

Kishoge Community College

Principal's Report

11th February 2016

DES INSPECTION

Kishoge CC received its first inspection on Monday 8th February. It was an unannounced inspection.

A Senior Inspector from the DES spent a full day in the school during which time she tracked one group of students through their school day with a view to forming an opinion as to the quality of the educational experience available to students.

The inspector described the quality of teaching and learning in all classes that she observed as nothing less than '*excellent*' and praised the teachers whose classes she observed for their professionalism, hard work and commitment to the school's *Teaching and Learning Statement*.

The specific focus was to evaluate the degree to which Kishoge CC's *Teaching and Learning Statement* is visible in practice. The Inspector's conclusion was that she could see a lot of the statement in practice: she saw a collaborative approach to t&l, interactive lessons, creative and innovative methodologies, a holistic approach to teaching; evidence of teacher-teacher collaboration and an openness to improving practice.

She commended the one-hour classes, in-house planning template, seating layout in the classrooms, adoption of Growth Mindset, student reflection and planning post assessments, *Assessment for Learning* CPD and Peer Learning Initiative.

It's very pleasing that our first inspection returns such a strong affirmation of everyone's hard work.

CAMPAIGN FOR A PLAYING PITCH

Following the Minister's visit a member of her political staff, Cllr William Lavelle, visited the school to discuss options. Cllr Lavelle has been very helpful: unfortunately the land to the east and south of the school is in private ownership so it's a question of waiting until the owner lodges a planning application at which time the provision of playing pitches can be a condition of planning approval; lobbying of local or national politicians at this stage of little use; County Plan currently being prepared and proposal to have the lands adjacent to the school designated as open space/playing pitches was made last week; Clonburriss SDZ Masterplan will be prepared over next 18 months.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

The school will be closed to students on March 7th to facilitate staff CPD in relation to the opening of an ASD unit. This is standard practice and DES sanctioned. Training to be delivered by SESS.

EBOOKS

There is a change to the model for selling books/eBooks: if a paper book is purchased, the eBook is provided free of charge.

If parents are happy with the current arrangement then nothing need change.

Advantages of the new model are, parents might wish students to have a set of books at home (see issues raised above); also the paper books can be retained, passed down to siblings or sold second hand.

Disadvantage of the changed model: considerably more expensive.

BIKE THEFTS

Theft of bikes: Five stolen (three this term). Location of bike sheds is part of the problem: four of the sheds (3xPE hall & SNU) are located in 'blind spots' and it's easy for thieves to operate unseen. The shed that we're using currently is the one to the front of the building. The problem with this shed is that the screen is between the school and the bikes i.e. the shed is facing the wrong way. This shed is outside my office but thieves were able to break a lock on a new bike during school hours without being seen.

In response to the theft of 5 bikes the following action has been taken:

- Garda notified on each occasion
- CCTV photos supplied to Garda
- Contact made to SDCC site caretaker
- UK police video showing how to securely lock a bike
- Whole-school assembly to address the issue. Community guards spoke to students about security
- Representations made to building team in relation to location of sheds.

LITERACY POLICY

Last week was 'Punctuation Week'. Students tested on basic punctuation at 9.00 on Monday. Poster campaign around the school to raise awareness of the importance of punctuation. All subjects will include a punctuation exercise at some point during the week. Students were retested this week to measure success. Goal is that all students will be able to deploy basic punctuation by year's end.

ART

Kishoge CC has made its first entry to the "Junk Kouture" competition. The title of the piece is "Instagirl". The project was influenced by Japanese fashion. The head piece was inspired by Jean Paul Gaultier. The main material re-used was old plastic pencil cases, along with: bottle tops, wool, old phones, rubber bands, coins, old cd s, clocks, bobbles etc. This was a collaborative project, where the students enjoyed working really hard together with a fun spirit to create their 'Junk Kouture' piece.

Thanks to Maeve Ward

BUSINESS

The school bank is open every second Monday at 1:15 in the GP area. There has been a great uptake in students opening accounts. Students can save regularly for trip to Delphi.

Thanks to Fiona Kane

GREEN SCHOOLS

Since returning after Christmas, the committee have organised that all practical classrooms, the staff room, and the GP area have recycling bins. Signs were made to indicate what materials could be recycled and committee members visited classes to inform them of the proper use of the recycling bins.

The committee are in the process of creating a Green Schools cartoon character to keep students updated on the action plan process.

STOP MOTION CLUB

Stop-motion is going well this term. Pupils are improving their skills in animation and are generating some very creative ideas. At the moment the club is working on creating an animation to promote reading throughout the school.

Thanks to Ruth.

DEBATING

Debating is still going strong, with high numbers staying back after school to debate (very enthusiastically) on a Tuesday. Eleven pupils have signed up to enter the 'The Speech' competition, where pupils film themselves performing a speech from history or film or literature and submit it to the competition.

A Teacher Vs Student debate to take place in front of the whole school in the GP Hall on Friday 12th February.

Monday– Fitness Club

Time: 8:00 – 8:30

Teacher/ Coach: Rosie

Club held in the fitness suite. Students complete their own or a set work out, using the fitness equipment.

Monday – Boys Handball Club

Time: lunch time

Teacher/ Coach: Eva

Club held at lunch time with Eva (external handball coach)

Wednesday – Running Club

Time: 8:00 – 8:30

Teacher/ Coach: Rosie, John, Lorna

Running club has grown in popularity over the last few months. Every week we have at least 15-20 students attending. Students have the option of going running out on the road or completing running exercises in the school hall / astro.

Wednesday – Boys Football Club

Time: 13:30 – 14:30

Teacher / Coach: Gavin / Rosie

Football club continues to be a very popular club with up to 30 students attending each week.

Wednesday – Girls Handball

Time: 13:30 – 14:30

Coach: Eva

External coach comes in to run the club for the girls.

Thursday – Boys And Girls Basketball

Time: 16:00 -17:00

Teachers / coaches: Rosie, Aine, Parent.

Basketball is new but extremely popular with over 50 students attending the club. The school has teams entered in leagues for each year group – boys and girls. Matches started this week.

Thursday – Girls Football

Time: 16:00 – 17:00

Teachers: Rosie

The Girls have started their league campaign in recent weeks. Competing in the minor league. Unfortunate to lose both games so far but showing great potential.

Friday – Games Club

Time: 8:00 – 8:30

Teacher: Rosie

Games club is a new club aimed at getting the students active before school. This club gives the students the opportunity to come and engage in different sports (of their choice) in a social / non-competitive environment.

Cross County success:

On Thursday 28th of February the school took part in the Leinster schools cross country event. We had 20 students taking part in the event (boys and girls from 1st and 2nd year). The school performed extremely well and results improved greatly on the previous year. Two students, Chloe O'Connor (1st yr.) and Foodel Azeez (2nd yr.) finished in the top 25 of their group.

Football Success

2nd year boys topped their group and have progressed through to the quarter final.

1st year boys won 2 of 3 matches. Runners up in their group - progressing through to the semi-finals.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

First and Second Year students will have the opportunity to go to Delphi Outdoor Ed. Centre on Friday 22nd April – Sunday 24th April. So far about 60 students have signed up.

ENTRANCE TESTS

The entrance tests for students commencing first year in 2016 will take place on Saturday 27th Feb.