

Board of Management Agreed Report 15th June 2023

This was the last Board meeting of the school year, and the Board paid tribute to the hard work done by all staff in the day to day running of the school and in dealing with emergency situations on the rare occasions they occur. The Board also acknowledged Samantha Rice for acting as Principal and Amy Buckley for assisting her as acting Deputy in May and June during Colm Manley's absence.

The Board discussed the allocations of multi-disciplinary supports to CCSS and other special schools and the continuing issues surrounding disability services locally and nationally. The HSE met with the Parents' Association to provide information on Adult Day Services. The school also had a visit from the government Minister for Disabilities, Anne Rabbitte, as well as other public representatives.

While the school has featured in recent media, the Board is also working to ensure that media interest does not become overly intrusive.

The professional development of staff continues, with the school organising and hosting a teach-meet for teachers of the Level 1 and 2 Learning Programmes for Junior Cycle in special schools in Cork. Staff have also begun planning for the introduction of a new Primary Curriculum Framework. Staff also completed training with NCSE on Autism Good Practice and with the PDST on the Primary Language Curriculum for Special Schools. Our local Children's Disability Network Team visited the school in May, has provided a training session for some of our teachers and is to provide a further whole staff training session in late August.

Students enjoyed a range of art workshops which were supplemented with staff training, which was funded through an Arts Council grant. The traditional end of year school tours were very successful, with the Junior classes going to Fota and Little Rebels, while Seniors enjoyed a day in Crosshaven at Pipers' Funfair.

The Parents' Association has also been very active and worked with staff over the last few weeks to develop and decorate the cabins.

The Board ratified the school's Internet Acceptable Usage Policy and conducted a review of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy. The Board also discussed the many practical challenges facing our school in the future. It is anticipated that energy bills could increase by as much as 75%. The school is being considered for inclusion in Towards Inclusion, a pilot project which is aimed at partnering special schools and local mainstream schools.