

# **Board of Management Meeting**

**20th Feb 2024**

## **Principal's Report**

### **Events**

**05/12/23**

Our U16 ladies football team took on Castletroy College in the North Munster Shield semi-final. Our team was successful on the day. Well done to all involved.

Our TY students travelled to the West County Hotel Ennis to attend an induction programme for the TY Local Enterprise competition. Thanks to Ms Culligan the TY Coordinator for travelling with the group.

Our U15 boys football team took on Kilrush Community School. Our team unfortunately lost on the day.

Our 5th year Irish class welcomed a member of Seó Bóthair to our school. Our students took part in an interactive presentation where the use of the Irish language and possible careers choices where the Irish language is used, were explored.

**07/12/23**

Our 6th year LCVP class welcomed guest speaker, Imelda Burke to talk to the class in relation to their LCVP course work.

The 6th year students also took part in their Overnight Retreat in the school.

The group took part in a retreat workshop with Conor Cronin followed by dinner in the GP which was facilitated by the Sherwood Inn Ennis. The group also enjoyed some activities with staff followed by a candle light reflection which was hosted by Fr Donagh O Meara.

Many thanks to all the staff involved in organising this memorable event for our leaving certificate class of 2024, especially staff who gave up their free time to enable the event to take place.

Our 3rd year students travelled to Limerick on Ice as part of their annual school trip. Thank you to Mr Gregan and Ms Fitzsimons traveling with the group in their roles as Year Head and Tutor.

- 08/12/23** Our senior boys football team took on Lisdoonvarna Secondary School in the division A County semi final. Our boys were unfortunately defeated on the day.  
The leaving certificate class completed their Overnight Retreat by having a cooked breakfast in the GP before setting off with their Tutor Ms Willers and Mr Gregan to Limerick on Ice.
- 12/12/23** Our senior boys football team took on Colaiste Múire Cobh in Rathkeale. Our team won that day. Well done to all involved.
- 13/12/23** Both 5th and 6th year students studying Art visited Ballymorris Pottery and Limerick City Gallery of Art. Many thanks to Ms Moroney for organising the trip for her students.  
Our U15 boys football team took on Lisdoonvarna Secondary School. Our boys unfortunately lost on the day.
- 14/12/23** Our 6th year engineering class travelled to TUS Limerick campus to complete lab work which enhances student experience and student coursework in the subject. Thanks to Mr Canny for organising the event.  
The 6th year Home Economics class cooked a Christmas dinner which they served up in the home economics room. Thank you to Ms Haugh for keeping up this tradition with our LC students. Ms Convey, Ms Ryan, Ms Willers and myself joined the group for dinner.
- 16/12/23** We had the first performance of our Transition Year led school musical Oliver . This much anticipated production filled the local community centre over three nights and was a great success. Well done to all involved. Continued later in the report.
- 18/12/23** Our U14 girls football team took on Kilmihil Community College. Both teams drew on the day.
- 19/12/23** Our Transition Year students travelled to Limerick on Ice along with Ms Culligan TY Coordinator.
- 22/12/23** Our 5th Year LCVP class organised and coordinated our annual Christmas table quiz.  
Many thanks also to our school Chaplain Ms O'Brien for organising our Christmas carol service along with Trilby.
- 09/01/24** Our senior boys football team took on Castlegregory Secondary School. Our team won that day.  
Three of our TY students travelled to the RDS Dublin along with their teacher Ms Walsh. The three students presented their project over the three day event.

- 11/01/24** The TY class visited the RDS along with Ms Quilter on the first day, where our students had the opportunity to view all the various ideas and projects on display, along with showing support for our students on the day.  
Continued later in the report.  
Our 6th year Geography class travelled to the west coast to carry out a field trip as part of their coursework in Geography. This trip was organised by their teacher Mr Moloney.
- 15/01/24** Our TY class completed their first day of their week 1 work experience which forms part of the TY programme.  
Our senior boys football team took on Scoil Múire Ballingearry in a quarter final. Our team was successful on the day.  
We held our Transition Year 24/25 Information Evening for prospective students and parents who are considering the option of completing TY next year. Thanks to Ms Culligan and three of our current TY students for presenting on the evening.
- 22/01/24**
- 29/01/24** Our 6th year LCVP class took part in the State Examinations LCVP recorded interviews. These interviews go towards their final mark in LCVP. Thank you to both Ms Culligan and Mr Liston for arranging these interviews for our students.
- 31/01/24** We celebrated St John Bosco Feast day in the local church in Kildysart.  
Fr Albert led our Mass which was organised by Ms O'Brien. Many of our students took part in the Mass along with Sr Patricia Murtagh, representing both the Salesian Sisters and our school's Board of Management. Mr Billy Hamel also joined us, representing our Parents Association.  
It was a very positive event and well done to all involved.  
Our leaving certificate class started the first of their mock examinations in the afternoon.  
Junior cycle Home Economics Mock Practical examinations took place.  
Both LC and JC Mock Examinations continue until mid term break.  
A number of students travel to Pallaskenry to compete in the North Munster Cross Country.
- 01/02/24** Ten of our 1st year students qualified as individuals to go forward to the Munster Championship in February.  
Two 1st year teams were placed and go forward to the next round.

