál agreed but explained students won't be expected to bring all the books every day when using the devices, they will be told ahead of time what their needs for the week will be and they should better utilise their lockers to help manage this. It is hoped this will help eliminate the need for mobile phones during school hours. Collette stressed this will need to be part of the policy that it is clearly communicated through Teams if the books are needed or not. Tricia asked if there is a plan to introduce it for students in senior cycle. Mícheál answered it will be available to older classes down the line. Jerry talked about 3rd level digital literacy and that more needs to be done at secondary level to prepare students. Consequently, he is a big supporter of this initiative. Mícheál agreed and said the Digital Portfolios has been a huge stepping stone in this process.

Suzanne wondered could it be introduced for next year's TY students. The school is looking into the possibility of using the 110 devices bought during covid for this purpose. She also suggested a Touch-Typing course would be key to helping students. Denis agreed.

Carmel mentioned that the likelihood of a device lasting the 6 years of school is unlikely and wanted to know if Wriggle could offer a buyback/exchange option at some point. Mícheál will ask at the meeting next week.

B14's Musical, Grease, will take place in The Firkin Crane 19th May 2022.

B15 End of year exams will commence 23rd May.

B14 will be going to the Waterford Greenway overnight on 23rd May.

A night in Vienna Woods will take place on the 26th May for Leaving Cert Students. Cumann usually provide refreshments. Mícheál, Julie and Ber will all say a few words on the night.

27th May will see the Sports Day taking place at the CIT.

WELCOME

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to the meeting, the final one of this academic year.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Helen Mannion, Mark Chu and Caroline Ní Mhurchú.

MINUTES

The minutes from 5th April 2022 were read by Nicola Malone. They were proposed by Jerry Reen and seconded by Tricia Ryan.

COVID

The oral exams took place over the Easter break. All students were able to attend. An examining superintendent had to be replaced at one stage due to covid. Fortunately, students were unaffected.

NEW SCHOOL PROJECT

Julie read out the proposed letter from the Cumann to Mícheál Martin requesting funding for the new Halla. Many points were raised in relation to this including; include the number of students (future voters), we should be pushing Pádraig O'Sullivan a bit more (especially considering he is a past pupil), ask the Taoiseach to acknowledge, in writing, receipt of our letter, parents to send separate letters themselves, explain the current halla is not owned by Coláiste, is not fit for purpose, has accessibility & ventilation issues, Coláiste does not have priority access to the halla especially when it is raining, as it was built in the 1970's it does not adhere to current health and safety guidelines, perhaps use it as a cultural and arts centre and ultimately reduce costs and reliance on the likes of The Firkin Crane centre.

Mícheál is confident we will succeed in our request for funding as we have been told there is land allocated for it, we are to include it in the design and submission for planning. The Design Team will highlight the need for halla funding during the pre-stage meeting with the department when they will be asked if all items have been covered. Mícheál will print the letter on school-headed paper in both English and Irish. It will be signed by Julie on behalf of the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí. Copies will be sent by registered post to both Mícheál Martin's constituency office as well as his government office. We will also email a copy to the Taoiseach's office so they will have access to the links in the letter.

GOLF CLASSIC

Suzanne has contacted Castlemartyr Golf Club and there is no Friday available in 2023. If one becomes available towards the end of April/May we will have first refusal. Lee Valley is not an option as it is too far away. We need to do the figures for the Cork Golf Club again. The Golf Classic involves a lot of effort for the return, especially as the profits would be down approximately EUR3/4000 due to increased costs. Sponsorship will also prove difficult in this climate.

We will review all options once again in September 2022.

FUNDRAISING

The Win A Gaff option involves some work but as it is online, digital, website etc. it then almost runs itself.

Suzanne suggested perhaps scaling up the Ball Drop in order to increase profits. Perhaps closing the road, using footballs, increasing the prices etc.

Jerry suggested a Know Your Sport game where you predict winners for various sporting competitions. It had worked previously in the Gaelscoil. Suzanne thought it would be harder at secondary level as you have less contact with parents then.

Mícheál asked about Bag Packing at SuperValu. Nicola will send a letter to Elaine in SuperValu asking for any date available. Our preference would be a Fri and Sat as was previously the case (preferably not clashing with a sporting event) but we may have to take any dates offered. Winnie suggested the adults wear Hi Vis vests to avoid some confusion from last time.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETING FEEDBACK

We are still awaiting Department guidelines as to whether future parent/teacher meetings will be face-to-face. Denis thought the face-to-face meetings were invaluable. He commended the students at the door, the maps, names and number detail and found it all worked very well. Clíona agreed and thought it was far more beneficial in person. You got to know the teachers

and had an overall better feeling. The issues with the phone call scenario included calls running over, missed calls and the multiplier effect. This does not occur in the halla situation. Mícheál is a firm believer of face-to-face meetings. Some parents were concerned about teachers who were unavailable on the night. Perhaps it would be useful to have a call with missing teachers after the event. Some parents received follow-up calls from teachers who were unavailable on the day of the meetings others did not. Julie suggested putting a request through the school app to rearrange any missed appointments. For some parents the phone call setup is still the preferred method as they live outside of the locality. Mícheál agreed that the phone call meetings can be patchy at times. Denis mentioned that teachers in the halla were very proactive; if they saw parents in a queue for a teacher they were asked if there was another they could visit in the meantime. Des likes the idea that it is also a social-style event. Mícheál highlighted the facts that the appointment-based system, staggering meetings, avoids queues, parking issues and accessibility to the halla.

