# Kishoge Community College Principal’s Report to Parents

**24th October 2019**

## Board of management

Parents’ nominees: Colm Reid; Somantha Killion Connolly

Staff nominees: Lisa Nolan; Aaron Kenny

Educate Together nominees: Chris Lennon; Meena Baskarasubramanian; Dr Joe Oyler

DDLETB nominees: Cllr Liona O’Toole; Daneve Harris; TBC

Thanks to Eddie Fox who has stepped down after serving as Chair for five years.

Thanks also to Karen Gleeson, Micheál Griffin, Fiona Kane, Cllr Ken Farrell and Caitríona Jones who have also stepped down.

## junior cert/Cycle 2019

Junior Cert/Cycle results received by our third cohort of students on Friday 4th Oct.

Strong performances in English, Irish, French, History, Science, Technology, Classical Studies, Home Economics and Coding.

## enrolment 2021

Enrolment to First Year 2021 os now open and closes on Friday 29 Nov.

Currently more than 200 applications received.

## CPD

NJC CPD on Friday 29th Nov. school closed to students

## PST Meetings

Reminder that 6th Year PST meeting takes place on 7th Nov. and 3rd Year PST meeting on 26 Nov.

## Open night

Open Night takes place on Thursday 14th Nov.

Can we have PC assistance with carparking, PC room, teas/coffees?

## in-school Leadership team

2019-20: Additional posts: AP1 2 posts; AP2 2 Posts

AP 1 interviews last week

AP 2 interviews will be held in late Nov/early Dec.

Total management posts: 1P, 1 DP, 7 AP1; 8 AP2; 1 PC.

## WSE-MLL Inspection: commendations & recommendations

**Commendations:**

* Positive culture…..values and vision modelled by staff
* Exceptional volunteerism of staff
* Commitment to continuous improvement of the learner experience
* Broad range of provision … curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular
* Innovation and creativity of T&L encouraged
* Interesting TY and LCA programmes
* Different cultures celebrated
* Culture of learning throughout the school
* High levels of satisfaction with first year taster programme
* CPD supported
* Collaborative learning at whole-school level is well established
* Robust Droichead system
* Student care prioritised
* Anti-bullying measures prioritised
* Academically-able students have co-curricular and cross-curricular learning opportunities
* Good EAL systems for identification & testing of EAL students
* Very positive rapport between students and teachers
* Positive behaviour celebrated
* Parents & staff express high levels of satisfaction at how the school is run
* Staff morale high
* V strong work ethic evident among staff
* Student leadership promoted in many ways……evident that student ssee themselves as stakeholders and feel empowered to initiate change
* Parents and students v positive about quality of T & L
* Use of learning intentions
* Enjoyment & motivation of students in their lessons
* Enthusiasm of teachers for their subjects
* AfL strategies evident….impressive
* ICT supported learning
* Variety of teaching approaches observed
* Teachers had high expectations of students
* Prep was of a high standard
* Good examples of whole-school literacy initiatives observed
* Good subject dept planning
* School’s capacity for improvement is very good

**Recommendations:**

* Policy dev.: SEN, Guidance,
* More time for SPHE
* Review needs analysis re PoRs
* Differentiation: outcomes, modes of assessment, learning tasks and activities
* Target-setting in SSE
* BoM to provide agreed reports
* More guidance classes
* More in-class support for students whose first language is not English
* Rolling review of policies by BoM
* School should devise strategy to monitor and develop the impact of CPD in the classroom
* Differentiation of learning intentions should be a priority
* Develop homework policies at dept level to support consistency
* Scope to further develop reinforcement strategies in identified key numeracy strategies is needed
* Purposeful use of attainment data should be included in all subject planning

## Third Year Outdoor Trips

Two trips on 1st October. Glendalough; Carlingford Adventure Centre.

Both passed off peacefully.

## first Year Welcome night

First Year Welcome Night took place on Weds 25th Sept. Very well attended by parents and staff.

Thanks to PC for their assistance.

## Student Voice

STUDENT COUNCIL  
The student council speeches and nominations have been taking place over the last fortnight.   
  
Leadership team  
Student Leadership Team: All 6th year students participated in a leadership training day on Friday 13th September, facilitated by Dale, Ciara, Lisa and the 6th year tutors. After a session on the benefits of student leadership, students engaged in leadership skills games, reflection and strategic role play, as well as all completing competency based application forms and "campaign speeches".

Student Leadership Team is up and running, with all mentors working on projects - including goal setting mentorship programmes, starting new clubs in KCC, a guidebook for parents on the Irish education system and an extra curricular showcase.

## college awareness week

College Awareness Week will run from Monday 18th Nov. Aim is to create an awareness of college entry and college life with a view to raising their ambitions and expectations for themselves.

