

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management

Agreed Report for School Community

March 2025

In Memoriam

The Board acknowledges the recent death of Ms. Claire Prior, mother to Evan Swift (4AD). The Board extends its condolences to Evan and his family.

The Board acknowledges the recent death of Mr. Nick Grier, son of Mr. Robert Grier (Chairperson, Board of Management 2013 to 2023). The Board extends its condolences to Robert and Penny and to the wider Grier family.

Personal Devices Policy

The Board ratified the new *Personal Devices Policy* to take effect from the beginning of the academic year 2025/2026. The leadership team in the school will now proceed to finalise plans for communication and implementation of the policy in due course. The Board expresses its appreciation to the relevant stakeholders for their participation and feedback during the consultation process. The Board acknowledges the work of the Task Review Group in consulting on and drafting this review.

University College Dublin, Entrance Scholar Awards

Three students from the Class of 2024 received UCD Entrance Scholar awards. Entrance Scholar awards are presented to first year UCD students who achieve 500 points in their Leaving Certificate in recognition of their academic accomplishment to date. The students were Demi Hannon, Sava Pavlovic and Jonathan White. The school was presented with a commemorative plaque.

Academic Calendar Year, 2025/2026

In line with Circular 0072/2022, the School must be open for 166 days in the academic year and must observe the standardised breaks at Christmas, Easter and mid-term in the first and second terms of the school year. For the academic year 2025/2026, the School will open on Friday 22 August 2025 and close on Friday 29 May 2026. Along with the standardised breaks, it was agreed that the School will close on Friday 26 September 2025 and Monday 16 March 2026.

Information sessions for parents/guardians of third year, fourth year and incoming first year

There are evening information sessions taking place across March and April for incoming first-year parents/guardians (25 March 2025 and 1 April 2025), for third year parents/guardians in relation to the Transition Year programme (9 April 2025) and for fourth-year parents/guardians in relation to Leaving Certificate program and subject choice (11 March 2025). The incoming first-year sessions include informal tours of the campus for parents/guardians facilitated by prefects. There will also be the assessment session with incoming first-year students on 9 April 2025, followed by an induction visit to campus for incoming students in May/June 2025.

Seachtáin na Gaeilge

Is féile idirnáisiúnta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dteanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn agus in go leor tíortha eile gach bliain. Tá Seachtáin na Gaeilge ar siúl sa Pháirce Nua ó 1 go 17 Márta 2025. There are a number of events taking place over the two weeks for students and teachers. Ceol, cómhra agus caint, tráth na gceist agus scannáin. All students and teachers are being encouraged to use their Gaeilge!

PISA 2025

PISA (*Programme for International Student Assessment*) is a project of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that assesses the skills of 15- and 16-year-olds in science, reading and mathematics every three years. In the current cycle, over 90 countries and education systems are participating. PISA is specifically referred to in Ireland's Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy Strategy, amongst other policies (e.g., STEM Education Policy Statement). Newpark is one of 172 post-primary schools that have been selected to participate in the PISA Main Study 2025 and it is important that the school participated as it is one of a small number of studies that are used to compare the achievement of students in Ireland to their peers internationally and to monitor changes in achievement within Ireland. Participation provides valuable information about education in Ireland and relative to other countries.

Co-curricular Activities

The Board extends its congratulations amongst recent sporting successes in the school to the senior girls' hockey squad who has won both the league and cup double this year. The girls represented themselves and the school with skill, determination and integrity. The Board also wishes to acknowledge the successful participation of the school in Model United Nations events this academic year and the successful annual *Book Week* which took place in the school from 3 to 7 March 2025. Events this year included a book swap in the library, a short story competition, teacher 'What I'm reading' posters on classroom and office doors, visiting authors, and a TY and 5th year trip to the Book of Kells and Trinity Library.

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

0005/2025

Special Education Teacher (SET) allocation for the 2025/26 school year.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/328ff-special-education-teacher-set-allocation-for-the-202526-school-year/>

0008/2025

Staffing Arrangements in Community and Comprehensive Schools for the 2025/26 school

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/ac70b-staffing-arrangements-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-for-the-202526-school/>

0012/2025

Amendments to the Social Education Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Module Descriptor

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/a4197-amendments-to-the-social-education-leaving-certificate-applied-lca-module-descriptor/>

0015/2025

Revision of Teacher Salaries under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 March 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/05757-revision-of-teacher-salaries-under-the-public-service-agreement-2024-2026-effective-from-01-march-2025/>

0016/2025

Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 March 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/da2cb-revision-of-salaries-for-special-needs-assistants-snas-under-the-public-service-agreement-2024-2026-effective-from-01-march-2025/>

0018/2025

Revision of Salaries of Clerical Officers and Caretakers employed under the 1978/1979 Scheme under The Public Service Agreement 2024 - 2026 effective from 01 March 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/6000d-revision-of-salaries-of-clerical-officers-and-caretakers-employed-under-the-19781979-scheme-under-the-public-service-agreement-2024-2026-effective-from-01-march-2025/>

0019/2025

Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools effective from 1 March 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/fef86-revision-of-salaries-of-school-secretaries-and-school-maintenance-staff-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-effective-from-1-march-2025/>

0020/2025

Revision of Salaries for School Secretaries Previously Grant Funded Effective from 01 March 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/72c5f-revision-of-salaries-for-school-secretaries-previously-grant-funded-effective-from-01-march-2024/>

0021/2025

Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2027

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/0c79d-prescribed-material-for-the-leaving-certificate-english-examination-in-2027/>

0022/2025

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma of Teacher Professional Learning for Teachers working with Students with Special Educational Needs - Autism

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/574c0-postgraduate-certificatediploma-of-teacher-professional-learning-for-teachers-working-with-students-with-special-educational-needs-autism/>

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