# Principal's Report for the Board of Management January 28th 2020

#### Applications Received for Enrolment of First Year Students for 2020/21

While 255 application forms have been received it is anticipated that the first year enrolment may be closer to 235. Based on this projection, we are planning on having 10 first year class groups.

#### **CAT Testing**

The Cognitive Ability Test was conducted in the school on Saturday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2020, 233 students sat the test.

# **Subject Option Talks**

Parents of fourth year, third year and first year have been provided with details relating to subject options. In respect of Senior Cycle, we have extended the curricular choices available to students to include Computer Science, Economics and Applied Maths. The students have until February 7<sup>th</sup> 2020 to decide on subject options. Decisions made by students in respect of subject options will determine staffing needs for the year ahead. A curricular audit will be undertaken immediately after the subject option process is complete.

#### **Transition into First Year Book Collaboration with Examcraft**

In May 2017, a transition booklet to support students transitioning from primary to post-primary school was developed by the care team in KCS. This booklet has been updated and revised each year since to include up to date and the most important information to support students and their parents at this pivotal time in a young person's school life.

The success of this booklet caught the attention of Philip O'Callaghan (Managing Director of Exam Craft) who met with us in respect of publishing this booklet, with KCS to receive a percentage of the profits from sale of same. The booklet has been edited to 'A Parent's Guide to Junior Cycle' for the purpose of this publication and Exam Craft are presently reviewing our second draft with a view to publication for September 2020.

# **Maths for First Year Parents**

Aoife O'Mahony and Aine Cotter organised an evening session of Maths for parents of first year students. This is the third such session this year and the uptake by parents is very positive as is the feedback.

# Summary of main events for Nov 2019 - Jan 2020

# KINSALE COMMUNITY SCHOOL 'BEST SCHOOL IN IRELAND' AT THE BTYSTE 2020



Kinsale Community School continued its long standing success at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. The school qualified 14 projects for the exhibition which in itself was a great success as it represented the highest number of projects from any school.



At the awards ceremony on Friday evening Ellen Crowley (2nd year) came 2nd in the Social and Behavioural category for her project titled 'The Latte Levy' - What is the cost tipping point and why do we not always use reusable cups? Ben Loughnane (3rd year) came 1st in the Social and Behaviour intermediate individual category for his project on heart calcification titled 'The Power of 0'. Ben also claimed the 'Health Research Board' award.

1st year students Ian Cullinane, Jake Grace and Noah Dennehy Bailey came 1st in the junior group technology category for their project 'Energy Efficient Fridge'. Emer Heery, Sylvie Plant and Mia Casey won the 'Greencoat Renewables Plc' award for their project 'Investigating the feasibility of turning Kinsale into a Virtual Power Plant in order to reduce our carbon footprint'.



Six other projects also achieved the hard won 'highly commended' award.

- Can Yawning help improve our learning? Saoirse Hayes and Kiely Lehane
- A Statistical and Experimental Analysis of the Link Between Reading for Pleasure and Problem Solving Skills – Anna Peare and Sarah Fitzgerald
- Climate Change Education Gone Too Far? A statistical study of the links between Climate Change Education, Locus of Control, Eco-Anxiety and effects on Youth's actions – Rachel Henderson, Aoife Walsh and Meadhbh Hurley
- A Statistical Study of the Public's attitude towards testing drugs for contaminants at Music Festivals before and after being informed about this harm reduction methods

   Caoimhe Lynch
- Do-re-mi or ABC: A Statistical Investigation on whether using song as a mnemonic device is effective for learning – Eva Crowley
- Investigating the Feasibility of Converting Kinsale into a Virtual Power Plant in order to Reduce our Carbon Footprint – Mia Casey, Sylvie Plant, Emer Heery





The largest cheer at the awards night was when Kinsale Community School' was crowned 'Best school in Republic of Ireland'. This is another huge achievement and it reflects the great work done by all the students that qualified projects for the

exhibition and the special place that the BTYSE is held in the school.

'We are beyond proud of the achievement of our students at the BTYSTE 2020. Winning yet again, the award of 'Best School in Ireland' is something that we are particularly pleased about. This is a special award as it reflects the great work done by every teacher in the school in respect of shaping the students participation in the Young Scientist exhibition. For example students that provided statistics to support their research were taught that competence in Maths. Each student needs to communicate their findings with confidence. The competence and confidence required to compete at this level is a learned skill, taught by each teacher. This award as the Best School in Ireland reflects on each teacher in our school.'

