

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community March 2022

Mary Kennedy, RIP

The Board wishes to acknowledge the death of Ms Mary Kennedy on 13th February 2022 and to extend its sincere condolences to Mary's family. The Board is mindful of all those in the School community grieving Mary's loss, in particular her friends and colleagues on staff. Mary was a talented and committed teacher who contributed to the School in a variety of ways over the years, including as a Board member, a trade union representative, a department coordinator, a TY team member, and as founding editor of the *Newpark Newsletter*. Mary is sadly missed by her former pupils, her former colleagues and all her friends in Newpark. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Covid-19 Response

There have been noticeable positive outcomes for the atmosphere in the School from the relaxation of Covid-19 risk mitigation measures, such as, the requirement to wear a face covering, reverting to a two-way system on the main stairway, rearrangement of desks and chairs in classrooms and the repurposing of the GPA and theatre for their intended purposes. Attendance data evidences that the requirement to stay at home if you have symptoms is being adhered to, and the Board expresses its appreciation to all members of the School community accordingly. However, the attendance data also points to the sagacity of the continued use of good infection prevention and control measures (hand and respiratory hygiene) and good ventilation.

Parent/Guardian Teacher meetings

The remaining Parent/Guardian Teacher meetings for the academic year 2021/2022, namely, second year in March 2022 and first year in April 2022 will take place in-person in the School. This is in line with current guidelines and the Board welcomes this development and the opportunity it presents for parents and guardians of these year groups to visit the School.

Mission statement

The Board is pleased to present the new mission statement to the School community. The new mission statement is published on the School website and is also available to read on the noticeboard in the School reception area. The Board acknowledges the contribution of the Task Review Group and all those who participated in the consultation process.

Attendance Policy

The Board also publishes a revised attendance policy this month. Some updates were required due to procedural changes both internally and externally. The revised attendance policy is published on the School website.

Academy of Music

The annual *Newpark Academy of Music Festival* successfully returned for 2022, held solely on campus in Melfield House. The National Concert Hall has been secured for the winners' gala on 9th May 2022 and this event will also serve as a fundraiser. The first 'micro course' starts in April 2022. This is a music technology course, and the module is the first part of the diploma course, envisioned to take its first intake in 2023. The international masterclasses are also returning, welcoming Randy Ingram, a New York based pianist/composer to Newpark in April. This has been made possible with funding from the Arts Council.

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

01/2022 – Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2021

[gov.ie/en/circular/0c7a3-teacher-fee-refund-scheme-2021/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/0c7a3-teacher-fee-refund-scheme-2021/)

02/2022 – Graduate Certificate in the Education of Pupils on the Autism Spectrum (AS) for teachers working with Pupils on the AS in Special Schools, Special Classes or as Special Education Teachers in mainstream Primary and Post-Primary School, 2022/2023

[gov.ie/en/circular/8b91b-graduate-certificate-in-the-education-of-pupils-on-the-autism-spectrum-as-for-teachers-working-with-pupils-on-the-as-in-special-schools-special-classes-or-as-special-education-teachers/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/8b91b-graduate-certificate-in-the-education-of-pupils-on-the-autism-spectrum-as-for-teachers-working-with-pupils-on-the-as-in-special-schools-special-classes-or-as-special-education-teachers/)

03/2022 – Post-Graduate Diploma Programme of Continuing Professional Development for Special Education Teachers, 2022/2023

[gov.ie/en/circular/c5fe3-post-graduate-diploma-programme-of-continuing-professional-development-for-special-education-teachers-20222023/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/c5fe3-post-graduate-diploma-programme-of-continuing-professional-development-for-special-education-teachers-20222023/)

07/2022 – Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools with effect from 1 February 2022

[gov.ie/en/circular/995d0-revision-of-salaries-of-school-secretaries-and-school-maintenance-staff-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-with-effect-from-1-february-2022/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/995d0-revision-of-salaries-of-school-secretaries-and-school-maintenance-staff-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-with-effect-from-1-february-2022/)

08/2022 – New Public Holiday

[gov.ie/en/circular/8ce5f-new-public-holiday-from-2022/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/8ce5f-new-public-holiday-from-2022/)

09/2022 – Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants with effect from 1 February 2022

[gov.ie/en/circular/f1a03-revision-of-salaries-for-special-needs-assistants-snas-with-effect-from-1-february-2022/](https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/f1a03-revision-of-salaries-for-special-needs-assistants-snas-with-effect-from-1-february-2022/)

SD 0003/2022 – Updated Covid-19 Guidance to Schools following the mid-term break 2022.

[gov.ie - Information Note SD 0003/2022: Updated Covid-19 Guidance to Schools following the mid-term break 2022 \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/information-note/sd-0003-2022-updated-covid-19-guidance-to-schools-following-the-mid-term-break-2022/)

TC 0002/2022 – Covid-19: Changes to Special Leave with Pay from 7th February 2022 for Teachers and SNAs employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.

[gov.ie - Information Note TC 0002/2022 - COVID-19: Changes to Special Leave with Pay from 7th February 2022 for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants](#)

TC 0003/2022 – Covid-19: Parental Leave Scheme – Arrangements for remainder of 2021/22 school year for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.

[gov.ie/en/publication/782d4-information-note-tc-0032022-covid-19-parental-leave-scheme-arrangements-for-remainder-of-202122-school-year](#)

SEC Circular S03/22 - Use of Bilingual Dictionaries in the 2022 Certificate Examinations.

https://www.examinations.ie/schools/cs_view.php?q=5bcf32409af6ecba9b8c4ee8510ff2ab603a094e

SEC Circular S06/22 – Leaving Certificate Examination 2022 adjustments to papers and timetable publication.

https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5de4ebae5719bc363911df16/t/6203cc2659c0ee73169ad912/1644416039276/S06_2022_Timetable+and+Adjustments.pdf

Please see link [here](#) to LC History Prescribed Topics 2024-2025.

SEC Circular S12/2022 – Examination Centres 2022.

[cs_view.php \(examinations.ie\)](#)

SEC Circular S15/22 - Leaving Certificate Oral examinations and Music examinations 2022.

[examinations.ie/schools/EN-1011-18042940.pdf](#)

End.