

Principals Report September 17th 2019

1. Induction of New members to the Board of Management

Role of Patron:

- Ensure that the characteristic of the school is upheld
- Ensure school policy conforms with school norms
- Nominate member of the Selection Committee for Staff appointments and promotions
- Vested owners of the land and property

In the context of Board membership:

Board members are advised that their collective focus relates to:

- Collective responsibility
- Strategic Leadership
- Policies
- Director's Duties
- Delegation
- KPI's
- Positive Challenge
- Risk and Compliance
- Transparency
- Accountability

Board members are advised that their role is not to:

- Represent nominators interests
- Represent personal interests
- Make Operational Interventions

The role of the Board is to act collectively, with collective responsibility in the interests of the entire school community. Confidentiality in respect of the business of the Board is very important.

Role of the Board of Management

- The authority of the school
- Ensure that the educational needs of the school are met
- Ensure the ethos / characteristic spirit of the school is upheld
- Implement all relevant legislation
- The employer of staff
- Manage school finances
- School plan and policy formulation
- Final authority on school discipline
- Manage school assets and property
- BE accountable to trustees and the DES

Child Protection

- Board of Management training in respect of Child Protection is being delivered at the Limerick Strand Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick on Tuesday September 24th 2019 between 7 and 8.30.

2. Enrolment September 2019

The school has yet again attracted a record number of first year students to our school. On Tuesday August 27th 2019, 224 first year students were welcomed into our school. Given that 144 students completed the Leaving Cert in 2019, the increased enrolment is currently 1114 students. It should be noted that the

accommodation provided for within the extension provided the classroom space to accommodate 1000 it may be necessary to lodge a further application to extend with the building unit in the DES.

3. Appeal against Decision not to enrol

Please note that we are in receipt of an appeal in respect of an application for a place in the ASD Unit. Please note that there was no refusal provided to the parents of this child in respect of enrolment as the letter of appeal suggests. There however is no place in any one of the four ASD units in KCS as they are all full and a waiting list exists in respect of the ASD. It should also be noted that there are those on the waiting list from our catchment area which our enrolment policy prioritises.

4. Date change for Junior Cert Results

The State Examination Commission has advised the schools nationally that the Junior Cert results will issue to schools on Friday October 4th 2019.

Leaving Cert Target setting Guest Speaker Dr Tara Shine

Dr Tara Shine provided an inspirational address to our Leaving Cert Class marking the resumption of the school year. Dr Shine spoke of the need for focus and hard work. The leaving cert students were most receptive and appreciative of the guidance offered.

5. Student Voice / Learner Voice

At KCS we have a very strong and robust Student Council which is assisted, supported and guided by Aisling O'Callaghan in respect of the deliberative and representative role attaching to the work of the Council. The Council represents the students interests and meets with school management to discuss and consider issues which the Student Council wishes to address. It is also the platform that school management uses to consult with the student body on matters that affect the student experience in our school.

The sixth year students also elect a Head Boy and Head Girl and these students represent the student body at corporate events and also represent the student voice with school management. This year the Head Boy is Cathal O'Flynn and the Head Girl is Victoria Bollard. These students were elected by their peers.

These structures are essential to the development of democratic principles and active citizenship in our school.

Learner Voice is a more individual concept. This is where the student is empowered to engage in dialogue in respect of their learning with their teachers. This concept is focused on elevating the participation of the learner to a consultative platform where change and improvement can be achieved through dialogue.

Our Feedback Day with our Leaving Cert students is an excellent example of providing oxygen to the learner voice. It affords agency to the students in respect of their own learning. It provides students with the time and space to enter into a dialogue with their teachers to improve and enhance their understanding and performance.

Over the course of the year we will be seeking to enhance opportunities for Learner Voice to be amplified throughout the school. This work will be coordinated by James Wilson and will feature in our Feilte Scoile programme on October 9th 2019.

This work will also be supported with initiatives such as the attendance of students at parent Teacher Meetings as well as the second year students being provided with an opportunity to comment on the teachers comment in the October report.

These initiatives are pioneering and in that regard we have been invited to participate with the NCCA and Professor Lunny at Mary I College in Limerick on Friday October 4th 2019.

6. Team teaching – Finn O’Murchu August 28th 2019

As part of our initiatives in respect of addressing the challenges in respect of meeting the needs of students with SEN we are currently improving our practices in respect of team teaching. To that end we invited Dr Finn O’Murchu to address our staff in respect team teaching and how this pedagogical initiative can improve the learner experience. The session was excellent and the feedback from staff was very positive.

7. Cloud School – Training for Staff

In March 2019, KCS moved to Advanced Learning’s new Cloud based information management system, Cloudschool. Staff received an initial introduction to the software and this was rolled out in the final term of 2018/19 academic year. This facility has helped us to store sensitive student information on the cloud which can be readily accessed by school staff. On return to school in August, all staff received a refresher session in the computer room on how to record attendance, behaviour and assessments on Cloudschool. An online bank of Cloudschool tutorial videos has been created and will be updated weekly for staff to access, to provide further assistance with using the new software.