LEAVING CERT CHANGES

Curriculum changes have already been implemented in primary schools as well as Junior Cycle. There is also a revamp of Transition Year with a broadening and deepening of the curriculum. Points will be awarded for Work Experience.

The first change will be for this year's third years when they start the senior cycle. They will be sitting English and Irish Paper I at the end of 5th Year. The idea of the new changes is to step away from the 100% on the day model towards a more project and continuous assessment based one.

The Department has taken a different route this time around. Previously they would have asked Unions in advance for their input. This time they are telling them what is happening. The nuts and bolts of the new proposals have yet to be worked out.

It will be very hard to work out points for work experience due to the disparity between how this is handled from company to company. Many large companies have full structures in place whereas smaller or family-run businesses may not.

The new format has yet to be devised, in-serviced, road-tested and rolled out.

Tricia asked if there was an update on the L1 program. The minister is still weighing this up. Tricia suggested if there is a different paper for Irish School Secondary students, then maybe they should also have a different English paper. Nicola suggested that perhaps there should be extra points available for the more difficult Irish paper.

Carmel raised the point of the timing of the HPAT exam. Would it be possible to move this to 5th Year to take some pressure off the students? She understands you need a CAO number in order to sit the exam but surely this is an easier fix than trying to sit the Pre exams at the same time. Mícheál agreed and said they are crying out for doctors but not making it easy for them.

FINANCES UPDATE

Des gave a financial update – Current balance is approximately EUR1870. This includes EUR600 from Breda's Jersey as well as outlays such as invoice for tickets for the Snowball drop raffle, EUR109 for Open Day cost, staff room treats and a bouquet of flowers. The EUR1,000 deposit from Fota Golf Club will also be added to this total shortly.

ACTION LIST UPDATE

1. Write a bilingual letter to Mícheál Martin outlining our concerns for a new hall – Cumann na dTuismitheoirí – completed. Will be amended with suggestions from meeting and forwarded to Mícheál for translation.
2. Any items parents wish to see included in the letter should be forwarded to Nicola – Parents - Lots of information received at the meeting. Letter will be amended and sent to Mícheál for translation.
3. Barry Murphy to Speak to Cork Golf Club and another Golf Club. Suzanne will speak to Castle Martyr and Lee Valley Golf Clubs re: green fees, date for availability in May 2023. Discussed above.
4. Contact local politicians to highlight the concerns over the Leaving Cert and Junior Cycle exam stresses -Parents. Not completed.
5. Breda to meet with Des to give him the proceeds from the sale of the Jersey. Completed.
6. Form a committee for Raffle – Des, Suzanne, Ken and any other interested parties. Moving away from the idea of the Win a Gaff option. Full steam ahead in September for all fundraising ideas.
7. Contact Keen House in relation to alternative tracksuit end – Mícheál has spoken to them and they will come back with suggestions.
8. Items to be added to next month's Agenda 1) Feedback from 1st Year Parents and indeed all parents, in relation to the Parent/Teacher Meeting in person vs over the phone. 2) Discuss upcoming changes to the Leaving Cert. Items were added to the agenda and discussed.

AOB

Suzanne pointed out that, unlike community schools, there must be a huge shortfall for the school for cleaning, utilities etc. She believes parents should be made more aware of the importance of the voluntary contribution.

Clíona asked that perhaps next year the costs for items such as Voluntary Contribution, TY foreign trip, school trip etc should be spread out of a period rather than all arriving in the one week. Mícheál agreed wholeheartedly with this.

Des suggested the minutes are circulated prior to the Cumann meeting in future. Then they will only need to be proposed and seconded during the meeting.

ACTIONS

1. Ask if there could be an option to upgrade/buy back the devices bought through Wriggle over the 6-year period – Mícheál
2. Amend the letter from the Cumann to the Taoiseach to include suggestions from the night – Nicola
3. Send amended letter to Mícheál for updated translation – Nicola & Mícheál
4. Print letter on school-headed paper, sign and register-post to the Taoiseach – Mícheál & Julie
5. Email letter to Taoiseach – Nicola & Mícheál
6. Write a letter to SuperValu requesting a date for bag packing – Nicola
7. Spread out the requests for monies over a few weeks (Voluntary Contribution, TY Trip deposit, school tours etc) next year - Mícheál

CLOSE

In closing, Julie thanked everyone for attending the final meeting of this academic year and acknowledged the huge support of all members who attend the meeting. She thanked her fellow officers as well as Mícheál and all the staff of Coláiste an Phiarsaigh. The next meeting will take place (both in person and online via Teams) on 13th Sept 2022 at 8.30pm.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 13th Sept 2022 at 8.30pm