



Board of Management meeting
Wednesday, 22 October 2019

Report to the School Community

1. Matters Arising
 - a. A report on enrolment applications and offers made was presented to the Board, demonstrating continued very strong demand for school places.
2. Appointment of Acting Deputy Principal (interviews took place on 22/10/2019):
 - a. Following the recommendation of the selection committee, the Board ratified the nomination of Elaine O'Dwyer to the position of Acting Deputy Principal. She is expected to take up this position in the new year.
3. Appointment of Acting Assistant Principal (II)
 - a. Fiona Ni Mhaonaigh's appointment was ratified by the Board.
4. Correspondence
 - a. J.M.B. Bulletins 9-16 were summarised.
 - b. Department Circulars 0056/2019, 0058/2019, 0060/2019 were summarised.
5. Principal's Report
 - a. A comprehensive report on events and achievements in September/October was given as below:

September

- Ava Coogan selected for Irish Basketball U-18s and Lucy Coogan/Elena Lauhoff to U-16s
- Opening Year Mass
- TY trip to Carlingford adventure centre (two nights)
- Student Council elections
- 1st Year Mass
- Hockey interpro selections:
 - U 16 Emma Manogue, Rachel Leahy, Doireann McCurdy
 - U 18 Aisling McGrath, Abby Gilsean, Jennifer Leahy, Sophia O'Shea, Niamh Moore & Ava Murphy
- 1st Year tree planting ceremony
- Bratislava Choral festival - 6th Year choir performed in St. Canice's Sunday Mass and organised a bake sale. The choir went on to be awarded the Gold Ribbon (for scoring over 90 marks)

- 5th Year Students competed in the Microbit challenge in Tallaght
- Student Librarians appointed and library up-and-running mornings and lunchtimes.
- 3rd Year RE classes visited the Mosque in Clonskeagh
- 1st Years being inducted into Hockey. First blitz in KK College also
- 6th Ecology trip to Castlecomer
- Emily Kenny and Amy Clifford qualified for Leinster handball final

October

- Lunchtime games club up-and-running
- Junior Certificate results
- Sr Orla Treacy visit and Mission Walk
 - Sr Orla spoke to whole-school assembly for about an hour
 - She also did an ethos session with our staff
 - The day proved to be inspirational for all and the value of the insight given into the plight of students in our sister school in Rumbek was eye-opening.
- TY Forensic workshop
- Climate action week
- Art classes entered Frances Teresa Ball art competition
- PAL trip to New York, competing in the world mock trials. It was reported that the trip went very well, with the girls' performance in the competition commended.
- Launch of Loreto Rotary Interact - also visit from Stephanie Woodard
- Swimming: Maria Godden won individual gold in 400 freestyle, gold in 100 free and silver in 100 back. Naomi Trait won individual silver in 400 free and the 100 freestyle.
 - Loreto senior relay team of Rachel Vaughan, Maria Godden, Naomi Trait and Lucy Harte won double gold in the freestyle relay and the individual medley relays.
 - Loreto Kilkenny won best girls school in Leinster in the senior category which is a phenomenal achievement
- Maths Week
- GAA Future Leaders Programme - sports equipment won
- All Ireland 7s Camogie winners
- Senior Hockey won Silver at the Loreto schools competition
- Miss First Year Competition
- October Fest - German Breakfast
- Represented at Comhairle na nOg
- 6th Year Irish - attended Irish play An Trial.
- Orla Browne won the South East Europe Direct Soapbox Competition
- Friendship Week.

b. Junior Cert results - the principal outlined an analysis of the Junior Certificate results which reflected very well on the work of the students in the year group, that of their teachers while the support of parents was also acknowledged.

6. Leadership and Management Annual Review - circulated in advance of the meeting and approved by the Board. It was noted that the biennial review as outlined in the relevant Department circular was scheduled to commence shortly.

7. Curriculum - Minister's announcement regarding History and the key implications for the curriculum were discussed. Main issues as follows:
 - a. Context of Loreto's new curriculum which brought about a number of key changes, including making all examination subjects optional, except for Irish, English, Mathematics. In part, the reason for this change was to allow for the reduction of the number of subjects for our students without limiting their choice. The reason for reducing the number of subjects was to enable the delivery of 400 hours of Wellbeing, while addressing the issue of curriculum overload.
 - b. While the value of History as a subject was affirmed, the practical and educational problems with its re-introduction as a core subject were considered. These include the delivery of all requirements of the Junior Cycle programme, allowing students to tailor a curriculum that suits their needs and aptitudes, protecting the time allocation for Irish, English and Mathematics and maintaining the viability of all option subjects.
 - c. The principal would continue to seek the support and advice of national bodies and the Loreto Education Trust with regards to how to proceed.
8. Parents' Association Report - a report on the first meeting and the AGM (with Sr Orla as the guest speaker) was given.
9. Health and Safety - no concerns reported.
10. Student Council
 - a. A report from Kay Phelan - Assistant Principal (I) with responsibility for student leadership was considered. The Board commended the work of the Student Council and their coordinator to date.
11. School Development Planning/School Self-Evaluation:
 - a. The Dignity in the Workplace Policy which had been circulated in advance of the meeting was ratified by the Board.
 - b. The role of the 'contact person/persons' was outlined.
12. 1868 – 2018 Committee
 - a. It was noted that the book launch was still to be arranged.
13. Building Programme
 - a. Car charging port - further advice being sought.
 - b. Green plan - deferred until next meeting when the Board would meet representatives of the Green Schools Committee.
 - c. Development plan:
 - i. Possible sub-committee to plan future needs of the school was suggested. It was agreed to consider this further at the next meeting.
 - d. Traffic Management

- i. A report on the recent meeting with representatives of St. Canice's, the County Council and an Garda Siochana was given. The following actions were agreed:
 1. When more information on the new bus service is available, Council provide both schools with the details so they can give parents and students the information.
 2. The Council will look at the timing on the pedestrian crossing lights. Presently pedestrians are required to wait a long time and simply choose to ignore the signal and cross during a gap in traffic negating the potential safety benefits of the crossing.
 3. Additional pedestrian crossing between St. Canice's and Loreto to be considered.
 4. Letter to parents from both schools of meeting with Garda representative and reminding them of illegal parking on cycle lanes, exits from schools and on double yellow lines.
 5. Both schools to meet with the traffic consultant to see if they can advise on making better use of their own car parks, set downs and traffic flow.
 6. Schools to carry out survey of where students are coming from and how they are coming to the school.

14. Finance - including sports rental.

- a. Update on final accounts 2018/2019 - it was reported that the draft accounts were due next week
- b. Sports rental on Gym excellent but Hockey pitch slots available
- c. The reconciled bank balances were presented and deemed to be in good order.

15. Dates for next meetings

9 December
30 January
11 March
7 May
22 June

16. Being no other business, the report was agreed and the meeting concluded.

Colm Keher,
Secretary.