8. McAuley Suite development-Collaboration with Microsoft

KCS has been collaborating with Microsoft around the development of a KCS Dreamspace in our McAuley Suite, which will further enhance the use of Digital Technologies at KCS. The Suite has been furnished with moveable desks, chairs and partitions so that the room can be modified to cater for a wide range of small and large group activities. Our intention is to equip the room with Microsoft Surface Devices which will be available for class groups to use. This Dream Space will be available to all students in KCS, while it is also our intention to make this facility available to our local primary schools. As a regional Dreamspace, Microsoft are also eager to host workshops for schools who are not able to travel to their Dublin headquarters. CPD for the new JCT coding short course and Leaving Certificate Computer Science will also be hosted in the McAuley Suite this Autumn and Spring, for teachers in Cork.

The McAuley Suite is also home to our SLAR space for subject departments to use when hosting group meetings to review students work in respect of the new Junior Cycle CBA’s.

9. Summer Works Scheme 2019

See documentation attached.

10. Microsoft training for staff August 28th 2019

On return to school in August, all staff received a refresher session in the computer room on how to use Office 365 for communication and collaboration. New staff were set up with school accounts and all staff took part in a practical workshop which focused on using Microsoft Teams to promote teacher collective practice and learner voice.

11. ACCS Information Evening September 4th 2019

The Chairperson, Sr Rita and the senior management team attended an ACCS seminar relating to school governance which was held in Adare on September 4th 2019.

Issues which the ACCS officials guided schools on included: patronage, school accounts, charity regulation status (note new board members will need to be registered), child protection, garda vetting, data protection, site management, state claims agency, teacher supply, leadership and management, DSE inspection models and the parents and student charter.

12. Child Protection Seminar October 2nd 2019

In the respective role as the Designated Liaison Person and Deputy Designated Liaison Person, myself and Claire Sheehan will be attending an in-service in respect of Child Protection on October 2nd 2019 in Oriel House in Cork.

13. Finance Training through the FSSU on Wednesday November 13th 2019 7 to 8.30 for members of Finance Sub Committee.

This training is organised by ACCS with the Financial Support Services Unit to equip board members with the workings of the finance sub committee.

14. Middle Leaders training

The ACCS is offering the second residential training session for in-school management teams in Mullingar on November 6th, 7th and 8th. The teachers from Kinsale Community School that are taking part in this programme are Joanne O'Connor and Elaine Bennett.

15. Feilte Scoile October 9th 2019

The theme for the 2019 Feilte Scoile is: "**Innovative collective practice incorporating learner voice**".

There will be four workshops

1. Learner Voice
2. Target settling/feedback
3. Innovative Collective Practice in numeracy and literacy
4. Teams in action-supporting teacher collective practice

The learner voice workshop will be presented by students under the guidance of teachers. They will be giving us their opinions and views on what feedback works well for them in the classroom.

Target setting workshops will be presented by teachers and they will deliver examples of work that they use in their classroom.

Innovative Collective practice in numeracy and literacy will explain how the maths class for the first year parents was delivered and the experience gained for such an event.

Teams in action is a workshop on how teachers use the Microsoft 365 application teams to support the teaching and learning in the classroom and more importantly giving and receiving feedback from both the teacher and learner.

16. Leaving Cert Result Analysis 2019

See attached report.

17. Sports Update

There have been numerous excellent sporting achievements by our students over the summer:

- Sophie Collins, 2nd year, won Munster & All Ireland medals with Cork u14 footballers
- Fiona Keating, Siobhan O'Donovan & Faye Ahern, 6th year, won Munster & All Ireland medals with Cork minor footballers
- Fiona Keating also winning an All-Ireland A Camogie final with Cork and being awarded player of the match.
- Fiona Keating received a Celtic Ross Hotel West Cork Youth Sports Star award in July.
- Katie O'Regan and Claire Crowley competed in All Ireland Athletics. Katie came first in the u15 long jump and 6th in the 100m sprint and 4th the 200m. Claire came 12th in the 1500m.
- Paul Graham and Kris O'Callaghan both played with the Cork u15 development squad in the All-Ireland Hurling qualifiers.
- Eoghan Cassidy winning the annual PRO Shop Challenge in Kinsale Golf club alongside former student John Murphy. Eoghan picked up his first international cap this year at u14 level.

As the new school year starts, students are looking forward to starting their training in all the various sports that KCS offers including: Hurling, Football, Camogie, Basketball, Soccer, Rugby, Hockey, Athletics, Equestrian, Golf and Table Tennis.

The new school track is also looking fantastic as the final touches are being made: