

Maths for Parents

An initiative which is being pioneered at Kinsale Community School in terms of improving student experience in the area of maths is that we have organised night classes for parents in how to help their child in first year with their homework. Our first such meeting was held on November 13th and 47 parents of first year students attended. Ms Aoife O'Mahony and Ms Aine Cotter hosted the event and the feedback was very positive.

Maths Liason with Primary School Teachers

An initiative that we are currently pioneering is the development of a common approach to making maths fun and at the same time positive and enriching. To that end we held a maths meeting with the teachers of fifth and sixth class in the primary schools. While we have initially concentrated on fractions decimals and percentages this process may be developed into other areas. Aine McKenna and Aileen O'Mahony hosted this Maths enrichment programme. It has been agreed that a booklet will be produced by Aine and Aileen to support this collaborative project.

Visit of Sean McCann- Ceist Liaison Person

Mr Sean McCann from Ceist visited our school on October 24th 2018 to ensure that our practices are faithful to the Model Agreement and that the trustees interests are being protected and safeguarded. Mr McCann was very pleased with our practices.

Microsoft Dream Space Proposal

Ger Hogan and I visited the Microsoft Head Offices in Leopardstown on September 25th 2018. This was organised by the ACCS to showcase this facility and Microsoft products. We invited Microsoft to Kinsale Community School and to view the McAuley Suite as a possible Microsoft Dreamspace concept for the south of the country. The staff from Microsoft met with us at the school on Thursday November 15th 2018. We are to meet again with a view to further develop the concept of Kinsale Community School serving as a model school in respect of Microsoft technology.

Microsoft Office 365 Training for Staff with Wriggle

Microsoft Office 365 provides students and staff with the Office applications they know with the added benefit of being able to work wherever they happen to be. Microsoft's Office 365 offers exciting new ways to collaborate and deliver curriculum content. Wriggle is a Microsoft Office 365 Education Partner with the capability to support schools in ensuring that this fantastic resource is used to its optimum. Kinsale Community School are very fortunate to have been selected to receive complimentary training for teachers in using Office 365 and support in developing a strategy for using the resource across the school. This training is valued at €3000 and will be delivered to 12 of our teachers who will form the Digital Leaders Team at KCS. Training will start next term and will involve four 2-hour workshops delivered onsite-two workshops this academic year and two at the start of the 2019/20 year.

Eamon Stack Presentation

On November 7th 2018 Mr Eamon Stack retired Chief Inspector and current Chairperson of the NCSE presented to staff on the work of the NCSE and the new evidence based model for the allocation of resources. Mr Stack was assisted in his presentation by two members of NCSE staff. As the material covered was relevant to both primary and secondary schools, we invited the principals of the feeder primary schools to share this event with us. In this regard there was very useful material exchanged that will be of benefit to the transfer of students from primary into our school. Both Mr Stack and his

colleagues from the NCSE were very impressed with our practices at Kinsale Community School and have requested us to make a presentation to the NCSE at its meeting in Trim Castle on December 11th 2018.

SEC Oral Examination Dates

We have been advised that the oral examinations will take place on the following dates: Irish March 25th to March 29th 2019; French German, Italian and Spanish April 1st to April 5th 2019

School Musical

Rehearsals are currently at an advanced stage for our annual school musical. This year's musical is 'Durdy Dancin' which is a comedic take on the musical 'Dirty Dancing'. The musical is being produced by Mr Tony Cierans and our TY co-ordinator Ms Niamh Hay. The entire cast is made up of TY students. The show will run from December 11th through to the 15th 2018.

French Exchange

Our students visited Antibes in France between October 8th and 12th 2018. The students were accompanied on this programme by Mr Tony Cierans and Niamh Hay. This is a part of the TY programme.

German Exchange

Our TY students hosted German students as a part of our twinning arrangement with Karlsruhe on the week of October 22nd through to October 26th 2018. Our Students will be travelling to Germany in April 2019.

Trip to China

Two of our students, Roisin Nyhan and Ryan O'Sullivan have been chosen by UCC to visit China in Easter 2019 as a part of the Confucius Institute Easter Study Camp Programme.

