

## **Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community March 2026**

### **Board membership**

The Board acknowledges the recent stepping down of Rev John Tanner and Rev Canon Roy Byrne from its number. The Board wishes to acknowledge its deep appreciation to both Rev Tanner and Rev Canon Byrne for their significant contributions to the Board over their respective tenures. Both did the Board and the school a great service. The Board will now proceed to liaise with the archbishop to secure his replacement nominees for these vacancies.

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

There are evening information sessions taking place across term two for incoming first-year parents/guardians (24 March and early May 2026), for third year parents/guardians in relation to the Transition Year programme (15 April 2026) and for fourth-year parents/guardians in relation to Leaving Certificate program and subject choice (24 February and 3 March 2026). The incoming first-year orientation will include an assessment session in April 2026, followed by induction visits to campus in May 2026.

### **State Examinations**

Mock examinations for both sixth year and third year students were conducted over the two-week period prior to the February half term break. The use of the sports hall for the duration of the exams proved successful. Mock examination reports have now issued to all students. Preparations for oral language examinations in Irish and modern foreign languages and the music practical examinations for Leaving Certificate 2026 proceed accordingly. Junior Cycle Music practicals were held in the school on 5 and 6 March 2026.

### **Parent Teacher Association**

The Parent Teacher Association (PTA) is hosting an evening for parents and guardians on Thursday 19 March 2026 in the GPA, where Dr Colman Noctor, child and adolescent psychotherapist with St Patrick's Mental Health Services, is guest speaker. The Board supports this initiative and extends its appreciation to the PTA for its work in this regard.

### **Education for Sustainable Development**

Two students from the *World Wise Global Schools* team made an excellent presentation to the senior leadership team recently in relation to the current waste management project which is being funded by a *World Wise Global Schools* grant. The emphasis of this year's project is twofold, firstly on facilitating brown waste disposal for the school and secondly on ceasing the use of combined (i.e., non-segregated) bins in the GPA and, in time, on campus. The Board commends the students and their facilitating teachers on this project.

### **Co-curricular Activities**

The Board extends its congratulations amongst recent sporting successes in the school to the school's hockey teams, in particular the senior boys and the minor girls who had particularly impressive success in their respective league and cup campaigns this season. The Board also extends its congratulations to the school's basketball teams, in particular the senior boys' squad on its exceptional and unprecedented success at regional and national level. The boys represented themselves and the school with skill, determination, and integrity. The Board also wishes to acknowledge another phenomenal year for school drama at both senior and junior levels, with the production of Twelfth Night in December, the Short Plays in January and the Junior Plays upcoming in March. The school also looks forward to *Music Week* in April.

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

S18/26

Leaving Certificate (Established) Examinations 2026; Oral Examinations in Irish and the Modern Foreign Languages

0009/2026; 27 January 2026;

Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools effective from 01 February 2026 [Link - pdf](#)

0018/2026; 3 February 2026;

Standardisation of the School Year in respect of primary & Post-Primary Schools for the years 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 [Link - pdf](#)

0019/2026; 28 January 2026;

Concurrent Initial Teacher Education Bursary Scheme (STEM Bursary) [Link - pdf](#)

0024/2026; 2 March 2026;

Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2028 [Link - pdf](#)

**END**