

Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

Miontuairisc:

Tues 8th Mar 2022 8.30pm

Lucht Freastail: Micheál Ó Tuama Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan
Helen Mannion Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin
Paula Kennedy Breda Dennehy Elaine Hill
Winnie Lynch Carmel Broderick Josephine Sugrue
Barry Ó Murchú Jerry Reen Fiona McCormack
Patricia Kelleher Joe McCarthy

Leithscéalta Clíona Fergy Catriona Hogan- Twomey
Suzanne Moloney Mark Chu Des Connolly

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)
Actions' List Update (Nicola)
Roll Call (Nicola)
AOB
Date for next meeting

Imeachtaí Scoile:

1. 14-02-2022 Visit from Pádraig O'Sullivan TD for a tour of the school.
2. 15-02-2022 BL5 PE trip to Airtastic.
3. 28-02-2022 B11 began the technology trial. First Year students have started to use Surface Go devices (configured with downloads of all relevant books) in class. The 110 devices in use were those purchased during the pandemic to enable remote access for students. Feedback was received through a survey at the beginning of the trial and will be obtained again at the end to determine if it were a success. If it proves to be so, incoming First Years may be purchasing devices from IT partner, Wriggle, for use during the academic year. It may also be considered as an option for this year's Second Years, depending on the survey results.

4. 01-03-2022 Parent/Teacher meeting B15. Meetings are still online. It is hopeful the next Parent/Teacher meetings for B11 will take place in person in the Halla and will use software to book timeslots with individual teachers.
5. 02-03-2022 Foreign Language and Irish Oral Pre-exams took place.
6. 03-03-2022 In-service training day for Mícheál & Liam with the National Association of Principals & Deputy Principals (NAPD).
7. B16 went to the cinema to see Macbeth which is on the Leaving Cert curriculum.
8. 05-03-2022 Induction Morning for the 116 incoming First Years (2022/2023). They completed an Irish Assessment then took a tour of the school led by the Meitheal group. Approximately 180 parents also attended. It was more like a Maidin Oscailte as they were able to have live music, art displays etc. There were some speeches on the day from Julie (on behalf of the Cumann), Liam and Mícheál. The whole morning is so important for the 1st Years' experience. Mícheál thanked the Cumann for providing refreshments, fruit and a health bar for each of the students and to Des for delivering them.
9. 07-03-2022 – 11-03-2022 Seachtain na Gaeilge. Cllr Gillian Coughlan (Mayor of County Cork) launched the week – she spoke to the school, presented awards and Fáinnes to the students.
10. 11-03-2022 This coming Friday the school will be dressing up in Blue & Yellow, instead of the traditional Green, to show support for Ukraine. €2 per student will be collected, along with a cake sale and poster competition to raise funds. All monies collected will be donated to Trócaire.
11. The three new classrooms and new science lab are now fully operational. They are a wonderful resource and are being used by the TY students. The new science lab now takes pressure off the science labs in the main school building.

Imeachtaí B14 Feabhra/Márta 2022

- Work Experience 7th-18th February

Each Transition Year student completed 2 weeks work experience. This proved to be a tremendous success and great to see students have the opportunity to do so.

- Future Leaders' Workshop

The Sport Leaders conducted a workshop with Mark O'Donnoghue and are now helping with organising basketball games. This involves thorough planning, organising and execution of matches and ensuring they run correctly.

- Royal College of Surgeons 28th-4th March

16 students undertook work experience with the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin.

- UL Open Days 1st-2nd March

25 students attended online courses with UL - learning about nursing, medicine, physio, pharmacy and science.

- Aarup Engineering 7th March

10 students took part in this course for those with an interest in engineering.

Upcoming events:

- Fast Fashion Online Workshop 9th March – All TY students will be attending an online recycling and fashion workshop
- First Year Blitz organised by Sports Leaders
- Air Corps – for the first time ever 4 students will be attending training with the Air Corps
- 3 Students will be attending the European Parliament. They won this prize for their work on a project they submitted. This was organised by Billy Kelleher. A teacher from Coláiste will be travelling with them.

WELCOME

Julie Dennehy-O’Callaghan welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked the staff for all their hard work in facilitating the students during this transition period out of Covid restrictions. Jerry also wished to acknowledge the work the school did for those who couldn’t access school – this enabled all students to sit the Pre-examinations– Thank you. Julie agreed and praised Coláiste for looking after the students always.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Clíona Fergy, Catherine Hogan-Twomey, Suzanne Moloney, Mark Chu and Des Connolly.

MINUTES

The minutes from 8th February 2022 were read by Nicola Malone. They were proposed by Paula Kennedy and seconded by Josephine Sugrue.

COVID

All Covid restrictions have now been removed. Micheál, Liam and the Covid reps met the Friday of midterm to discuss the changes. Parents and students were contacted with the details. Mask wearing remains optional. One-way system has been removed as have the banners, spots on the floors, posters etc. Dressing rooms have been painted and cleaned and are once again available to students. Teachers and boarders moved all the desks back in place as social distancing is no longer required. Lockers have been made available to students free of charge. For the first time in two years Mícheál was able to have an assembly for each year group in the halla. He is immensely proud of all of the students and acknowledges what they have all been through during the pandemic.

NEW SCHOOL PROJECT

There are some ongoing issues with the new building. Currently there is no funding allocated for the new school hall. We have been instructed to design it, submit for planning and the funding for the hall will be giving at some point in the future. Mícheál has already been in contact with Mícheál Martin and Pádraig O'Sullivan (both of whom have been pivotal in the entire process to date) in relation to this but we still need one last push to get this final piece of the puzzle. The Student Council are writing a letter on behalf of the school. Mícheál is asking the Parents' Council also compose a letter to send to the Taoiseach to outline our position. We need to highlight the facts that we need a place for students to partake in physical education for their physical and mental wellbeing. It is also such an important resource for those taking PE as a leaving cert subject. It is the absolute heartbeat of the school as it is used for parent/teacher meetings, concerts, assemblies as well as guest speakers. The hall is a place to gather together to promote PE, without which the school would be inadequate. Mícheál emphasised the fact we will need this funding in place for when we go for tender in a year and a half.

GOLF CLASSIC

Suzanne is in the process of putting a committee together. She is waiting on confirmation of a date in May 2023. We should have this information at the next Cumann meeting.

ACTION LIST UPDATE

1. Suzanne and others are putting a committee together for the Golf Classic 2023
2. Rugby Jersey Raffle – Breda & Heidi – this is ongoing. Breda is hopeful of having information for the next meeting

AOB

Helen asked if there is a day out planned for Junior Cycle students. Mícheál explained there is a day organised for Ballyhass Lakes which will be communicated to students soon. He also mentioned he is concerned for them as it hasn't yet been announced if they will be compensated through the state exams like the Leaving Cert students will be. It has been a bumpy ride for these students but there is no talk yet of alleviations for them in the upcoming exams.

There are also other days planned as the Covid restrictions have been lifted such as Sports Day in CIT.

Winnie asked if the swimming pool will be opened up again. Mícheál said this is owned and operated by Gaelachas Teo and not Coláiste. Nicola offered to ask Scoil na nÓg for an update.

Julie mentioned Wellbeing information/talks would help in the run up to the exams for students. Mícheál said this was discussed at the in-service meeting and will share information when it is available. There will be a questionnaire/survey about wellbeing in the coming weeks.

Nicola & Julie asked if there was an update to the L1 proposal for Leaving Cert. Mícheál explained the NCCA is in the final process of submitting a report which will be sent to the Minister for Education. We are currently awaiting this report and details from the Minister. There is talk of changes to the Senior Cycle and Mícheál is hopeful this will be brought in line with 3rd Level. The overhaul has already been completed in primary and up to 3rd year education. There is lots of work ongoing behind the scenes with regards future proposals. This will have to involve unions, teachers etc.

ACTIONS

1. Write a letter to Mícheál Martin outlining our concerns for a new hall – Cumann na dTuismitheoirí
2. Date for Golf Classic 2023 – Suzanne
3. Form a committee for Raffle – Des, Suzanne, Ken and any other interested parties
4. Rugby Jersey Raffle – Breda & Heidi
5. Check to see if swimming pool will be available - Nicola

CLOSE

In closing, Julie thanked everyone for attending the meeting and thanked the new attendees for their participation – overall it was a great turnout. The next meeting will take place on 5th April 2022 at 8.30pm and will remain online.

Next Meeting Date:

Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 8.30pm