

The Principal's Report /Update for Board of Management Meeting of 28.4.2020 during COVID-19

ICT

1. Online teaching successful for the majority. Highlighted some IT issues. Lack of Wi-Fi and lack of equipment. E.g. Presence of single device in home which is required for use by a *work from home* family member.
2. School has reconfigured settings on school iPads and made these available to students. About 20 iPads have been loaned with all available on request. Students prefer to work on laptops.
3. School has linked with *Northside Partnership* and *DCU* who will make Laptops available to DCS by Friday 1.5.20. Requested any number from 0-30. This will primarily assist students who must share equipment at home.
4. ICT team are constantly liaising with teachers and students to resolve issues
5. SNA's constantly checking in on students individually and in groups online, to help overcome basic online issues.
6. IT Technician assistance is ongoing. Technician and teachers have produced documents on accessing Microsoft 365 teams for parents and teachers. Parents willing to help but didn't have the knowledge to help students at the time. This information was sent to all.
7. Every student, class group, subject group, year group are all set up for remote learning. Communications ongoing regularly between homes and school.

Teaching and learning

1. **Full staff meeting** of 49 teachers and 12 SNAs took place Monday 27.4.2020, 11-1.00. Full agenda. Excellent discussion. Acceptance of the situation we all find ourselves in,; frustration at some students not engaging; satisfaction with most; concerns about exams; junior cycle confusion; policy discussion; expressed BOM request to thank all for efforts; TY modules for next year; timetabling; 5th yr. options for next year; end of year assessment plans.
Agreed: Subject departments to meet and communicate to P/DP preferences for end of year assessments.
(I think the great benefit was the chit chat and seeing each other at the beginning and the end.)
2. **Leaving Cert Assembly** on ZOOM Monday 27.4.2020, 1.30-2.45. 50% attendance, with about ten students acknowledging they could not log on. Others were "embarrassed" to log, on but would get the information. Excellent meeting.
Attended by P/DP/YH/Guidance/SEN/Tutor and SNA for ASD students.
Topics discussed:
 - Their wellbeing and that of families
 - Update on the latest situations
 - Leaving Cert Exams. Assured them we would look after the details once all clarified by DES/SEC, and they concentrate on work and study
 - All staff present spoke, referencing their own areas
 - Students offered opinions. Some excellent. With regard to teaching and learning they said the work was overwhelming at times. We agreed to move to Block classes. A timetable is now done and will commence on Thursday 30.4.20. They will receive 2 hours of Irish, 3 English and Maths, 2 each in the option blocks. 10.30 -11.30, 11.45-12.45, and 1.30 to 2.30.

They feel this allows time to teach, learn, study, complete work and actually go to classes on teams. Teachers very happy with this too.

Plan: Host a third year ZOOM meeting on Friday 1.5.20 when we know for sure the advice of SEC/DES and ACCS. Block classes will be offered for third years too.

3. Constant monitoring of all students. Subject teachers communicate with subject dept, information passed to Year Head, and all year groups, programmes etc bring the information to our weekly management meeting (Friday mornings on Zoom).
4. Response ranges from excellent to poor. Stats available. Excellent for the two weeks before Easter. V slow to start last week but gradually improved. Not yet back at the % of before Easter. Junior Cert announcements did not help engagement and created confusion. Clarification forthcoming here later in week I believe.
5. This term all SPHE/CSPE/PE/Religion have been instructed to set age appropriate research projects on interesting topics. This is to increase further engagement and reduce the pressure on "exam" teachers now that summer exams/junior Cert changes. This has engaged some previously reluctant participants as they have choices to study topics, they are more interested in.
6. A large number of teachers are signing up for webinars offered by various bodies. All offers are forwarded to staff with gentle encouragement to avail of all relevant webinars. P/DP seek the feedback.
7. Weekly School Management meetings. Excellent forum for total oversight of everything.
 - Friday 27.3.2020
 - Thursday 26.3.2020
 - Friday 24.4.2020
 - Friday 1.5.2020.

In attendance every week: Year Heads 1st- 6th, PLC Coordinator, Programme coordinator and LCA year head, HSCL, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor, Director of Adult Ed., Assistant to Director of Adult Ed., Deputy Principal, Principal

SEN and ASD

1. SEN department coordinated by 2 staff members. All students are receiving individual online guidance and help where possible. SNAs are taking instruction from teachers and directly contacting many students over their assigned students.
2. ASD students ongoing with tasks and assignments. Weekly feedback from parents indicate they are happy and ok. They are all enthusiastic about working. There are examples of frustrations at times. SNAs in the SNU are constantly checking in. We have four students due to sit their Leaving Cert and this is stressful for one in particular. However, he is constantly being reassured. His SNA is teaching him remotely (and is teaching three EAL students too on a regular basis).

P/DP

Trying to stay on top of everything but going blind from the laptops. 😊 We have written a personal letter to each year group and parents. Year heads emailed this letter to their respective groups. Also

composed a longer and more personal letter to the students in the SNU. Some nice feedback from this letter in particular.

Care Team

Ongoing and constant monitoring and liaising with all. All teachers, YH and staff asked to remain highly vigilant to concerns. Asking students about friends if concerned. We have found students who are suffering. They are v happy to chat. Regular emails and positive messages to all. Instagram wellbeing page overseen by coordinator. Many concerns and to date two reports.

Eight deaths of family members since we closed. One Parent and two grandparents to date. Some COVID related. Contacts made and care ongoing. P/DP/ and care team contact families and agreed that sympathy cards will be sent to all during the crisis.

About 90 students on the list now. Parents asked to contact the emails provided if they need us.

18 students have been posted Care Packs to assist and help with their wellbeing. A number of students in the SNU will receive a care pack next.

Zoom Management meetings weekly

Principal chairs meeting with DP. All allocated time to report on their area. Great ideas/ sharing of information/and improvements always sought. Engagement stats from week one to week three. Stats will be provided for last week but safe to say that the % have fallen in all year groups last week.

1 st year 60% - 75%	2 nd year 70% now	3 rd year 85% now
4 th year 50%.	5 th year 70%	6 th year 75%.

LCA initially v poor but coordinator personally calling students and parents. It is increasing. As a group they are struggling the most. It needs the personal touch to keep our cohort here motivated. They are finding it difficult to work on their own.

Ancillary Staff

1. No changes here. 2. Caretakers: one person is cocooning. One is overseeing the safety and general upkeep. Other is maintaining the grounds as needed.3. Cleaners will come individually, if asked. 4. Office Staff outstanding. Work on accounts as needed. Two working from home and available to help at all times and will pop in to the office for a few hours when needed.

SCHOOL MEALS DISTRIBUTION

Special mention. An Post now refusing to do deliveries. Team of DCS volunteers. Principal liaising with school provider. Delivery of 65 hampers to school every Wed 8.30am. Staff/volunteers assist with labels and delivery of hampers to community. All HSE protocols followed. All have letters from Principal.