#### **Learner Voice**



This year Kinsale Community School has added Student/Learner Voice to our School Self Evaluation. Currently our School is engaged in three national projects relating to student voice / learner voice. The first of these is a project with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs where we have engaged with the project leaders Ger and John Halbert in respect of a toolkit which they are devising to enable students to have a greater agency in relation to their own learning. A video has been made by

the DCYA – Young Peoples Voices in Kinsale Community School. The video was shot on site on the 15 October 2019 whereby members of the Student Council got to air their views on Learner Voice in our School. The video was launched as part of the Student Voice Initiative during the DCYA 'Our Voices Our Schools' Conference in Collins Barracks Dublin on the 4 December 2019. Both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs were in attendance. A Presentation was made at this forum by Ms Jean Gaffney, Ms Aoife O'Mahony, Head Boy Cathal Flynn, Madi Hayes 6th Year, Rachel Fox 5th Year (who replaced Head Girl Victoria Bollard) and Ben Loughnane 3rd Year. Ms Aoife O'Mahony assisted the students with their presentation in advance of the day.

The second project began with the ACCS School Leaders' Workshop entitled 'Enhancing Learning and Teaching in the Classroom: Promoting Learner Voice' on the 23 October 2019. In Attendance from KCS were Ms Jean Gaffney, Ms Aisling O'Callaghan and Mr James Wilson. The conference looked at negotiating the challenges in taking forward student voice, student voice and our values, gauging the temperature in schools, school experiences and next steps, and finally showcasing work in schools. During this Conference, we got an opportunity to reflect on where Kinsale Community School is in relation to Student Voice.

The third Project started as recently as the 12 November 2019 with the Instructional Leadership 'Activating Learner Voice in the Classroom' Conference. The workshop addressed areas such as creating collaborative solutions, professional reflection as an instructional leader, understanding learner voice and mapping learner voice in Junior Cycle and planning for change.

Kinsale Community School were one of thirty-five schools that were represented at this conference. Over the next eighteen months we will work with the Instructional Leadership, the NCCA and the JCT teams to implement a Learner Voice Project in Kinsale Community

School that will encompass the Instructional Leadership concepts. The project will involve attending cluster meetings in February 2020 along with school visits from the Instructional Leadership team.

#### **VEX Robotics Success**



VEX Robotics is continuing to grow and has developed into a popular aspect of the KCS Transition Year Programme. This year 34 students gained a place out of 70 applicants. This year's students are the first cohort who did IT as a Junior Certificate short course, where they learnt coding skills that are very applicable to

coding in VEX robotics. Most were influenced by the success of the 2 previous years' teams which won the Irish Nationals and went on to win awards at the World Championships in Kentucky, USA.

As well as the main Secondary School Competition, our students also mentored local primary schools in the VEX IQ Primary Schools Competition. We mentor local teams from Scoil Naomh Eltin, Gaelscoil Chionn tSáile and Bandon Gael Scoil. TY students also helped DELL run 3 days of primary school competitions in CIT in January. Our students were commended by Dell and CIT for their diligence and enthusiasm in helping the competition days run smoothly and especially calmly assisting teams with technical issues.



The first Regional Heats for the Munster Secondary Schools competition took place in CIT on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January. 22 teams from around Munster competed in theses knockout stages which would qualify them to play the Irish finals on the 14<sup>th</sup> February. KCS entered their 3 robots, an increase on last year.

Prizes won on the way included Overall Skills Award including performance in autonomous and driver skills. The girls' team won the prestigious Excellence Award for their overall performance, design and outstanding Engineering Notebook.

Out of a total of 8 qualifying teams all of our 3 teams qualified for the Irish finals on Feb 13<sup>th</sup> the prize of which is a place in the VEX World Championships in the USA in April.

Congratulations to all the students involved as they have worked very hard to get this far and thank you to their teachers Niamh Hay and Eddie Farren for all the extra hours and hard work they have put into making all of this possible.



