

# Cumann na dTuismitheoirí / Parents' Association Coláiste an Phiarsaigh

**Miontuairisc:**

**Tues 16<sup>th</sup> Apr 2024 8.30pm**

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<b>Lucht Freastail:</b>	<b>Micheál Ó Tuama Nicola Uí Mhaoileoin Collette Ní Fhinnegáin Caroline Ní Mhurchú</b>	<b>Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan Catriona Hogan-Twomey Josephine Sugrue Des Connolly</b>
<b>Lucht ar Líne</b>	<b>Paula Roche Peter Kidney</b>	<b>Jerry Reen Shelagh McCarthy</b>
<b>Leithscéalta</b>	<b>Mark Chu</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**      **14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 8.30pm**

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## **WELCOME**

Julie Dennehy-O'Callaghan welcomed everyone to the meeting

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mark.

## **MINUTES**

Last month's minutes were proposed by Josephine and seconded by Collette.

## Imeachtaí Scoile:

1. 12-03-2024 Meitheal interviews took place with Scala. Core group of 12 were selected.
2. 14-03-2024 B11 Parent Teacher meetings took place. It was a great success and ran very well with the changes to the structure implemented.
3. 19-03-2024 Seachtain Na Gaeilge
4. 21-03-2024 Cake Sale/Book Club – Novel way to stock up the number of books in the school– give a book get a cake.
5. 22-03-2024 Cumann Peil na mBan Gleann Maghair. Reception took place in the halla along with photos, cakes etc to celebrate their winning of the all-Ireland.
6. 25-03-2024 Oral exams took place in Irish and Modern languages. This required coordination and preparation from all sides including caretaker, supervisors, Principal, Vice Principal, cleaning as well as inspectors – proved to be a very busy time. The school provided snacks to students. Exams took place early on Saturday and from the Monday through to the Thursday before Good Friday. Worked out well. School is quiet, less pressure and fewer distractions. However, it does start early on a Saturday. Mícheál has written to the department previously to have this moved to the Monday but to no avail. It is difficult to get people to work Good Friday.
7. 08-04-2024 Music practicals took place which are 50% of Leaving Cert exam marks.
8. 09-04-2024 MTU were onsite to showcase their courses.
9. 10-04-2024 BL4 took place in a Subject Choice Workshop as part of their leaving cert subject selection process. Students from all disciplines were presenting to TY students and telling them of their experiences. The school is ensuring there is a lot of scaffolding in place to make sure they have the best information to make their correct choices and avoid subject changes at a later stage.
10. 11-04-2024 Meeting about the new Free Textbook Initiative. The Department recently announced free textbooks for B11-B13 students including an allocation towards core materials i.e.. Calculators, dictionaries, copy books etc. The school is e-tendering to book providers nationwide. There will be a Universal license for e-books. Books are to be recycled through different years. Book publishers need to be cognisant of editions etc. Teachers to pick a textbook for 6 years. Books will be wrapped, bar-coded, details entered into a database etc through an external company. Incoming First years will have to pay for their device, plus some additional stationary. Junior Cycle Exam Papers will also be provided under this scheme. It is hoped this scheme will be extended to Senior Cycle students in the future.

11. 15-04-2024 Transition Year Musical Fame to take place in the Firkin Crane Theatre. B11,2,3 & 5 will go to see the show on 17<sup>th</sup> April. Cumann usually provide funds for sound, lights etc. Mícheál will come back with figure of perhaps around EUR1,000.
12. 15-04-2024 Senior Hurling final – The team, unfortunately, lost but had a great, tough game against Coláiste an Spriod Naomh, Bishopstown.
13. 16-04-2024 Talk for parents of B13 students in relation to Transition Year.
14. 16-04-2024 BL5 trip Cape Clear and tour of the island, organised by Trish Leader 5th Year Head. Great day had by all accounts.
15. 16-04-2024 Home Economic practicals took place this week.

### **ACTION LIST UPDATE**

There were no outstanding Actions from the last meeting.

### **AOB**

Josephine asked about the boarding situation in Gaelachas Teo. Mícheál explained that following a review of the boarding service, costs, management, health and safety, child protection etc by Gaelachas Teoranta it was decided last Wednesday that boarding will no longer be offered as an option from September 2024.

As principal, Mícheál was asked to speak to supervisors, he also spoke to students and emailed parents concerned. He also spoke to the parents personally the next day.

A second email was sent asking for expressions of interest for local accommodation and for the students to attend as day pupils. 9 students would be interested in this option. Mícheál emailed again today with an application form for the remote area application grant. A message is to be sent to parents of children attending Coláiste an Phiarsaigh to see if any families are interested in offering accommodation for some of these students.

Catriona highlighted the fact that this is end of an era, a very sad day.

Scoil na nÓg has been offering a boarding service for 65 years and Coláiste for 50 years. This was the only all-Irish boarding service in Ireland that catered for boys.

Julie said it was such a sudden decision with no input from parents. Well done to Mícheál as he hit the ground running. We applaud you for this.

Students are understandably devastated. Hopefully it will work out and there may be accommodation available as well as supervised study.

Josephine said it's hard when you live outside the county to try to commute daily. Some students will be moving on to schools local to them.

A good few years ago there were 90 pupils boarding, now there are 16. Staff will be let go; downstream industries (food suppliers etc) will also be affected.

Mícheál will update us at the next meeting in relation to accommodation.

Next meeting is the final one of this academic year and will take place on 14th May 2024.

## **ACTIONS**

Mícheál to give the Cumann a figure for funding for the TY Musical

Mícheál to give an update in relation to accommodation for former boarding pupils

## **CLOSE**

Julie said it was great to see so many parents in the room. Please come again! We will have a cupán tae next month with some chat and craic. We will take the opportunity at the next meeting to plan for the year ahead.

Thanks for the support of the parents, committee, staff, and fellow officers. Everyone makes it all easier. To all the people who attend the meetings – thank you.

**Next Meeting Date:**

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 8.30pm**