

Board Meeting Agreed Report – September 24th, 2024

The Minutes from the meeting of June 4th were accepted and the agenda for this meeting was adopted.

Principal's Report:

School Activities & Events

- The Board was updated on recent **student activities**, including student induction days, our recent Information Evening for 1st Year parents and the attendance of our Green Schools Committee at the Climate Inspirations Festival.
- Details of the school's move to the Unique Schools app were shared with the Board. Over 95% of parents are now on board and the school is working towards supporting parents/guardians who may need further support accessing and downloading the app.

Staff CPD

- The Board was updated on recent **staff CPD** in the areas of SEN and inclusion, as well as subject specific CPD in Physics, Gaeilge, English and History.

PGC Update

- The first meeting of the PGC committee took place on September 18th. A date for the AGM will be confirmed soon. It is hoped that it will coincide with the Parent/Guardian workshops). The PGC committee will be involved in Open Night and the show. They also plan to launch a school cookbook. Plans are underway for another sustainability event in springtime, in light of the success of last year's sustainable fashion event.

Student Council Update

- The formation of this year's **Student Council** is underway, with elections planned in the coming weeks. Student Affiliate Members will attend BOM meetings. The Board was briefed on a new 6th Year Prefect system. Student and Teacher voice will be considered in the voting process.

Teaching and Learning:

- The Board was updated on ongoing work in SSE, in particular the coordination of literacy, numeracy and digital strategy to tie in with our identified focus of creating self-directed learners and increasing intrinsic motivation.
- A whole staff training day took place on Autism on Wednesday 18th September, delivered by NCSE.
- **JC Update:** Our new short course is underway, Negotiated Learning, in conjunction with UL. We have 19 students enrolled in 1st Year.
- **SC Update:** Politics and Society is now offered in 5th Year and we have also introduced LCVP in 5th Year. We will be engaging with CPD in Senior Cycle Film, Drama and Theatre Studies in the coming weeks, having been one of five Galway schools selected as a pilot school for the subject.

- **TY Update:** The Board was updated on recent TY activities, including outdoor pursuits in Delphi, Wicked in the Board Gais, a photography course with Brad Anderson and a 12- week Mandarin course. Upcoming events include the UG Open Day, Pallas Driving School and mental health workshops.

GCE & School of Sanctuary:

- A meeting has taken place with a representative of School of Sanctuary around monitoring our work in towards achieving School of Sanctuary status. Plans are underway for our SoS Celebration Day on October 23rd.

Other Updates:

- Works are expected to conclude on the adjacent building in the coming weeks. We have 4 new mainstream classrooms in operation and a Computer Science and Graphics Room will be ready for use in October.
- In relation to our permanent accommodation, some progress is being made and the project is due to move towards the planning stages. The Brief Formulation Report for our permanent in Oranmore was shared with the Board.
- The annual review of Child Protection and Anti-bullying policy documents was undertaken. The Child Protection Oversight Report was completed. The Anti-bullying oversight report was completed.
- **Enrolment 2025-2026:** Our Admissions Notice is now live. We will have 72 places next year, with no Special Class places. Our Open Night is scheduled to take place this Thursday, 26th.
- The Board extended its gratitude to the staff for their ongoing hard work and wished all the families in the GETSS community a happy and productive year ahead.

Next Board of Management meeting is scheduled for November 12th, 2024