#### **Hi School Musical**



This year Kinsale Community School put on a production of 'Hi School Musical'. Our TY students jumped into the roles as the auditions began the third week in September under the direction of Ms Brid Kearney, Ms Maria Kennedy and Ms Sinead Brennan. With a large TY number, a lot of talent and so much enthusiasm, it was very difficult to choose our main cast! Eventually we decided to split the roles into two casts to give more students the opportunity to shine on stage. We also had

two chorus groups, which meant a lot more rehearsal! We began in September, and it was full steam ahead right up until the week of the show. Students and teachers fully committed to a schedule of rehearsals which took place most evenings after school and at weekends.

Our Art Department, Ms Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Ms Deirdre Kelly began creating a beautiful set, designing and painting and making our show come to life. The woodwork department built a fantastic set for us, thank you to Mr Adrian O Connor, and the Home Ec. department began to make, order and organise costumes under the direction of Ms Eimear Murphy and Ms Niamh Hay, who spent many evenings and weekend at rehearsals measuring and fitting the theatrical TY's! Many thanks to the PE Department for allowing us the use of the gym to rehearse, as well as providing basketballs for the 'Wildcat' dance-'Getcha Head in the Game'. Ms Maria Brosnan designed posters and tickets which allowed us to advertise the show around the community.

The week of the show arrived with gusto and with a live band consisting of staff members, students and past pupils, under the musical direction of Ms Brid Kearney, it was a wonderful week. The students shone on stage, and received standing ovations. It was a fantastic learning experience for the students and a wonderful opportunity for them to bond as a year group and to try something new. Many staff members and parents assisted with catering, front of house and supervision, which we are so grateful for. The closing number 'We're All in This Together' really rang true! Overall, it was a wonderful opportunity for students and they did Kinsale Community School Proud. A fantastic experience for all involved- Go Wildcats!!



#### **Concern Debate**



This year our Concern Debate team celebrated success as they won three of their League Phase debates. The Concern Debates competition runs for several months and is completed over a number of stages. Every year, more than 100 schools argue their motions in the hope of being the next debating champions.

This year the Kinsale Community School team included Sarah Fitzgerald, Emma

Hurley, Anna Peare, Megan Fahy, William Walsh, Evan Daly and Kelly Rentse, as well as students who assisted with time-keeping and catering. The team debated on some of the following topics; 'Ending World Hunger by 2030 is beyond humanity's reach'; 'Nuclear power is essential for a clean energy future'; 'Volunteering abroad does more harm than good'; 'To achieve real results, SDG campaigners must engage in civil disobedience'. The process includes research and student collaboration and the team work with Mr Bertie Pearse and Ms Maria Kennedy to prepare and practice for debates.

The team have won three out of four debates and had opportunities to engage with other school such as Edmund Rice, Carrigaline, Mount Saint Michael Secondary School, Gaelcholaiste Charraig Ui Leighin and Sacred Heart Secondary School. The team are awaiting the end of the League Phase to see where they place for the next round, but have enjoyed every minute of the experience so far.

#### **Junk Kouture 2020**



Junk Kouture is a national contest which encourages young designers in second level education to create striking couture designs and impressive works of wearable art from everyday junk that would normally find its way into the bin. This year 8 impressive outfits entered the competition, created

by a class of 20 students led by Ms. Deirdre Kelly. A variety of materials were used this year including plastic packaging, CDs, sliotars, old copybooks and even old dolls!

#### The Teams are:

- All Dolled up by Mia Buckley, Emma Hurley and Abby O'Donovan
- Unwritten by Arianna Price, Ava Walsh and Kate Redmond
- Gaelic Warriors by Eva Egan and Dara Casey (modelled by Emma O Callaghan)
- Build me up Buttercup by Amy Cummins
- Wicked Waste by Alex Sheehan and Alannah Phelan
- Bach to the Future by Eva Crowley, Hannah McCarthy and Lia Connolly
- Material Girl by Ruth Kangataran, Niamh Murphy and Alice O'Callaghan
- Packaging the Past by Aoife Allen, Anna Callanan and Abaigeal Walsh

The very best of luck to all teams in the competition, successful entries will be announced in the next two weeks.





#### **West Cork Garda Youth Awards**



Congratulations to TY student Sarah Fitzgerald who received an overall Award at the West Cork Garda Youth Awards in November.

Sarah was well-deserving of the ward for her efforts in raising over €2,500 for Ronald McDonald House and her work in the area of reading, in particular her book cloud idea to distribute unwanted books to those who need them.

# Quads Celebrate their 18th Birthday



Our Leaving Cert quadruplets recently celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

We celebrated this occasion with these young ladies and their year group. Happy birthday to Amy, Katie, Shauna and Kellie. Wishing them every success for the future.

#### **Gaisce Awards**

Gaisce or 'great achievement' is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25 and has been in existence since 1985. The Awards initially flourished under the patronage of former President Patrick. J Hillery and to date and have been carried by incoming President's. To date over 300,000 young people have participated in the Gaisce programme.

Students at KCS were recently presented with their Bronze Gaisce awards. The students completed challenges in community involvement, a personal skill, physical recreation and an adventure journey. A special mention to Thomas Grennan who has achieved a Silver medal. Many thanks to Gaisce Co-ordinator Ms Máire Fleming.



# **Charity Cheque Presentations**

Our Annual Christmas Jumper day took place on 20th December last. Proceeds from the Jumper Day and the charity walk which was held in October were donated to a variety of charities including Pieta House, Jigsaw (Youth Mental Health), KYSS (Kinsale Youth Support Service), Irish Guide Dogs and the Irish Motor Neurone Disease Association. A huge thank you to the entire school community and the community of Kinsale for your continued support. Well done to all involved.











#### **DCMUN 2020**



From January 21st to 24th, 26 transition year students came together with students from all over Ireland and Europe, to participate in Model United Nations at Cork City Hall. MUN was an inspiring and exhilarating four-day event, where students had the opportunity to practice democracy and politics, while tackling major world problems, in an exact replica of a United Nations

Conference.

The event hosts two separate conferences simultaneously over the four-day period; The General Assembly and the Special Conference. Both conferences debate topical, pressing word issues; whereby a resolution is drafted, open to debate and amendments proposed. The agenda issues tackled for MUN2020 included:

## **General Assembly**

- The question of the Israeli-Arab Conflict
- The question of alternative sources of energy to cope with increasing electricity demands
- The question of the legal status of class B drugs for recreational and medical purposes
- The question of trade wars and increased tariffs on imported goods
- The question of the regulation of organ donation

#### **Special Conference**

- The question of the death penalty and alternatives to capital punishment
- The question of ageing populations and necessary adaptions to elderly societies
- The question of decolonisation and the self determination of nations
- The question of Islamophobia and ways to promote the meeting of civilisations
- The question of ante-natal genetic modification and fertility manipulation.

Each student from KCS was assigned a delegation which they represented over the course of the conference in City Hall. Our diverse delegations included Canada, Egypt, Honduras, Tanzania, Panama, Unicef, Sri Lanka and Mauritania. During the four-day conference they participated in the lobbying process, engaged in fruitful debates discussing controversial topics, challenged ideas and proposed solutions to world problems by presenting to an audience of their peers, Ambassadors and the Lord Mayor of Cork.

Overall, Model United Nations was an experience that offered students endless benefits, both socially and academically, plus one our students excelled in. Emily Bergin was awarded "Best Debut Speaker" in the General Assembly. Well done to all involved and in particular Ms Dunne and Ms Foley!

#### I-Wish Science Week for Girls

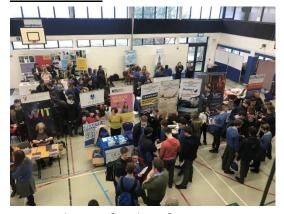


The CIT I Wish Campus week took place the week of Jan 13th. I Wish Campus Week is a female only programme designed to introduce TY students to the diverse, exciting and rewarding career opportunities available in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

A number of TY students attended the 5-day programme that allows girls to immerse themselves in STEM through

practical and interactive workshops, site visits and demonstrations. Students visited number of sites and took part in lectures about science, technology, engineering and maths. On the last day students took part in a live Q&A with previous female students from CIT and had the opportunity to meet the founders of the iWish programme. Overall, they really enjoyed the week and benefited greatly from this experience.

#### **Careers Fair**



course choices for their future careers.

