# Kishoge Community CollegePrincipal’s Report to Parents

**29th February 2024**

## Asst Principal appointments

Following recent interviews the following members of staff have been appointed to the position of AP2: Áine Dooley Behaviour Support; Tami Leigh Edmonds - Deputy Attendance Officer, Emma Flanagan - PRO, Margaret Ward - Parents’ Council Liaison, Clíona Ní Mhurchú TBA

## history inspection

A Dept. of Education Inspector visited the school on Feb 7th and 8th to assess the quality of History teaching and provision in the school. Verbal feedback from the inspector was very good.

## CPD proposal to close school to students

In June 2023 Oide unable to offer dates for whole staff ‘NJC’CPD.

School calendar was issued with following note: *Please see enclosed ‘School Calendar 2023-24’. The calendar may also be found on the school website and in the student journal. Please note that we are awaiting confirmation from the Dept. of Education of a teacher training day. This extra day of school closure will be added to the calendar in September.*

BoM have decided that this CPD will take place on Weds 1st May.

## Proposal re return to school 2024-25

Latest possible return date is Tuesday August 27th.

Staff have voted for a return date of Thursday Aug 22nd .

Parents feel this is too early and propose 27th Aug.

If, following consultation, parents and staff agree a date, Board are happy to accept one of the following dates: Thurs 22, Fri 21, Mon 26, Tues 27)

If agreement not possible BoM to decide on 20th March.

## pROPOSED mOVE TO ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR fIRST yEAR AND tRANSFERS

Proposal that we move to an online system for applications for places in the school wef 8th April 2024.

Software also has the capacity to conduct lotteries for places. What do parents feel about this?

## Musical - changes of plans

The dates for *‘A Night at the Theatre’* are now proposed as the 15th and 16th of May, the 15th being during school hours for the Junior students and the 16th being an evening show for parents.

'Night at the Theatre' will feature a range of acts, including acting and singing skits, from modern retellings of popular Shakespeare scenes, to live music performances and renditions of popular songs. This format will allow students to highlight their individual and collective talents in a manner that accommodates varying interests and skill sets.

Of course, we know the Parents’ Council will be disappointed that there has been a change of plan. It would be fantastic if they could still do the tuck shop on the parents’ evening.

## Geography dept

5th year geography students are attending their field study for their Leaving Certificate course next Friday the 8th March in Kippure estate.

## classics dept

The Classics department are finalising the details of their 2nd educational trip for Classics students. Building on the success of their last trip to Rome in 2022, 25 students from 3rd , TY, 5th , and 6th year will be going to Athens in October 2024.

## extra curricular report

* U14 girls GAA match today against St.Josephs - unfortunately we were unsuccessful as they were very strong. Our girls played with a lot of heart right up until the end, great show of strength and determination.
* Our 1st year boys soccer team were also playing today against Adamstown and won 3-0, they are now through to the final.
* Jessica Fitzgerald, 5th Yr, was called up to the senior Ireland International squad last week for friendlies against Italy and Wales.
* Sive Brennan,  5th Year, spoke at the Citizens Assembly on drugs use a few weeks ago. She was subsequently invited back to meet with Ministers of State. Sive was involved in this following her participation in a Kishoge TY project on drugs use. Great achievement for a Kishoge student.

## Ty & Fifth Year Trips 2023-24

88 students and 10 staff have just returned from very successful trips to Italy and France

The trip to Paris was a great success. The students really enjoyed it. They spoke French ordering food and in the shops. Some of them were surprised by how much they could understand, and it was great for their confidence.

The day in Disneyland was of course a huge success but they also really enjoyed the more cultural aspects like the guided tour of Paris, climbing the Arc de Triomphe, visiting the Palace of Versailles and the gardens, and going to the Louvre. A lot of them said they’d like to go back again in future and visit more of the famous sites.

Skiing: All students had a fantastic 5 days on the slopes with plenty of challenging, frustrating and enjoyable moments throughout the week. Students really enjoyed spending time with their friends while also getting to know other students in their year outside of the classroom, they loved sitting down for meals with friends and talk with people they wouldn't normally chat with. The improvements that students made during the week was a pleasure to see with some very annoyed and frustrated students on day 1 and 2 becoming excellent skiers on day 4 and 5. Students were helping others physically and mentally when they were tired and frustrated - this included helping teachers. All students showed a growth in independence and maturity during the week, they were so proud of themselves learning how to ski as they are not 'sporty' at home, they were able to get themselves organised, up on-time in the morning, and learned valuable time keeping skills, We saw a huge growth and development in students, some who have additional needs and some who have never been away from parents before. All our ski instructors and hotel staff saying how good their behaviour and attitudes were. Some students enjoyed it so much that they want to ask their parents to go skiing as a family and some want to go again on the school ski trip next year. We had 1 student on their 2nd school ski trip, and they went from a complete beginner last year to going down slopes that the US Olympic Ski team use to train on.

## student voice

* OG met with Class Captains to discuss communication and plans going forward. Next council meeting is Wednesday 6th March and students will plan a presentation for the LT meeting. Other topics on agenda include creating a new success criteria for election of Class Captains next year.

## literacy/library Update:

* Prefects are currently working on plans with OG for World Book Day, 7th March. Events include a lunchtime quiz, posters for staff and design a book jacket competition.
* Literacy Committee met on Monday 26th to work on updating the Literacy Policy- still a work in progress. Class Captains will be involved in the process on 6th March.
* Staff are making a promo video for reading for the school website- should be finished by next week
* Lucan library link: Study skills session going ahead on 7th March. AK and MF will take 25 students who need intervention

## rubbish!

…has been removed. Thanks to PC, Kevin and Ruth for all of the representations made.

## SDCC development plans

Niall met with SDCC officials today to discuss draft plans for the immediate area in the broader context of the development of Clonburris: 11,000+ houses; 26,000 people; 2 centres; a number of parks and 8 schools.

Two roads will run through the centre of Clonburris, one to the south of the railway line and one to the north. It is proposed that the northern road will pass the front entrance of the school.

Plans to be finalised in 2024 with delivery in 2026 or 2027.