

# Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

**Miontuairisc:**

**Tues 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 8.30pm**

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<b>Lucht Freastail:</b>	<b>Micheál Ó Tuama Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin Jerry Reen</b>	<b>Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan Des Connolly Mary Haslam</b>	<b>Stephanie McCoy</b>
<b>Lucht ar Líne</b>	<b>Josephine Sugrue Fiona McCormack Caroline Ní Mhurchú</b>	<b>Paula Roche Shelagh McCarthy Peter Kidney</b>	<b>Winnie Lynch</b>
<b>Leithscéalta</b>	<b>Catriona Hogan-Twomey</b>		

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**Minutes Issued by:** Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin

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**AGENDA:**

- Fáilte (Julie)**
- Apologies (Nicola)**
- Minutes from previous meeting (Nicola)**
- Imeachtaí Scoile ón Príomhoide (Micheál)**
- Actions List (Nicola)**
- Roll Call (Nicola)**
- AOB**
- Date for next meeting**

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## **WELCOME**

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2024/2025 academic year.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Catriona.

## **MINUTES**

Last month's minutes were proposed by Des and seconded by Mary.

## Imeachtaí Scoile:

1. 22-08-2024: Croke Park Agreement staff working day
2. 23-08-2024: First day back at school
3. 23-08-2024: Leaving cert results for 2024. Mícheál will give us a detailed analysis at next meeting
4. 26-08-2024: 6<sup>th</sup> Year Debs night
5. 02-09-2024: Induction day for Transition Year
6. 04-09-2024: Smugglers Cove trip for Transition Year
7. 06-09-2024: Jack Chambers (Minister for Finance) paid a visit to the school. He met with junior classes. He was presented with gifts of a pen and a jersey
8. 09-09-2024: First Student council meeting. There are 40 students on the council this year
9. 10-09-2024: Staff meeting from 3.30-5.30pm
10. 11-09-2024: Start of visits to primary schools. Mícheál has visited 15 primary schools in the area to date. The application process is going well –120 places for 2025 sanctioned, have advertised publicly through the Irish Examiner, both in the paper and pop ups online
11. 16-09-2024: Information night for 1<sup>st</sup> yr parents – Bernie (year head) and Class teachers spoke about lockers, books etc. Next year the book scheme introduced by the department will include Leaving Certificate books. Lots of work involved in getting books prepared to have them ready for individual students in their lockers on the first day back to school. Effort has been made for students to download the ebooks for 1<sup>st</sup> years onto their devices so the books may remain in school. Books returned at the end of school year to be reissued to next students. Books are to last for 6 years. New ebook for the person getting a second-hand book
12. 17-09-2024: NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service) visited the school
13. 19-09-2024: School Open Night was a great success. Thanks to the Cumann who attended
14. 20-09-2024: Visit by the City Lord Mayor, Dan Boyle
15. 24-09-2024: Meeting of the Critical Incidence Team which includes senior management and 10 teachers. They went through some role plays in the event of a critical situation
16. 24-09-2024: Visit from Bishop Buckley who is always a very welcome visitor – spoke to 6<sup>th</sup> years
17. 25-09-2024: 6<sup>th</sup> Year information night - RACE, DARE, HEAR, CAO Portal, state exam portal were all topics for discussion on the night
18. 26-09-2024: European languages day
19. 27-09-2024: Applications open for incoming 2025 students
20. 02-10-2024: Transition year trip to Italy. 90 students left for Italy on the Wednesday returning early on the Monday morning. It was a huge undertaking by the 9 teachers who accompanied them as they also had to prepare schoolwork for classes that would be missed while away. Unfortunately, the weather was quite wet during the trip but overall, it was a huge success.
21. 03-10-2024: School's wellness and activities trips – 1, 2, 3, 5, & 6 – no missed classes or supervision required. The day included trips to Kenmare, Limerick, Dungarvan for some and Smugglers Cove and Dunmore East for others. The quota of hours for extra curricula wellbeing program has now been fulfilled. A week earlier has been booked for next year. TY trip will dovetail with this
22. 07-10-2024: Staff meeting from 3.30 - 5.00pm

23. 09-10-2024: PE trip to Dublin
24. 09-10-2024: Junior Cert results 2024
25. 10-10-2024: Scala working with student council. There is a subcommittee of 10 which comprises of a secretary, chairperson and treasurer. They meet every 2 weeks, details of which are sent to Mícheál, and information is posted on their notice board. General meeting is then held with the 40 students once a month.
26. 14-10-2024: Transition Year Workshop
27. 15-10-2024: E-cigarette learning module webinar. Mícheál will send a link to the Cumann so that we too may watch the presentation. Jerry explained collaborative virtual research has been carried out and shows how the body metabolises the additives in vapes (Donal O Shea)

Outside of all of the above activities, over 30 games took place in the following sports: Peil / Iomáint / peil na mBan / camogaíocht / saccar / cispheil /

### **ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

Phone boxes are now installed and are almost ready to go. Phoneaway box will be attached to every locker and will be openable with individual codes. All contact between students and parents will now go through the School Office

If students are found to be in possession of their phones outside of the box other than at 'home time', they will need to attend an Irish class for three hours on Friday afternoons

'Bí Cineálta' is a new anti-bullying approach by the Department of Education to combine common sense and a commonality across all schools – similar to child protection. The school will seek collaboration with Cumann this year. Examples of the changes include reporting bullying cases at Board of Management level, printed and visible Anti-bullying policy in reception area and around the school, education program for students to name but a few, most of which Coláiste An Phiarsaigh was adhering to before the introduction of this new initiative

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Des gave the current balance in the account as €711.94 as of August.

Des will be taking a step back from treasurer and would like to offer the role it to anyone. Julie thanked Des for his work on the committee.

We will guide anyone coming into the role. Des assured us, it's a little bit of work in your spare time but not overwhelming.

### **AGM**

Nicola will also be transitioning out of the role of secretary. Mary has kindly offered to take up this role. This will need to be made official at an AGM. A decision was taken that the next meeting will be held on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024 and will be an AGM. This meeting will start at 7.30pm to facilitate teas and coffees ahead of the AGM. Notice will need to be issued to the

community. Nicola will draft details of this and send to Mícheál who will communicate it to parents next week.

### **ACTION LIST UPDATE**

- a) Mícheál to speak with Des to agree a donation for the TY Musical - completed
- b) Mícheál to speak with the Department of Education to see how they may be able to help with the issue of the closure of the boarding school - completed
- c) Mícheál to speak with Gaelscoileanna in relation to the boarding school issue - completed
- d) Julie to message Fachtna Ó Drisceoil to see if he will cover the issue of the boarding school closure in his show Tús Áite – completed and aired
- e) Mícheál to source the copy of last year's TY musical – Mícheál will follow up
- f) Mícheál to check with Ronan in The Castle in relation to available dates for a Table Quiz night – this will be completed now that provisional dates have been agreed
- g) Nicola to contact Leila in relation to creating a flyer/poster for the Quiz event – Leila has kindly agreed to make these flyers when date, time etc has been agreed

### **FUNDRAISING**

Quiz night: It was decided on the night that the New Year would be a better option to hold the quiz night. Mícheál will check the provisional dates for availability with the Castle (30<sup>th</sup> Jan or 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025). Des knows someone who will organise the questions. Julie suggested maybe if people had unwanted Christmas gifts, they could donate these as prizes.

We will not run a Christmas themed fundraiser this year (such as the Ball Drop from a few years ago).

### **AOB**

Julie spoke about the Cumann meetings being online – this will continue and there will be the option as officers to work online if needs be.

Julie thanked Mícheál for asking her to come along when Jack Chambers was onsite to show how we the Cumann work with the school

Julie wished to thank Colette and Jerry for their help at the Open Night. It was busy, lots of questions from parents etc.

Julie suggested the Cumann could organise some speakers to talk in the school during the year such as Laura Crowley who speaks about girls on the spectrum

Julie told us that Mark Chu had sent a lovely message to the WhatsApp group to say thanks for everything and we'd like to thank him for everything too.

Paula asked if a teacher could ask students to take out their phones for use within class. Mícheál explained this shouldn't happen going forward as they'll have their devices for searches etc.

The phoneaway boxes may be used for evening study down the line

Josephine thanked the school for the work in finding families for the boarders. There is no extra funding and asked if anyone has any ideas. It currently costs €9.5k and the fund only covers €5k, leaving a shortfall of €4.5k. Mícheál is very appreciative of the boarding parents and taking a leap of faith. He rang all parents involved to check to ensure everyone is happy. He is already receiving enquiries for next year.

Peter had 2 questions:

Is there an update on school uniform availability from a second supplier? He has already spent €1200 to date on uniforms for 2 children. Mícheál said Keen house are the official supplier – he will discuss to see if there is someone else willing to sell our uniforms. Nicola also said the logistics of the shop being in Cobh is not ideal. Julie mentioned the initiative where uniforms were available free of charge and there was a lot of uptake. Mícheál said the Young Social Innovators are working on this initiative now and will organise a uniform day. Condition of the clothes was excellent.

2<sup>nd</sup> question relates to the school bus and children rushing to catch this in the afternoon. Some children bring their books home and are under pressure to get the bus. Mícheál explained they can download the books, leave them at school and just bring home their devices. The first bus leaves at 3.35pm and there are many buses after that (bell rings at 3.27).

## **ACTIONS**

Detailed analysis of Leaving and Junior Certificate results presentation to be given at the meeting in November - Mícheál

E-cigarette learning module link to be sent to Cumann - Mícheál

Options for alternative suppliers of the school uniform - Mícheál

Source the copy of 2023's TY musical – Mícheál & Julie

Check with Ronan in The Castle in relation to available dates for a Table Quiz night (30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2025 or 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2025 as possibilities)

Draft message to be sent to Mícheál in relation to AGM – Nicola

Message to be sent to parents re: AGM – Mícheál

## **CLOSE**

In closing, Julie, as chairperson and on behalf of Cumann and the officers, wished to thank Mícheál and the staff for working so well with us and thanked everyone for making her job easier

**Next Meeting Date:**

**AGM Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024 7.30pm**