On the 23rd January, Kinsale Community School held a Career's fair in our school gym. Over 22 Higher Education and Further Education Colleges attended, as well as a representative from Jigsaw Mental Health Services based in Cork and Nationwide. This event proved very successful, affording our 6th, 5th, LCA and Transition year students the opportunity to engage with college representatives about potential career paths and

The Guidance Department organised this excellent opportunity at a very vital time for our 6th years as they are in the process of filling in their CAO forms. This event allowed them to ask any final questions they may have in relation to courses or entry requirements to the colleges in attendance. Our TY and 5th year students also benefited from this event. TY students going into 5th year are currently choosing their options. They were in a fortunate position to be able to conduct research about courses and entry requirements in advance of this. This was the first time the event was held in the school. Each of the senior years got to spend one hour at the event. It ensured they were given direct and detailed knowledge. We usually have to travel to careers events which takes up time and costs money in terms of buses, this event allowed our students to have focused time without losing out on too much class time.

Some of the colleges in attendance were UCC, CIT, Kinsale FEC, CSN, NUIG, TCD, IT Tralee, Griffith College, WIT, Teagasc, EUNICAS, UCD, St. Johns College, Cork Academy, Cork College of Commerce

The Atlantic Flight Aviation Academy proved to be a popular talking point for students interested in a career in the Aviation sector aside from the more traditional CAO/PLC routes on offer.

The exhibitors spoke positively about their interaction and the avid interest displayed by students in the respective colleges/universities, as well as the exceptional behaviour, respect and friendly demeanour embodied by our staff and students in KCS.



## **Munster Savour the Flavour**

2nd year students took part in the semi final internal cookery competition as part of the Munster Savour the Flavour contest. Each student cooked a main course dish on their own ensuring it was balanced, nutritious and embracing food sourced in our local community. Well done to all involved and well done to Siobhan who progresses to the next round of the competition with her fillet of cod topped with breadcrumb and seaweed crust, chorizo and scallion smashed potatoes served with sprouting brocolli and local carrots.

#### **Munster Open Table Tennis**



Munster Table tennis hosted the Munster open in Neptune Stadium this weekend. Players from Munster, Leinster, Ulster and Connaught all competed at the highest level of competition in Ireland. KCS were strongly represented in many categories.

Coughlan who won the girls u13 plate.

U13 boys: Brian Plunkett, Rory O Brien and Sean Loughnane all qualified from their groups with Sean finishing 4th & Rory 6th.

U15 boys (Shay Ahern, Cormac O Callaghan and Sean Loughnane) and U18 boys (Ben Loughnane and Jakob Lerch) had some great performances and victories qualifying out of their groups. Very well played.

# **All Star Award for Fiona Keating**



Congratulations to leaving cert student Fiona Keating on receiving the overall Junior Award at the West Cork Sports Star awards.

Fiona won both Munster and All Ireland Minor Titles with Cork Ladies Football and Cork Camogie

# **Interprovincial Post Primary Schools Title**

Congratulations to Fiona Keating and Faye Aherne who represented KCS on the Munster team who won the All Ireland Schools Interprovincial title for the second year running on Sunday 26th January.

# **Policies for Review**

Wellbeing (new)
Anti-Bullying (updated)
Guidance (updated)
SEN (updated)
SNA (updated)

# **Junior Cycle Wellbeing 400 Hours**

The junior cycle wellbeing programme is:

400 hours of time-tabled learning for all students, designed to meet the identified needs of students.

Schools must include CSPE, PE and SPHE. The minimum for each is set out as follows:

PE: 135 hours spread across first, second and third year

SPHE: 70 hours spread across first, second and third year

CSPE: 70 hours spread across first, second and third year

In addition, schools can include other areas in their Wellbeing programme, such as guidance related learning and can include school-developed short courses or units of learning related to aspects of wellbeing designed to meet the needs of their students.

Options for Kinsale Community School to meet the 400 hours-presentation by Ger Hogan

#### **Microsoft Showcase School Report**

The launch of Kinsale Community School as a Microsoft Showcase School in November 2019 has given the school the opportunity to become part of a community of learners who have an interest in developing their use of cutting-edge digital technology to enhance teaching, learning and assessment practices.

#### Showcase Schools Summit in Tallinn, Estonia 10/11 December 2019

In December, Principal Fergal McCarthy and Deputy Principal Ger Hogan were invited to attend a European meeting of Microsoft Showcase Schools. The event was a great opportunity to learn from the stories shared by educators and product developers from across Europe, while providing us with a platform to share the advancements we have made in KCS in respect of the development of our Digital Hub and how we are developing capacity around staff and students use of technology.

