

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

Miontuairisc:

Tues 13th April 2021 8.30pm

Lucht Freastail: Micheál Ó Tuama Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan
Helen Mannion Heidi Robertson Mark Chu
Jerry Reen Des Connolly Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin
Paula De Roiste Patricia Kelleher Gillian O'Callaghan
Josephine Sugrue Elaine Hill Winnie Lynch
Breda Dennehy Carmel Broderick Rebecca Kelly
Collette Finnegan

Leithscéalta Mary Haslam Michelle Philpott

Minutes Issued by: Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin

AGENDA: Fáilte (Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan)
Apologies
Acknowledgement/Condolences (Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan)
Minutes from previous meeting (Nicola Malone)
Imeachtaí Scoile (Micheál Ó Tuama)
Cúrsaí Tógáil (Micheál Ó Tuama)
AIB Account Update (Des Connolly)
Digital Library (Micheál Ó Tuama)
Cainteoirí (Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan & Micheál Ó Tuama)
App/Permission to Leave Note (Nicola Malone)
Action List (Nicola Malone)
AOB
Date for next meeting

Imeachtaí Scoile: 09-03-2021 – 13-04-2021

1. **10/03/21** Opening of the Portal for Leaving Certificate 2021. Bl6 were given a detailed overview of this and shown how to sign up and input their subject selections
2. **12/03/21** Subject Rotation for Bl4. TY Students get an 8-week block of new subjects (4 periods of the new subject per week which results in 32 periods on each new subject).
3. **18/03/21** Staff meeting
4. **26/03/21** Easter Holidays

Additional Items:

The school was particularly busy over the past month.

- Leaving Certificate Oral exams took place over Easter, involving a student body of 110. All orals had to be recorded. Teachers facilitated the recording and questioning for the orals. Each recording was then sent to the Department, the standards of which were very high. Micheál Ó Tuama and Liam Ó Laighin listened to and signed off on each recording to ensure all was bona fide.
- Leaving Certificate Music practicals also took place. This involved 33 group performances in 2 centres (which required sanitising between each practical).
- Study facilities were made available free of charge for B16 each weekday (except Easter Monday) from 9am – 3.30pm over the Easter break.

Transition Year 2021:

Below is a flavour of what the Transition Year students have been involved in recently:

- TY Assembly
- Nurturing Bright Futures course given by UCC
- YSI (Youth Social Innovator)
- Billy Kelleher (MEP) gave a presentation to the group about the workings of the European Parliament
- First Aid Course
- Sports' workshop with Setanta
- Presentation by Film Director Paddy Slattery

WELCOME

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan warmly welcomed everyone to the meeting

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

On behalf of the Cumann na dTuismitheoirí, Julie offered our sincere condolences to our former secretary, Helen Mannion, on the recent passing of her mother, Mrs. Eileen McGrath. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dilís.

MINUTES

The minutes from the meeting on 9th Mar 2021 were read by Nicola Malone.

Micheál had a few changes and updates to add:

- Both the Pre-Leaving Certificate exam papers and marking scheme were provided by an outside contractor and not the teachers as stated in the minutes.
- 61% of the Leaving Certificate students took up the option to sit one or more exams. These took place over three weekends.
- The Portal is to reopen in a number weeks and LC students will be able to input the levels of papers to be graded. They will also be able to alter some of their inputs but will not be able to enter a new subject.

The minutes were then proposed by Josephine Sugrue and seconded by Gillian O'Callaghan.

CÚRSAÍ TÓGÁIL

Pádraig O'Sullivan TD (past pupil) contacted the school on 9th April 2021 to say the Department of Education had sanctioned 3 mobile cabins for classrooms as well as a prefab for a science lab. Micheál is awaiting confirmation of same from the Department and hopes for these 4 prefabs to be installed over the coming months.

The Department has also sanctioned the refurbishment of the boys' bathrooms over the summer.