Awards Evening 2018

Kinsale Community School held its annual awards ceremony, Éacht na Scolaí, on Friday 19th October 2018. Nearly 600 students, parents and staff packed into the school hall to honour the achievements of the Kinsale students in a variety of areas. Guests were treated to a variety of musical arrangements performed by the traditional Irish group and prepared by Ms Brid Kearney prior to commencement of the Awards Ceremony.

Guest of Honour for the night was Mr Pat Cox, former President of the European Parliament. In his early career he was a current affairs journalist and presenter of RTE's Today Tonight before going onto become a TD for Cork South Central in 1992. He still continues today to play a significant part in European politics. Mr Cox expressed his joy in being able to celebrate the achievements of the students at the awards night. He stated that he could get a '*sense of the vitality of the young people*' from the diversity of awards received on the night. During his speech, Mr Cox referred to the schools mission statement and highlighted words including '*enabling students, fostering the development of personal responsibility, engendering the spirit of co-operation*' and '*facilitating the professional development of staff*' and doing so in a '*safe and caring environment*'. He stated that '*these are very powerful values*' and that they were '*self-evident*' here in the school.

Mr Cox commended the school on the variety of achievements including numerous BTYS awards including the overall BTYS win three times, Best School Award 2015, three European awards, a Google Award and also the recent World VEX Robotics win in Kentucky. He stated '*It is an extraordinary level of achievement*' and commended the school in encouraging achievement. He stated that this level of

achievement *‘shows that the energy from the bottom up is powerful and real’* and that *‘each succeeding wave of students that come here draw from the energy and example of the ones that went before’* and *‘all of these things speak to the powerful values that underlie in this school community’*.

Mr Cox admitted that he was struck by the three rights of students in school - the right to be happy, the right to learn and the right to be different. He likened the right to be happy to the words quoted by Thomas Jefferson when drafting the United States Declaration of Independence - *‘We hold these truths to be sacred and undeniable, that all men (today we should add ‘all women’) are created equal and independent; that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent and inalienable among which the preservation of life, and liberty, and the pursuit of happiness’*. Mr Cox urged students to *‘look out for one another’*; although many students are very connected in the virtual world, they may feel isolated and alone in the real world.

In his final address to the audience, Mr Cox encouraged students to be active citizens stating *‘You need to understand the power of one; the power that you carry within yourself; the capacity you have as young people to make a difference’*. He concluded his address with reference to the words of poet William Ernest Henley in the poem *Invictus* *‘You are the masters of your fate. You are the captains of your souls’* and urged students to *‘bring those energies to a wider service for a greater good. Let us make our country the best small country for the world’*. Mr Cox’s visit to KCS was also marked with an unveiling of a plaque on the Kinsale Community School Wall of Fame.

On the night, which was MCed by Deputy Principal Ms Kathleen O’Brien, students received awards for a host of achievements and activities, ranging from Year Awards to Sporting Awards to Academic Awards. Pupils from the Leaving Certificate class of 2018 were honoured for their outstanding results with the Senior Academic Award being presented to Lorcan O’Brien and the top Leaving Certificate Applied award going to Christopher Good. The Fifth Year Award went to Niamh Murphy. The Junior Certificate Academic Award was presented to Róisín Nyhan who was recognised for her excellent Junior Certificate results.

Ms Kathleen O’Brien paid special tribute to our former colleague Mr Don O’Shea whose untimely death occurred in 2017. Mr O’Shea was an excellent teacher of Chemistry and Maths and his results always exceeded the national averages by a long way. His teaching style was thoroughly professional and delivered with great humour. He prided himself on placing students at the centre of learning at all times. His contribution to KCS was commemorated with the ‘Don O’Shea Memorial Award’ which was presented to Emmett O’Regan in recognition of his excellence in learning.

Other notable awards on the night were the O’Brien Biotech Award which went to current fifth year student Michal Niczejewski, and the Catherine O’ Byrne Memorial Award for German which was presented to Fiona Deasy. The Civic Virtue Award was presented to Darren Bolton and for his charitable and voluntary work both in the school and local community. The Kilian Ryan Memorial Award for the Arts was presented jointly to Fiona Deasy and Julie Moynihan. The Joe McGrath Memorial Award was presented to Katie Daly. The Special Achievement in Sport Award was presented to Matthew Healy (Soccer) and was accepted by his brother Christopher Healy. The Science and Technology Award was presented to Ethan Monkhouse. The Bank of Ireland Community Awards went to Cathy Hynes and John Walsh. The Kinsale Historical Society Award was presented to David Barry and the BT Young Scientist Winners Award was presented to Lily Fitzgerald, Seán Collins, Katie Reynolds, Niamh Crowley, Orla Madden, Sarah Fitzgerald and Shane Collins.

