

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community January 2024

Acting Deputy Principal Appointment

Mr Hugh Holmes has been appointed Acting Deputy Principal from 18th December 2023 until the conclusion of this academic year. The Board wishes Mr Holmes well in his role and wishes Ms Lynn Anderson well on her maternity leave.

Teacher Collaboration for TLAR

The Board notes the current work in the School in relation to professional collaboration to consolidate and improve practices in teaching, learning, assessment and reporting (TLAR). The focus in term one was on sharing and assessing learning intentions and success criteria. The focus in the latter half of the academic year shifts to assessment strategies. The Board acknowledges teachers on a successful staff meeting on 28th November 2023 highlighting and sharing the work of the *Community of Practice*, sharing insights into peer observation and on the insight and learning achieved through a dynamic and energetic *Teach Meet*. Further consolidation, focussing on learner experiences for a quality, inclusive and relevant education, was achieved in conjunction with the Oide team members at the Junior Cycle CPD session on 14th December 2023.

First Destination Survey, Class of 2023

The Guidance Department has compiled first destination data for the Class of 2023. The information largely reflects the destination data from previous years, in terms of percentage numbers of graduate students progressing to higher education, further education and apprenticeship. The high percentage of higher education students attending TCD, UCD and TUD continues, as in previous years. An increase in the number of students opting for a gap year was noted and an increase in the number of students choosing apprenticeship was also welcomed.

Student Wellbeing

During the academic year 2022/2023, Dr Claire Hayes, consultant clinical psychologist, worked with students, teachers, and parents/guardians, as part of an initiative under the School Improvement Plan to respond to and manage student anxiety within the School community. Upon review, this initiative remains important and relevant for the School going forward. In order that parents and guardians of current first year students may have the opportunity to hear Dr Hayes talk about understanding and managing their children's anxiety and for parents/guardians from second to sixth year who missed Dr Hayes' presentation last year, or who would like a refresher, Dr Hayes will be back in Newpark for an in-person presentation in the GPA on Tuesday 23rd January 2024.

State Examinations

The Leaving Certificate Candidate Self Service Portal (CSSP) opened on Wednesday 17th January 2024 for candidates to register and activate their account and confirm their subject entries and levels. It will remain open for this purpose until 5pm Friday 2nd February 2024. All students and their parents will be informed via a year group assembly and via an email.

Mock Leaving Certificate examinations are being held over nine days from Monday 29th January to Friday 9th February 2024. Mock Junior Certificate examinations are being held over seven days from Wednesday 31st January to Friday 9th February 2024. The 6th year exams are being held in the gym during the first week and in classrooms during the second week. The 3rd year exams are being held in classrooms over the seven days. Timetables for these exams are posted on the School website.

Sports Centre Industry Award

Along with the *Ireland Active* 'National Quality Award for Leisure Centres' Outstanding Award, the Newpark Sports Centre was shortlisted for and won the Leisure Centre of the Year 2024 award at the *Ireland Active* Conference and NQS Awards ceremony on 17th November 2023, at the Lyrath Estate, Kilkenny. This is an excellent achievement and well-deserved recognition to the Centre and to its management and staff.

Co-curricular Activities

The Board notes the progress and successes over term one at all age levels of the girls' and boys' teams in hockey, the girls' and boys' teams in basketball, and the boys' teams in rugby. The 'Musical Extravaganza' in December was a great success with a large cast and crew, not to mention sell out audiences, all enjoying the experience. The Carol Service held on 13th December 2023 was also an enjoyable experience for all those in attendance. It was a pleasure to welcome the Most Revd Dr Michael Jackson, Archbishop of Dublin to join with the School community in worship and of course to allow the Archbishop another experience of the School community in action.

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

0056/2023

[Cost of living measure to support increased school running costs](#)

0057/2023

[Panel access for fixed-term/temporary \(this includes substitute\) and part-time teachers to the Supplementary Redeployment Panel for the 2024/25 school year](#)

0058/2023

[Force Majeure Leave and Illness in Family Leave for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools](#)

0059/2023

[Domestic Violence Leave for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools](#)

0060/2023

[Domestic Violence Leave for SNAs employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools](#)

0001/2024

[Cost of living measure to support increased school running costs in 2024](#)

0004/2024

[Extension to the Waiver of Abatement of Public Sector Pensions under Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions \(Single Scheme and Other Provisions\) Act 2012.](#)

0005/2024

[Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2023](#)

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