## Science Dept

Achrafe (5A4), Giovanni (5A2) and Nikkel’s (5A4) project has qualified to go forward to compete for the ***Boston Scientific Medical Devices Grand Award at the SciFest 2019 National Final*** for their GOB spoon device which will take place in the Marino Conference Centre in Dublin on 22nd November.

Physics lecture: 5th and 6th year physics students attended a lecture from physicist Brian Cox in the RDS Concert Hall. The topic was ‘Exploring the Universe’. Students found it to be a unique and rewarding experience.

## school choir

* The school choir are currently preparing for the DDLETB Festival of Music auditions.
* Auditions underway for the Kishoge Open Night performances.
* Preparation underway for Lunchtime Concerts to take place after the Midterm Break.

## communications committee

The Communications Committee are organising a panel of judges to pick the top 3 best Mascots submitted during the design competition. The panel will be made up of students, staff, and representatives of Art Club and the Sports Committee. The school will vote on their favourite in the coming weeks.

## drama club

Drama Club are busy with Ciara and Lauren working on the KCC Podcast (due live in December), improv skills and collaborations with the film club.

## English dept

Trinity English Evening Lectures: Trinity Lectures have been attended by 10-15 6th year students each week, with students enjoying the university experience and the high standard of lectures - particularly on Emily Dickinson!

## Maths dept

Maths Week: Our students have been engaging in activities in class such as daily puzzles, escape rooms, and maths trails. On a whole school basis we held a Rubik’s cube challenge at lunch on Monday and a spaghetti challenge at lunch on Tuesday. There is a maths eyes competition running for all students throughout the week.

## Musical

The KCC Musical –‘Grease’ - rehearsals are in full swing - with cast and directors working each Friday and Tuesday after school to prepare for show in March.

## black history month

The inaugural Black History Month has officially launched at Kishoge. A committee of students from different cultural backgrounds decided on a range of activities to mark this event. Students have already presented at assembly and have been proactive at ensuring there are a diverse range of Black History Month events in place for the end of term incorporating dance, fashion, film, music and food.

## greenschools

Six senior Green-School's committee members travelled to a Climate Emergency Conference this week with Brónagh to learn about the realistic consequences of Climate Change for Ireland. Three members of the committee will be presenting at the whole-school assembly in November on our current and future initiatives. Shauna is working with other committee members on collecting data on water usage in the school which will be a key part of achieving the Water Flag.

## numeracy

The first Numeracy Committee meeting was held with representatives from each subject department. The meeting was very beneficial and has to many suggestions for the year ahead and the Numeracy CPD which will be delivered shortly after the mid-term break. Currently, as part of Maths Week, there is a numeracy competition among teachers which encourages a focus on graphing and analysis during this week across all subjects.

## Futsal

Our first year girls’ futsal team won their Dublin qualifiers. Their performance was outstanding. They will now progress on to the Dublin finals.

## transition year

**CSI:** The CSI workshop gave students an opportunity to experience what it would be like to be a real life crime scene investigator. The students were brought through their steps by two former members of An Garda Siochana.

**MatriX Workshop:**This workshop was a fun, activity-based full-day sessions designed to inspire and empower students; to give them greater confidence and to encourage them to explore new ideas using smarter thinking skills and their own awareness and imagination.

**World of Work Workshop:** The TYs were privileged to have Heidi Fitzgerald come visit the school from the Musgrave Group. Heidi is a very experienced employee of their human resources department. Students learnt about being prospective employees, dealing with contracts, employee benefits and many other issues that might impact on them in their future careers.

**Zeminar:** All attended Zeminar at the National Sports Campus where the students were inspired about looking after their own wellbeing and live happier, safer, and more fulfilling lives. Students had to research speakers before the event and then attend workshops with at least two of them on the day. Students then completed a post trip report to reinforce their learning from the day.

**Flamenco Workshop:** A Flemenco workshop was organised by Pilar for all students of TY. The students really enjoyed the cultural experience and got to sample some authentic Spanish dancing.

**Criminal Courts & Collins Barracks:** The first of our TY Law module groups visited the Criminal Courts and Collins Barracks. The day consisted of a talk with a barrister and then students had a chance to act out a mock trial. Afterwards the students visit the different courts in the Criminal Courts of Justice and got to see some real live trials in court. The students also visited Collins Barracks that afternoon.

## girls football

On average 30 girls at football training, on a Thursday evening. Great attendance and attitude. Senior girls, taking lead and helping coach younger students.  Games are starting this week.

## BT young scientist

Two group projects have been accepted into BTYS from Computer Science Department. Nedas, Madalina and Marcin from 3rd year and Oscar from TY.