

## **Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community January 2023**

### **Admission Policy**

The Board approved amendments to the Admission Policy required in accordance with Section 62 of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Provision in respect of children with special educational needs) Act 2022, along with the addition of clarifying paragraphs in relation to late applications. The amendments will be brought to the attention of parents and guardians of students attending the school and to staff of the school for their information and comment prior to being forwarded to the Patron for approval.

### **Hockey Pitch Redevelopment**

Negotiations between the project managers and the new contractors have progressed, and a revised scope of works has been finalised. Both Newpark and Avoca Hockey Club look forward to making a joint announcement shortly in relation to progress on this project.

### **One-to-One Devices**

In light of ongoing consideration and reflection, it has been decided to introduce one-to-one devices for students, starting with first-year in September 2023. The introduction of one-to-one devices is intended to further enhance the progress that has been made in digital learning in the School over the last decade. Most importantly, it is intended that the incorporation of one-to-one devices will amplify existing pedagogical practice and add to both the learning and the assessment experiences of our students. Details in relation to the purchase of devices will be shared with parents and guardians of incoming first-year students at upcoming information sessions.

### **Student Wellbeing**

Responding to and managing student anxiety within the School community is an important initiative under the School Improvement Plan this year, prompted by national evidence that young people's social and emotional skills and wellbeing have been adversely affected by the pandemic. The School is engaging Dr Claire Hayes, consultant clinical psychologist and author of *Finding Hope in the Age of Anxiety* to work with students, staff and parents/guardians. The PTA is funding and organising the parent/guardian presentation from Dr Claire Hayes on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and all parents and guardians are encouraged to register for and attend this event. Dr Claire Hayes will return in late March to work with students.

### **Six Sister Schools' Annual Conference**

Newpark hosted the annual meeting of the Six Sister Schools under Church of Ireland patronage on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022. On the first day, Principals and Deputy Principals attended a session split between the sharing of School Self-Evaluation practices and a workshop with Dr Claire Hayes, while the annual meeting of the representatives of the Boards of Management took place on the second day. Both days were positively received by the participating schools, and all look forward to the conference next year, hosted by Temple Carrig School.

### Mock examinations

Mock Leaving Certificate examinations are being held over ten days from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Mock Junior Certificate examinations are being held over eight days from Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February to Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The sixth-year exams are being held in the gym during the first week and in classrooms during the second week. The third-year exams are being held in classrooms over the eight days.

### Co-curricular Activities

There was significant success for the School at the recent BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition with three entrants at junior, intermediate and senior level. Three third-year students received a 'Highly Commended' award in the Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences category for their project entitled, 'Fuelling Newpark with Food Waste'. A fifth-year student won second place (individual) in the Behavioural & Social Sciences category for her project entitled 'Do 18-year-olds have the cognitive ability to vote fairly?'. There has been a lot of other recent co-curricular successes in the academic, cultural and sporting domains, all of which can be read about in the upcoming edition of the *Newpark Newsletter* available shortly on the School website.

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

Circular 0067/2022

[Revision of salaries of clerical/caretakers under the 1978-79 scheme- building momentum pay agreement](#)

Circular 0070/2022

[Enhancement to irish sign language isl scheme provision post primary](#)

Circular 0071/2022

[Teacher supply post primary teaching hours extension scheme for 2022-2023](#)

Circular 0072/2022

[Standardisation of the school year in respect of primary and post-primary for 2023-24, 2024-25 and 2025-26](#)

Circular 0073/2022

[NQF level 9 graduate diploma in SPHE/RSE programme 2023](#)

Circular 0075/2022

[Education provision for children with SEN Act 2022 and education admission to schools act 2018](#)

Circular 0077/2022

[Once off cost of living measure to support increased school running costs](#)

Circular 0078/2022

[Bereavement leave for registered teachers employed in recognised primary and post-primary schools](#)

Circular 0079/2022

[Bereavement leave for SNAs employed in recognised primary and post-primary schools](#)

Circular 0001/2023

[Advice on use of assessment instruments/tests for guidance or for AEN/SEN in post-primary schools](#)

Information Note TC 0011/2022 – Updates on the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to the school year 2022/23.

[Updates o implementation of framework for junior cycle with particular reference to school year 2022-23](#)

SEC S62/2022

Junior Cycle Examination Results 2022 to BOMs/Authorities of Second Level Schools and ETBs

[Junior cycle examination results 2022](#)

SEC S63/2022

Junior Cycle Final Examination – Visual Art – Booklets to be used for Final Assessment

[Junior cycle visual art booklets for final assessment](#)

SEC S64/2022

Leaving Certificate Examination 2023 Practical Tests in Music To the Authorities of Post Primary Schools

[Leaving certificate 2023 practical tests in music](#)

SEC S71/2022

Leaving Certificate Art 2023 – Brief for Practical Coursework and Invigilated Practical Examination Leaving Certificate 2023

[Leaving Certificate Art 2023](#)

SEC S72/2022

Announcement re oral examinations in Irish and Modern Foreign Languages Leaving Certificate 2023

[Oral examination in Irish and Modern Foreign Languages Leaving Certificate 2023](#)

SEC S76/2022

Acceptance and Authentication of Coursework for the State Examinations – Updating the list of subjects with coursework and reminder of the obligations on school authorities, teachers and candidates as set out in SEC Circulars 68/08 and 69/04.

[Acceptance and authentication of coursework for the state examinations](#)

SEC S77/2022

Junior Cycle Final Examination in Music, 2023 Practical Examinations

[Junior cycle Music, 2023 practical examinations](#)

**End.**