

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

Miontuairisc:
8.30pm

Tues 13th September 2022

Lucht Freastail:

**Micheál Ó Tuama
Diarmuid Ó Rinn
Mark Chu**

**Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan
Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin
Helen Mannion**

Lucht ar Líne

**Josephine Sugrue
Elaine Hill
Liz Leader
Winnie Lynch
Diane Looney**

**Sharon Kellaway Sheelagh McCarthy
Fiona McCormack
Fergal O'Donovan Fiona Buckley
Paula Kennedy Hans Bonne
Catriona Hogan Twomey**

Leithscéalta

**Des Connolly
Clíona Fergy**

Suzanne Moloney Tricia Ní Riain

Minutes Issued by: Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin

AGENDA:

**Fáilte (Julie)
Apologies (Julie)
Minutes from previous meeting (Nicola)
Imeachtaí Scoile ón Príomhoide (Micheál)
Messages from School to be in both English & Irish (Julie)
Relective strip on school coats (Julie)
Additional cost of tablets and books – ebook codes cannot be reused (Julie)
Actions' List Update (Nicola)
Roll Call (Nicola)
AOB
Date for next meeting**

Imeachtaí Scoile:

1. 25-08-2022 Teachers return to school
2. 26-08-2022 Staggered return of students

3. 02-09-2022 Leaving Certificate results 2022. Micheál mentioned he is very proud of all students who worked very hard after what was a very difficult couple of years. He is especially proud of those students who would have had difficulties outside of school and still managed to achieve their potential. He is thankful for the staff as well as the wonderful parents who worked well together in helping all students attain great leaving certificate results. 58% of students received over 500 points while 83% received over 400.
4. 02-09-2022 Training course with Harry Freeman for teachers
5. 07-09-2022 Bonding trip for Transition Year students
6. 09-09-2022 Meitheal BL1 and B15 met up together
7. 12-09-2022 Meeting with BL4 parents in relation to the Trip abroad

Additional Items of Interest:

The Debs took place in The Rochestown Park Hotel. It was very enjoyable. Lots of Irish was spoken on the night which was lovely to hear. Many teachers attended. Julie was grateful for all the support from the teachers and thanked the school for such a lovely night.

WELCOME

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first one of this new academic year. She mentioned it is great to see so many attendees online.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Des Connolly, Suzanne Moloney, Clóna Fergy and Tricia Ryan.

MINUTES

The link to the minutes from 10th May 2022 were sent to the Cumann WhatsApp group for approval prior to the meeting.

They were proposed by Catriona Hogan Twomey and seconded by Josephine Sugrue.

MESSAGES FROM THE SCHOOL

It was requested that messages from the school to parents be sent in both English & Irish. This will not be a problem and will be arranged by Micheál.

NEW SCHOOL PROJECT

Site investigations have been completed. A survey showed the presence of some asbestos which has now been removed.

The boiler system has been replaced.

A new first year with mobility issues has joined the school. Lots of changes have been made to facilitate this.

KOBW are meeting this Friday to organise the plans, drawings etc. The Halla will be 'creatively included'. The argument will be made by KOBW and Joe O'Brien to include the Halla when submitting the plans to the Department. This will help build the case for the requirement of a hall in the new school.

GOLF CLASSIC

Fota has returned the deposit to Suzanne. However, it was issued to her as a personal cheque. She has a cheque ready to give to Des. This will happen shortly.

REFLECTIVE STRIP ON SCHOOL COAT

Nicola met a parent of a first year who had bought the new school coat. There didn't appear to be a reflective strip on the new coat. Mícheál was surprised by this as he had seen and approved of the strip with representatives from Keen House. Nicola will double check with the parent and send details of same to Mícheál for further investigation.

ADDITIONAL COSTS INVOLVED WITH TABLETS

Nicola was informed by some parents over the summer that ebook codes cannot be used on the new tablets if they have been previously used. This will impose additional costs on people who have already installed them on other devices, bought the books second hand or have had them passed on from an older sibling. This is something that may need to be communicated to parents before they purchase books in future. Mícheál explained there is a book grant available and if people are having difficulties in purchasing books, they can complete a form and may receive payment. This has already been availed of by several students. This scheme is still available and ongoing. Helen also explained if a child is approved for assistive technology, then they may contact the publisher directly and avail of all codes at no additional cost.

Transition Year students have all been given a device for use during the year which will greatly assist them with presentations, working online, projects etc. They are also using lockers.

1st and 2nd year should no longer require their phones during the day and are encouraged to turn them off and leave them in their lockers until the end of the school day.

Helen agreed it is wonderful to have the devices and perhaps we could teach the TY students how to use the equipment more effectively. Mícheál told us that there are Wriggle Instructors available. Staff members have also been trained to teach the use of the devices. There are induction courses in place which will show the students the best use of the devices.

Devices are being used for the Microsoft Suite, school email as well as apps which managed through the school (some are preloaded, some will be downloaded as the year goes on).

TRANSITION YEAR

Helen asked about the Subject Rotation for TY Students. Mícheál clarified that there are the 12 subjects in the rotation that are taught at Senior Cycle level. Unfortunately, Computer Science/Tech courses are unavailable. A Robotics course will be run again this year.

Mícheál told us there are lots of interesting programs available for TY this year such as Bystander (helps people deal with everyday situations), all TY students will take part in this year's Musical. Mícheál will bring a sample of all different units to the next meeting.

The current Transition Year students will be the first to sit Paper1, in both English and Irish, at the end of 5th year. Consequently, study of this has already begun in TY. They will sit the Pre-Exams in these papers in Feb 2024 and sit the actual exams, along with that year's 6th years, in June 2024. As a result, TY will become a more academic process but Mícheál hopes students will discover more of a love for English and Irish.

ACTION LIST UPDATE

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

AOB

Josephine asked if there is a recording of Grease TY Production. Mícheál said Katie Ni Riain offered it to students at the time. Students may request to purchase a copy of same from Katie.

For a copy of Aladdin, Mícheál believes Pádraig Ó Sé may have recorded this at the time.

ACTIONS

1. Messages to parents from the school to be sent in both English and Irish – Mícheál
2. Details of all the sample of TY programs for 2022/2023 to be given at the next meeting - Mícheál
3. Cheque for deposit from Fota to be given to Des - Suzanne
4. Double check with 1st Year parent in relation to missing reflective strip on new school coat and report back to Mícheál – Nicola & Mícheál
5. Follow up with SuperValu requesting a date for bag packing – Nicola
6. Buy back/upgrade option from Wriggle over the course of the 6 years - Mícheál

CLOSE

In closing, Julie thanked everyone for attending the first meeting of this academic year and acknowledged the huge support of all members who attend the meeting and was especially grateful to all who attended online. The next meeting will take place (both in person and online via Teams) on 11th Oct 2022 at 8.30pm.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 11th Oct 2022 at 8.30pm