Sr Rita Twomey (Chairperson Board of Management) congratulated the students on their achievements and successes. She encouraged students to continue to develop and share these gifts and talents with the wider community. Sr Rita commended Principal Mr McCarthy, past principals Mr Seán O’Broin and Sr Mary Donovan, sponsors, parents and committed staff who collaborated with one another to achieve the beautiful and newly refurbished school. Sr Rita also highlighted the new facilities which can be enjoyed by the school community and enhance all aspects of education.

In his opening address Mr McCarthy welcomed local elected TD's Michael Collins and Margaret Murphy O'Mahony, Cork County Councillor Gillian Coughlan, Board of Management Chairperson Sr Rita Twomey, distinguished guest Mr Pat Cox and both former and present students to the annual awards evening. He highlighted Mr Cox's roles in life and his many prestigious positions including college lecturer, broadcaster and MEP. He also spoke of Mr Cox's compelling vision in respect of inclusivity and advocacy in championing democracy. He stated that *'Mr Cox represents a very modern, well-educated island and he speaks with a very authentic passionate voice in Europe and globally'*. He also highlighted Mr Cox's current work in assisting Ukraine in developing a parliamentary structure similar to Ireland.

The principal expressed his delight in acknowledging the Leaving Certificate class of 2018 at the annual awards evening. Mr McCarthy conveyed his congratulations to the class of 2018 who obtained exceptional results and also stated that they were *'a pleasure to deal with'* and *'not only did you exceed in your Leaving Certificate but you also exceeded in the reputation that you have amassed for yourself. You epitomise inclusivity, kindness, generosity and co-operation'*. He stated that he believed that the students being celebrated were the *'future leaders of our country and our community'* and his final message was *'the future is being built by people like you and that instils for me great confidence in the future'*.

In his final address Mr McCarthy acknowledged and thanked the parents who assisted and collaborated with the school in shaping the young people. He also welcomed Ms Anne Kelly and spoke about the initiation of the 'Don O'Shea Award' to commemorate our colleague Mr Don O'Shea. He also thanked Ms Kelly for commissioning and designing the award to celebrate Mr O'Shea's contribution to the school. Mr McCarthy thanked Sr Rita Twomey (Chairperson of the Board) and all the Board members. He also expressed thanks to Deputy Principals Kathleen O'Brien, Claire Sheehan and Gerard Hogan and all of the teaching staff. The principal also thanked the co-ordinator of the Awards evening Ms Máire Fleming and her assistants.

The Awards Ceremony concluded with a musical finale directed by Ms Brid Kearney which included Julie Moynihan on piano and Selina McCarthy on violin.

The full list of nominees and awards winners is as follows:

First Year: Ben Loughnane, Caoimhe McGuinness, Ciara Ryle, Clare Cronin, Conor Fitzpatrick, Conor O'Callaghan, Emma Casey, Eoghan Cassidy, Ferdia Hellebust, Gabriella Bowen, Harry Vincent, Jason Russell, Kevin Dempsey, Lee Collins, Maja Hermanska, Max Cronin, Maya Meade, Orla Madden, Sarah Deasy and Tara Gleasure.

The Overall Winner was Ben Loughnane.

Second Year: Anna Callanan, Anne-Marie Collins, Ben Buckley, Ben Langford, Chi Chi Nnamani, Dylan Carraher, Ellen Doyle, Emma Hurley, Eva Crowley, Ivanna Van Rensberg, Joanna Tocka, Joe Brennan, Katalin O'Regan-Leder, Leah Hurley, Matas Gudausis, Niamh Brennan, Niamh Peet, Rachel Henderson, Sarah Carroll, Sarah Fitzgerald, Shane Collins, Sophie Madden and Tudor Albu.

The Overall Winner was Joe Brennan.

Third Year: Alex Lordan, Ava McCarthy, Bryan White, Caitlin Kelleher, Eddie Corkery, Ellie Mai Dyer, Hannah Hayes, Maebh O'Leary, Niamh Domoney, Oisín Coyle, Róisín Nyhan, Salvador Porras O'Sullivan, Sophie Cumiskey and Thomas Grennan.