TREASURER

AIB Account update:

As of the 30th March 2021 all the account paperwork has been completed by the Cumann. Des expects to receive the account information shortly. Once this has been received, Des will proceed to close the BOI account and transfer monies to the new AIB account.

Helen queried as to the status of the current 2nd Years' AIB accounts. They had filled in the paperwork when in 1st Year but then everything stalled due to Covid-19. Micheál will speak with the AIB Student Officer to clarify the situation.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS

- Online Bingo
Des researched the Online Bingo options. Many companies are running these virtually to raise funds.
- Virtual Walk
A better option may be a virtual walk whereby students, parents and siblings could all take part. It was suggested this would need to be arranged either immediately or in September 2021. The idea of sponsorship cards was mentioned but perhaps not optimal during Covid-19. Heidi suggested a sub-committee be formed to organise this. Winnie explained her local club had picked a day & time to walk, setup a 'gofundme' page, logged the number of kilometres walked and made a donation online. Des, Heidi and Winnie stayed online after the meeting to set up this new committee and work out details as to how to organise this Virtual Walk.
- Done Deal
Elaine suggested a sale of work /done deal type market place. People would list items they have for sale. The seller and the buyer organise the sale between themselves and the money received is donated to the school.
- Six Nations' Jersey
Breda has a signed 2015 Six Nations' Rugby Jersey for sale or raffle

CAINTEOIRÍ

Julie queried how we as parents could support the school, teachers and students in this current climate. Perhaps there may be an option to engage a supportive speaker to guide us in assisting our children now they are back in the school environment.

Micheál will investigate this further and would appreciate any input from parents who may have suggestions to offer.

ACTIONS LIST UPDATE

- **Digital Library**
The SORA app, provided by Overdrive, is compatible with all the school devices and students' mobile phones. Students will be able to access the app anytime and will use their Microsoft Teams account to login. The majority of books will be in English. EUR2,000 will buy 500 books. Three groups will be involved in selecting the books: a) English Department b) Student Council and c) Students from all year groups. There will be an online survey for students and the data gathered will help decide on which books to choose.
This preparation work will be carried out by May 2021 which should enable it to be ready for the next academic year.
Helen mentioned that there were issues with availability of popular books on the BorrowBox app. She will touch base with a contact in the Library for advice.
Agreement was reached within the group for the Cumann to support the purchase of the Digital library app and books. We will also look at topping up the contents of the library next year. As this is such a tangible resource for the students, it will be an ideal focus for fundraising.
- **Bank Update**
Cheque for EUR4,250 was lodged to BOI account. The AIB new account paperwork was completed by the Cumann.
Once new account details are received, funds will be transferred and BOI account closed.
PayPal and Revolut accounts will be created once the new account details are received.
- **Intercom**
Intercom issues have been resolved and B16 classes were visited to ensure all students clearly understood all information relating to the Portal. Lots of communication was provided and it is now clearly understood.
- **Permission to Leave Notes**
Micheál looked into the issue of permission to leave notes not updating the system to explain a student's absence. The Coláiste App (provided by Unique School) and the VSWare system sync each day at 10.39am. Teachers have access to the dashboard system and can see which students are authorised to be absent. There doesn't appear to be any discrepancies currently. If a parent notices this issue going forward, Micheál would appreciate us contacting him immediately so he may rectify same.

AOB

1. Nicola asked if there was anyone on the call who did not receive the reminder WhatsApp message through the new WhatsApp Coláiste Cumman group, to contact her via email so Julie may add them to the group.

ACTIONS

1. Contact Student Officer in AIB re: current 2nd Year student accounts - Micheál
2. Virtual Walk sub-committee to be created and fundraising for same to be discussed – Des, Heidi & Winnie
3. Guest Speakers – Micheál
4. Contact Cork Library re: advice on issues that may occur with popular books in a library app - Helen
5. Any attendees missing from the new WhatsApp Coláiste Cumann group to be added - Julie

In closing, Julie thanked everyone for attending and asked that our heartfelt thanks be conveyed to the school staff for all its trojan work.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 13th May 2021 at 8.30pm