We established several links with schools and exhibitors

- Sharing of best practice with the other Showcase Schools.
- The development of **Erasmus+ projects** with schools in Denmark and Spain.
- Best practice regarding control and security of devices-Intune licence.
- Beedle add on for Microsoft Teams-the potential to integrate a Management Information System into Office 365. We aim to use this to support our subject departments in respect of subject planning.
- **Thinglink**-A platform that will allow us to create interactive virtual tours of our school.
- Lexplore and Tobi iTracker-Early detection of students struggling with reading, personalised instruction. KCS will be one of the first schools in Ireland to use this technology to improve student literacy and is part of a pilot group due to receive training this spring.
- The use of **OneNote** to create a digital staff handbook.

#### **Targets:**

- Enhance teacher's confidence with technology and digital tools available through Office 365. Continued CPD for our Digital Leaders through Microsoft and their education partner Wriggle.
- Getting our technology implementation right, focusing on outcome of classrooms not the technology in the classroom.

# BETT Technology Exhibition, London 22/23 January 2020

Bett is the first industry show of the year in the education technology landscape, bringing together over **800 leading companies**, **103 exciting new EdTech start-ups** and over **34,000 attendees**. People from over 146 countries in the global education community come together to celebrate, find inspiration and discuss the future of education, as well as seeing how technology and innovation enables educators and learners to thrive. Principal Fergal McCarthy, Deputy Principal Ger Hogan together with our coding/computer science teachers Gemma Cooper and John Corcoran attended the annual BETT Technology Exhibition at the Excel Arena in London.

We attended presentations, met many exhibitors while taking the opportunity to also complete some CPD in respect of Office 365 certification.

# Targets:

- To embed **Coding** in our ASD unit through **Smart Train technology**.
- Showcase our school to visitors, particularly in the area of our School Self Evaluation practices. This will be in the form of an **interactive display** in the Michael D. Higgins Hall under the theme of 'Looking at our School'.
- Explore the use of **Sharepoint app** to develop Web content for Digital Noticeboards.
- Provide CPD on the use of our **Promethean screens** to the team of Digital Leaders
- Exploring the potential to use **live streaming** for various school events to broadcast on our website to a wider audience.
- The development of a new **media literacy programme** to students in first year.
- Enabling teachers to unleash the power of student voice-development of **Flipgrid**.
- New technology to support our hearing-impaired students and support learner voice in the classroom through the use of 'Catch Box'.

#### **Microsoft Climate Action Change Initiative**

On January 17th 2020, Microsoft announced its intention to become 'carbon negative' by 2030, as part of its ramped up effort to combat climate change. The company has announced that by 2050 it will have removed all of the carbon emissions that it has created since its foundation in 1975.

Microsoft Ireland contacted Kinsale Community School on Friday January 17th 2020, to advise that we have been identified by them as one of two centres in Ireland where they intend investing as part of this strategy. Microsoft will fund the fitting of solar panels on the roof of Kinsale Community School. The electrical energy generated by the panels will be supplied directly into the national grid. The school will then be credited by Airtricity for the energy in respect of our electricity bill. This initiative represents both a considerable benefit and opportunity for our school.

#### Féilte Réigiúnach

The Teaching Council of Ireland has invited Kinsale Community School to pilot a regional Féilte celebration. The date of this event which will be organised at Kinsale Community School is April 25<sup>th</sup> 2020. We are currently liaising with the Education Centres, UCC and Microsoft in respect of the organisation of this event. We are hosting a meeting with the stakeholders in respect of this initiative on January 30<sup>th</sup> 2020.

#### White Lady the Musical

Kinsale Community School will host the premiere of the musical production composed and directed by Maurice O'Callaghan over the last two weekends in February. The musician Jake Carter is performing in the musical. Jake Carter has kindly agreed to perform on a fee free basis, a separate concert in the school on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> 2020. The proceeds will be of benefit to the school.

#### **ETB Concert Orchestra**

Kinsale Community School will host a concert organised by Cork ETB School of Music Concert on Saturday February 8<sup>th</sup> 2020.