The Overall Winner was Oisín Coyle.

Transition Year: Amy Murphy, Cathal Flynn, Cian Murphy, DArragh Haydon, David Gunn, Ellen Maguire, Ellie Gregg, Gabi Korcewska, Jack T O'Callaghan, Jenny Kelleher, John Walsh, Katie Murphy, Kellie Murphy, Niamh Gimblett, Patrick Gowran and Shauna Murphy.

The Overall Winner was Katie Murphy.

Fifth Year: Abi Allen, Andrew O'Connell, Cathy Hynes, Cian Ryan, Cornelia O'Reilly, Daniel Graham, Darragh Mangan, David Hankard, Eve Casey, Jennifer McCarthy, Kitty O'Sullivan, Lucy Kelleher, Olivia Keohane, Padraig Nyhan, Paul Wills, Sadhbh O'Brien, Sarah Moynihan, Seán O'Meara, Selena McCarthy and Siobhan McCallum.

The Overall Winner was Abi Allen.

Sixth Year: Aliesha O'Shea, Conor Desmond, Darren Bolton, David Barry, David Graham, Ellen Kelleher, Finnán McAllen, Fiona Deasy, Isabelle Fitzgerald, Jack Grainger, Julie Moynihan, Katie Daly, Marie Dempsey, Niamh Steenson, Rachel Reardon and Tracy McCarthy.

The Overall Winner was David Graham.

Junior Sport: Alex Deegan, Anna Fahy, Annemarie Collins, Aoife Hartnett, Arianna Price, Ava Coyle, Ava Mulhall, Cameron Lovell, Clare Flynn, David Looney, Elyas Eshaji, Eoin O' Donovan, Fionn Reynolds, Gaby Bowen, Geraldine Tyner, James Murphy, Jason Russell, Kate Redmond, Louis Allman, Luke Desmond, Matthew Healy, Megan Fahy, Peter O' Sullivan, Rachel O' Brien, Rosemarie Buckley, Sarah Desmond and Siobhán O'Donovan.

The overall winner was Siobhán O'Donovan.

Senior Sport: Aidan O' Donovan, Áine Cummins, Aisling Hurley, Amy Murphy, Brendan O' Connor, Conor Desmond, Dara Tyner, Darragh Crowley, Deirdre O' Reilly, Eoin Redmond, Faye Ahern, Fiona Keating, Jack Grainger, Jenny Murphy, Katie Daly, Kealan O' Rourke, Luke O' Callaghan, Rachel Reardon, Rhys Reynolds, Saoirse McCarthy and Seán Twomey.

The overall winner was Saoirse McCarthy.

Special Achievement in Sport Award: Matthew Healy (Soccer)

Kinsale Historical Society Award: David Barry

Joe McGrath Memorial Award: Katie Daly

Bank of Ireland Awards: Cathy Hynes and John Walsh.

Civic Virtue Award: Darren Bolton

Kilian Ryan Memorial Award: Fiona Deasy and Julie Moynihan.

O'Brien Biotech Award: Michal Niczejewski

Catherine O'Byrne Memorial Award: Fiona Deasy

Science & Technology Award: Ethan Monkhouse

BT Young Scientist and Sci Fest Award: Lily Fitzgerald, Seán Collins, Katie Reynolds, Niamh Crowley, Orla Madden, Sarah Fitzgerald and Shane Collins.

Don O'Shea Memorial Award: Emmett O'Regan

Academic Awards:

Lorcan O'Brien – English, Maths, Physics, Chemistry & Biology

Sorcha Doyle – Irish, Chemistry & Biology

Niamh Twomey – Chemistry & Accounting

Juan Vazquez – Maths, Applied Maths & Physics

Fiona Deasy – Irish, History, German & Music

Emmett O'Regan – Chemistry, Engineering & DCG

Finnán McAllen – English, Art, Biology & Construction

Jasmine McShane – French, Biology & Home Economics

Chris Healy – Physics & DCG
Julie Moynihan – Chemistry & Music
David Barry – History, Accounting & Business
Ethan Monkhouse – Physics & Chemistry
Saoirse Hill – Business
Isabelle Fitzgerald – English & Geography
Rachel Callanan – Geography
Martin Collins – Construction Studies
Gavin Condren – Engineering
Katie Daly – Business
Sara Hurley – Home Economics
Ross O'Donovan – Business
Tadgh O'Leary Ashford – Physics
Brendan Ryan – Business
Clodagh Butler- Religion
Niamh O'Sullivan – Business & Home Economics
Killian O'Neill – Engineering
Rachel Reardon – Agricultural Science
Martin O'Brien – Engineering
Grace O'Leary – Business
Brian Dunican – Engineering
Rebekah Ryan – Business
Joseph O'Donovan – Engineering
Jordan Keohane – Engineering
Skye Allen – Engineering

Junior Academic Award: Róisín Nyhan

Fifth Year Academic Award: Niamh Murphy

Leaving Certificate Applied Award: Christopher Good

Senior Academic Award: Lorcan O'Brien

ACCS In School Management Conference Farnham Estate, Cavan 22nd-23rd November 2018

The agenda for this years Management Conference was “**School Culture & Communication**”.

The Plenary Session was entitled “**Microsoft Education Transformation Framework- Exploring the teaching and Learning Potential of Anywhere Anytime Learning**”. Ms. Kati Tiainen, Microsoft Director of Global Digital Learning Strategy (Finland) was the key note speaker. Ms. Tiainen spoke about how to prepare the class of 2030 for the world as it was stated that 65% of job titles of the children we are teaching do not yet exist. She focused on how self directed learning is crucial as we move forward in order to help our students prepare for the skills they would need to live in this ever changing world. She stated that due to the advancements in modern technology students are learning without us and are more sceptical so we need to advance with them in terms of how to learn. She stated that the technological decisions made in a school should be linked to pedagogy and collaborative practise. In the past she stated it was felt that collaboration was considered to be cheating whereas this is currently now the best way forward.

She acknowledged that in order for good progress to be made change needs to be at a steady pace and that where the infrastructure & motivated teacher & support exist, the change will be more

successful. She quoted Michel Fullan saying “When you face resistance its time to celebrate, it means that change has been recognised”.

Session 2 – Workshop – Ms Fiona O’Brien, Team Leader, Leadership/Assessment JCT Support Services

“School Leaders: Empowering You to Lead Junior Cycle Reform with all Stakeholders”

Fiona O’Brien spoke about how the student is the main stakeholder at Junior Cycle and that parents, teachers and the School Leadership and Board of Management are the other stakeholders that need to be considered. What do the parents/students need to know? Do teachers know where this is going?

Parental engagement is key in this process and they need to be made familiar with the framework and terminology that is now being used so as the conversations they have with their children will be meaningful and well informed. The landscape of assessment has changed and this needs to be communicated with the Board and Parents.

Supporting teachers is vital in this reform as planning the units of learning are the challenge for the teacher. The learning outcomes underpin the opportunity and challenge. The units of learning need to be planned using the learning outcomes as they are the bedrock to support teachers when planning and preparing for: ongoing assessment and reporting through units of learning, Classroom Based Assessments, The Assessment Task and The SEC exams.

The assessment at Junior Cycle was also discussed in particular the CBA schedule. The time frame for each CBA is the same but there can be movement within this timeframe. JCT encourage extra curricular activities to continue and the student is to attend but there was a debate on this as it is felt it is unfair to have to reschedule CBAs and to allow some students the extra time as a result.

Regional Meeting - Discussion

1. Clerical Officers Issue
2. GDPR Audit – some schools have employed an external GDPR auditor to assess where they are in relation to this
3. Clarity of SLARS – no update
4. DEIS schools – looking for another DP
5. Wellbeing 400 hours – discussion relating to where we are as we approach 2020. A survey will be sent out and results distributed in order to help with ideas re timetabling.
6. FSSU Audits have been taking place with some schools getting a lot of recommendations and this is something we all need to be mindful of
7. The next meeting is scheduled for January 23rd at 1.30pm

Sports Department Update November

Soccer: The Senior Team won The Cork Futsal Finals in Bishopstown.

The U15 Team was beaten in The Munster Cup.

Luke Desmond, 6th Year, represented Munster in the Munster Schools Team in the recent FAI Schools Interprovincial Tournament.

Gaelic Football: The U15 Footballers have progressed to the Munster Final, defeating Kilmacthomas in the Semifinal.

Basketball: The U16 Boys Team will play their County Semifinal next week.

The U16 Girls Team have reached the same stage in their competition and will play their County Semifinal also next week.

Rugby: The school has teams involved in the Emerging Schools Competition at U14 and U15 level. These competitions run as 4 Blitz days from October to March. The U15 Team has now competed in two of these blitz days and are undefeated to date. They won their first blitz day in Clonakilty RFC and their second blitz day in Dunmanway RFC.

The interest in U14 level has resulted in KCS entering two teams. They were unbeaten in their blitz day in Pres., defeating Bandon Grammar, Pres and Christians.

Hurling: The U14 hurlers attended a blitz in Páirc Uí Chaoimh as preparation for their upcoming league. They won a couple of games at the blitz and will play Coláiste Chroí Naofa, Carrignabhfeair in their first league game before Christmas.

The Senior Hurling Team defeated Michelstown CBS in the Quarterfinal of the competition they won last year.

Feilte Scoile 2018

On Wednesday October 10th 2018 Kinsale Community School hosted our annual 'Féilte Scoile between 12.00-2.00.

'Féilte Scoile' is our school's celebration of teaching and learning. Kinsale Community School continues to pioneer innovative pedagogy and recognises the value of shared experience. A series of workshops were facilitated by our staff, demonstrating research in their respective fields.

Our programme outline for 2018 is set out below as is our theme for 2018

Theme: Kinsale Community School fostering the key skills of the junior cycle

Presenters	Title	Outline	Link to junior Cycle key skill
<i>Maria Kennedy Cliona O' Shaughnessy</i>	Promoting literacy in KCS using cross-curricular strategies.	Introducing a number of strategies that can develop a student's literacy skills in a way that can be used across several different subject areas.	<u>Being literate</u>
<i>Stephen Good Catherine Coughlan.</i>		To showcase the benefits of Assessment for Learning as a classroom strategy. To motivate and engage students in the	Being creative

	CBA: Creative AfL methods to engage students	completion of CBAs across a range of subjects.	
<i>Bertie Pearse Maeve Mc Namara</i>	Strengthening the student voice: The benefits of students reflecting on their learning	The workshop will outline the benefit of students reflecting on their learning and also focus on sharing some teaching strategies to facilitate reflection thus enhancing learning	Managing myself
<i>Gerard O Callaghan Ger Hogan John Corcoran</i>	Office 365: Introducing Outlook and Forms	The workshop will focus on using outlook for effective communication among staff and will look at the possible uses of Forms as a tool for student assessment and feedback.	Communicating
<i>Diarmuid O Donovan</i>	Whole-school Wellbeing and Restorative Practice	The workshop will outline the central role that Wellbeing will play in the post-primary sector, and how it will inform curricula, policies and teaching strategies relevant to all teachers into the future. The rationale of the talk is to both inform teachers of the new policy, and also to show them how some of these concepts might be practiced positively in their own interactions with students.	Staying well

JCT Staff CPD

The Department of Education and Skills is providing schools and teachers with a comprehensive programme of continuing professional development (CPD) to support schools in implementing the new Framework for Junior Cycle (2015). This CPD is being provided by the Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) support service.

12th November 2018: Cluster CPD Day

Given the large number of subjects that CPD is being provided in simultaneously, the traditional model of CPD provision, based in local education centres, becomes unsuitable. In a bid to minimise disruption to teaching and learning at school level JCT is now operating a different model of CPD provision for subject specific CPD – the CLUSTER MODEL. This new model entails a number of schools (usually 6 to 10 schools) in a particular geographical region closing to students on the same day so as to ensure that all of the teachers in each of these schools can come together for the purpose of attending Junior Cycle related CPD.

23rd November 2018: Wellbeing in Junior Cycle

This whole school CPD workshop focused on establishing where wellbeing sits within the Junior Cycle Framework, while deepening our understanding of wellbeing and discussing our role as

teachers in developing student wellbeing. The day was also an opportunity for our staff to reflect on the many positive initiatives that are embedded in our school. It provided a platform for us to recognise the positive learning environment we have all helped to create at KCS, which was very affirming, uplifting and empowering for staff.

Internet Safety Talk for Parents

An internet safety talk will take place at the school on November 27th 2018 at 7pm to provide parents with an overview of how children use the internet, common apps they use, how to update privacy settings and the dangers involved in cyber bullying. This presentation will be delivered by volunteers from Trend Micro's Internet Safety for Kids and Families (ISKF) programme, which has reached 2.5 million children, parents and educators since its inception in 2008.

OUR SELF-EVALUATION REPORT AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN AT KCS 18/19

In recent years, we have been looking at teaching and learning in our school to find out what we are doing well. This is what we discovered: The teaching and learning in our school is of an excellent standard and the results obtained by our students in the State Examinations are considerably ahead of the national average. A recent Whole School Evaluation in Management, Leadership and Learning has underlined this fact. Pupils have access to a wide spectrum of extra and co-curricular activity. The targeted use of resources towards students with learning difficulties is having a very positive impact in terms of equalisation and inclusion. The collaboration between teachers and the exchange of best practice approaches and ideas is an effective and embedded feature of the school.

This is what we did to find out what we were doing well, and what we could do better: The areas of literacy and numeracy have been in firm focus since 2012 and continue to be reviewed and enhanced. More recently we have broadened the lens to include the areas of feedback and assessment for learning. Considerable time and effort has been invested in these areas over the last three years. Initiatives have been put in place to interrogate our practices and to identify any shortfalls. Where shortfalls are identified measures are put in place to improve them. This cycle of research, implementation, practice and review is constant as we seek to consolidate our position as leaders of teaching and learning. We gather evidence, analyse evidence, draw conclusions, document the SSE report and SIP, implement and monitor.

This is what we are now going to work on: Our School Improvement Team are constantly looking at initiatives which we can engage with to improve aspects of our service delivery so as to ensure a quality educational experience for the students in our school. Our current focus on our assessment practices ties in well with the current JC reform. We have invested heavily in CPD for teachers to upskill in this area. We will be changing our MIS to Cloud School in 2019 to enhance feedback to parents and students. We are using Microsoft 365 to enhance teaching and learning in the school. We continue to work on the areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Feedback. Current actions include Y1 Maths Seminars for Parents, Maths Liaison with Primary School Teachers, paired reading and Y1 Literacy Booklet for Parents.

This is what you can do to help: The improvement of practice is best obtained when you examine the service that you are currently providing. The examination of our service and practice is best achieved through research with our stakeholders and partners. This research is often conducted through the use of surveys and questionnaires. The more who participate in a meaningful way with

this research the greater the benefit it will be. We are constantly seeking to improve and your help in this regard is very much appreciated. Participation in school initiatives you will be informed about, which involve improving Literacy and Numeracy and enhancing learning is strongly encouraged.

Here is some information about how we are carrying out our work at Kinsale Community School and about what the Department of Education and Skills (DES) requires us to do.

School time and holidays

The Department requires all post-primary schools to have **167 school days** each year, and a **28-hour school week**. This year we will have planned for 167 school days, from Monday August 27th 2018 to Friday May 31st 2018. Our school week is 28 hours per week with 42 40-minute lessons.

The Department sets out a **standardised school year and school holidays**.

This year we took all our school holidays within the permitted time.

The Department sets out arrangements for **parent/teacher meetings and staff meetings**. This year all of our parent/teacher meetings and our staff meetings were organised in line with the Department's regulations.

Looking after the children in our school

The Department requires schools to follow the *Child Protection Procedures* it has set down. Our board of management has agreed in writing to do this. All teachers know about the *Procedures* and we have told all parents about them and how we follow them.

Our Designated Liaison Person (DLP) is Fergal McCarthy and our Deputy DLP is Kathleen O'Brien.

Enrolment and attendance

The Department requires schools to have and publish an admissions policy, to record and report attendance accurately, and to encourage high attendance and participation. We have an admissions policy and it is published. We periodically review and update our admissions policy.

We keep accurate attendance records and report them as required.

We encourage high attendance in the following ways: Teachers take a register at each class on the e-portal system. Contact is made with home by the Year Head if a pattern of absence is identified.

This is how you can help: Please provide notes detailing any reason in respect of absences. Please ensure your child attends school on a regular basis.

Positive behaviour for a happy school

The Department requires schools to have a code of behaviour and asks us to consult parents and students about it. We do this.

Our code of behaviour describes and supports positive behaviour.

We have a very clear and high-profile anti-bullying policy in our school.

Pupils have three rights when they come to our school- the right to learn, the right to be happy and the right to be different.