One of our 1st year girls teams was placed 2nd while one of our 1st year boys teams came 1st, both groups going forward to the next stage. Well done to all involved.

**02/02/24** Our 1st year boys football team took part in a football blitz, winning five out of the six matches they played.

Our 1st year girls football team took on St Flannans Ennis. Our girls won well on the day, final score 10-17 to 0-0.

**07/02/24** Our U14 girls football team took on Kilkee Community College. Our girls won well on the day. Final score 12-18 to 0-0.

**08/02/24** Our 2nd year girls basketball team took part in a basketball blitz against St Camins Community School Shannon and Scariff Community College. Our team won both matches, qualifying for the semi final.

**09/02/24** Four of our TY students along with Ms Ayres, departed from Shannon Airport to Missionvale, South Africa. The students put a huge amount of work into fundraising for their travels and for the children of Missionvale. Continued later in the report.

### **Sporting Activities:**

Many thanks to the following teachers for their continued time and commitment with our school teams.

Ladies Football Senior - Ms O Sullivan and Mr Liston

Ladies Football Junior - Ms O Sullivan and Mr Liston

Boys Football Senior - Mr O Dwyer

Boys Football Junior - Mr Keniry

Boys U15/U17 Hurling - Mr Gregan

Girls Basketball - Ms Quilter and Ms Moroney

Boys Basketball - Ms Quilter and Ms Quilter

Athletics & Cross Country - Ms O Sullivan

### **3. Anti-Bullying Procedures Report**

**3.1** There are no recorded incidents to report since our last board meeting.

### **4 Departmental Reports (including programmes)**

#### **4.1 Additional Educational Needs (AEN) & Autism Classroom (AS)**

Since our last meeting, we have had no update on our application for an additional modular classroom to cater for our AS Classroom.

Our Autism Coordinator Ms Mann has attended a number of CPD courses since our last meeting.

- **Introductory Course for New Teachers for Special Autism Classes**

- An overview of autism
  - Introduction to visual structured teaching approaches
  - An overview of sensory processing and autism
  - Developing and encouraging play, communication and social skills for students with autism
  - Promotion of regulation to support behaviour
- An introduction to individual and classroom planning

- **Planning for the autistic student**

- Develop an understanding of the Student Support Plan (SSP) within the context of rationale, process and product
- Focus on the planning for teaching and learning for autistic students

- Discuss strategies for SSP implementation and SSP review in collaborative settings
- Seminar Outline and Content:
- Understanding Autism and overview of planning
- Provide a framework for writing SSP, which includes the students' strengths and needs, priority learning needs, learning targets and progress
- Planning for transition for autistic students

- **T-TAP Training**

Teachers can use T-TAP to assist individuals with autism to prepare for a successful adult life (i.e. personal development, recreational living, adult integration into employment and residential arrangements, etc.). It includes both an initial formal assessment instrument and an ongoing informal assessment instrument. Anticipated Outcomes for Participants will:

- Be able to administer, score and interpret the T-TAP
- Be enabled to use the information from this instrument and other informal assessment strategies in developing an effective transition plan to create positive adult outcomes for individuals with Autism.

## **4.2 Student Support Team (SST)**

Our student support team continues to support our students in our school. The team continues to meet weekly to discuss and support individual students.

We have invited Ms Aine Meehan to attend a whole school staff meeting on the 9th of May to deliver a refresher course to staff on managing a critical incident in our school.

## **Leading Learning and Teaching**

**4.3**

Our LLT team continues to support and maintain our current focus within the SSE strands.

Our LLT team are continuing with helping with the development of a Living Skills module as part of our wellbeing programme in the school.

Our Curriculum Leader Ms Quilter attended a seminar in LCETB in relation to LLT teams in all LCETB schools. The following advice was given to all schools which reflects what DE inspectors are looking for.

- Active learning methodologies evident in classroom - student participation
- Assessment for learning (AFL) been utilised
- Sharing of learning intentions
- Create Effective questioning- Align with Blooms Taxonomy
- Evidence of teachers and departments reflecting on their own teaching and learning and collaboration
- Slar meetings notes recorded
- Formative feedback given to students
- Targets and Actions known by school community
- Subject department plans align SIP and recorded in the minutes of the subject department meetings- we are doing ' X 'actions
- Digital plan should be in SIP

Areas that our LLT will now focus on are:

- Provision Mapping
- Upskilling teachers on SEN
- Universal design for Learning in your CPD

**5. School Extension - No further update at this time**

**6. Solar PV Panels**

Our school has been put forward to meet the criteria of eligibility for the installation of solar PV panels in Phase 1. See correspondence attached.

