

## **Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community January 2022**

### **Mia Seligman, RIP**

The Board wishes to acknowledge the death of Mia Seligman on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 and to extend its sincere condolences to Mia's family. The Board is also mindful of all those in the School community grieving Mia's loss, in particular her friends and fellow students in second year and all her teachers. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

### **Covid-19 Response**

The School reopened for term two despite an understandable degree of concern nationally over the Christmas period. The most important risk mitigation measure that continues to be emphasised to parents and guardians is that if students display any symptoms of Covid-19, they should not come to school. Attendance data reflected this in the first week or so of term, but a significant improvement has been recently noted. Further Co2 monitors have been acquired as the information provided is important in achieving the right balance between ventilation and heating in classrooms. To supplement natural ventilation in certain rooms, a number of HEPA filters have also been installed. Classroom temperatures continue to be monitored and are proving satisfactory.

### **Parent/Guardian Teacher meetings**

Online parent guardian teacher meetings continued in December for first year and fourth year form teacher meetings with parents/guardians. Feedback from parents/guardians and teachers has been positive in relation to the online experience. The next parent guardian teacher meeting is for fifth year on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2022, followed by second year in March 2022 and first year in April 2022.

### **Mock examinations**

Mock examinations for both sixth year and third year are scheduled to take place in the two-week period prior to the February half term break. It is important that these examinations proceed for students, given the adverse educational and assessment landscape that both year groups have been experiencing over the last two academic years.

### **State Examinations Commission**

Oral language examinations in Irish and modern foreign languages and the music practical examinations for Leaving Certificate 2022 will be conducted by State Examination Commission (SEC) appointed examiners, during the Easter holiday period, using a revised six-day model to run from Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> April to Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April. As a consequence, parents/guardians and students are advised not to plan holidays during the first week of the Easter holidays.

### **Outdoor seating**

The installation of new outdoor bench seating in the front yard, accommodating a further fifty persons is welcomed. A collaboration between students, teachers and Alan Meredith Studio on new outdoor single seating, representing the second half of this project, is proceeding apace.

### **Campus trees**

An arborist has been engaged for advice in relation to the trees at the edge of the campus bordering the Rowanbyrn estate and Benamore Road. Preliminary tree surgery is to be conducted in order to establish the safety and viability of all three trees.

### **Retirement**

The Board wishes to acknowledge the work and contribution of cleaner Ms Charlotte Duffin to the School and to wish Ms Duffin well on the occasion of her retirement.

### **Department of Education circular letters since the last meeting of the Board:**

0059/2021 – Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/ba2a3-arrangements-for-the-implementation-of-the-framework-for-junior-cycle-with-particular-reference-to-the-school-year-202122/>

0065/2021 - Enhanced Minor Works Grant Funding for Primary Schools

Exceptional Minor Works Grant Funding for Post-Primary Schools with a particular focus on supporting enhanced ventilation

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/db27a-enhanced-minor-works-grant-funding-for-primary-schools-exceptional-minor-works-grant-funding-for-post-primary-schools-with-a-particular-focus-on-supporting-enhanced-ventilation/>

SD 0002/2021 - Measures to increase the availability of substitutes for post primary schools for 2021/2022.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/257ab-information-note-sd-00022021-measures-to-increase-the-availability-of-substitutes-for-post-primary-schools-for-20212022/>

SD 0002/2022 - COVID-19: Updated Arrangements for all recognised Post Primary Schools – January 2022

[gov.ie - Information Note SD 0002/2021 - Measures to increase the availability of substitutes for post primary schools for 2021/2022 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/257ab-information-note-sd-00022021-measures-to-increase-the-availability-of-substitutes-for-post-primary-schools-for-20212022/)

TC 0026/2021 – Temporary COVID-19 emergency substitution arrangements

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/45420-temporary-covid-19-emergency-substitution-arrangements-for-post-primary-schools/>

*SEC Circular S85/21* Arrangements for the completion, authentication and submission of Coursework for LC and JC 2022 and file naming conventions for LC practical coursework submitted through the schools' portal.

[https://www.examinations.ie/schools/cs\\_view.php?q=eb7b5bf661c6740f57322ac9b4066ffb39bac3fb](https://www.examinations.ie/schools/cs_view.php?q=eb7b5bf661c6740f57322ac9b4066ffb39bac3fb)

SEC Circular S89/21 Issue of Leaving Certificate Examination numbers.

<https://www.examinations.ie/schools/circulars/>

SEC Circular S90/21 Important information in relation to Leaving Certificate Oral Language Examinations and the Music Practical Examination.

<https://www.examinations.ie/schools/circulars/>

**End.**