7.

### **School Musical Oliver**

Our school took the ambitious decision to build on previous stage productions by staging its first full Musical- Oliver- in December.

The level of commitment required by numerous staff and students cannot be overstated.

Huge amounts of work took place between September and December including during mid term break and after school.

The finished product was a great success, with three sold out shows.

However, the most rewarding part of the production was to see the transformation in confidence in many of the cast and also the creation of new and enduring friendships across various year groups, friendships that several students have admitted would likely never have happened were it not for the musical.

The response from the community as a whole has also been very gratifying, with many people continuing to comment on and congratulate those involved. These productions really do put the “community” into “Community College”, with so many local people in the drama group, the hall committee, and elsewhere as well as parents giving their time and support. We are also hugely fortunate to have the goodwill of the drama group in terms of using their lighting system etc in the community centre.

As with all musicals, there comes a significant financial cost in running them. Due to the generosity of our patrons, sponsors, and members of the community along with funds generated through ticket sales and the nightly raffles, we managed to cover all associated costs and make a profit of €1051.00

8.

### **Erasmus Accredited School**

In order for our school to maintain mobility funding over the course of 5 years, organisations such as schools can make a further application to become an Erasmus+ Accredited Centre.

Ms Ryan and Ms Fitzgerald completed the Erasmus Accreditation application in December and with the support of school management and the CEO of LCETB, an application was submitted.

The Evaluation Committee met on 15th January 2024 to consider all applications. We are pleased to have been informed that we have been awarded Erasmus+ Accreditation.



Well done to both Ms Ryan and Ms Fitzgerald for their work with the application.

## 9. **BT Young Scientists**

“A Statistical Analysis of the Knowledge of Women’s Health and the Status of the Women’s Healthcare Services in Ireland” was the title of the BT Young Scientist entry from three of our TY students this year.

Clodagh O Connor, Saorla Crowe and Ruby Mooney traunched through results of surveys and research in relation to women's healthcare in Ireland and successfully managed to get as far as the RDS Dublin to display their findings. With the guidance from their science teacher, Ms Walsh, the three girls managed to receive a vote of “ Highly Recommended” from the judges on the day. The aim of their project was to investigate the health issues faced by women and provide knowledge about women’s health and women’s healthcare services.

The three students really enjoyed their time in the limelight over the three days in Dublin and thank you to their parents, Ms Walsh and Ms Quilter for all their support they gave our students.



## **Wellbeing Policy**

Ms Meaney and Ms O'Brien continue to develop the first draft of our Wellbeing Policy, they have met with all staff involved in the teaching of

## 10.

SPHE and Health and Wellbeing, with a view of creating cross curricular links between modules covered in both SPHE and Wellbeing at Junior Cycle.

During this meeting it was noted that student voice would be an integral part of developing this policy.

Ms O'Brien took on the role of creating a student focus group with the hope of receiving student feedback as to what they feel is important to include in our school wellbeing curriculum.

The Wellbeing team continues to develop this important policy.

### **Missionvale 2024**

11.

Clodagh O' Connor, Eimear Mc Gee, Sinéad O' Leary and Ali Talty along with their teacher Ms. Ayers traveled on February 9<sup>th</sup> to volunteer at the Missionvale Care Centre, for the week of midterm.

Our school has strong links with Missionvale and this was the schools eight year participating in the project with many staff and students having availed of this unique experience to give of their time over the years.

This year was an occasion of mixed emotions for the students and volunteers as it was the first time returning to Missionvale since Covid-19 in 2020 but also the first year returning since the death of Sr. Ethel Normoyle, RIP, founder of the Missionvale Care Centre.

During their time in Missionvale, the students worked in the primary school, in the nutrition centre, the clothing warehouse, Santa's workshop, the garden and in completed general maintenance work. A tour of the township where the locals live gave a real insight into the daily poverty and hardship experienced by the people .

None of the improvements and developments in Missionvale would have happened without the vision and determination of Sr. Ethel and the support she received from others, especially the people of Ireland and Co. Clare. Thankfully, Sr. Ethel had the vision to empower others to continue the great

work she started and today the Missionvale Care Centre continues to serve the impoverished community of Missionvale. Sr. Ethel's legacy will continue there with the support of volunteers and donations. Thanks to the students and staff of St. John Bosco Community College and the wider community, the students who travelled donated €6000 to the Missionvale Care Centre.