**Board of Management Annual Report 2020/2021.**

Chairperson: Canon Donal Roberts.

Secretary: Mr. John Murphy. (Principal)

Teacher Nominees: Ms. Laura Collins.

Mr. Liam Long.

Parent Nominees: Mrs. Maria Neville.

Prof. John Wenger.

Patron’s Nominees: Mrs. Anne O’Dwyer.

Mr. Noel Dunne.

Mr. Patrick Goold.

**Mission Statement:**

Our community aims to assist our pupils to develop their full potential in a Christian environment. In our school this vision will be achieved by mutual respect and co-operation among the partners in an open, safe and caring atmosphere.

This year has once again been one which was greatly influenced by the Covid-19 pandemic. The weeks leading up to the re-opening of school in late August saw significant structural changes to the existing school layout with the assembly hall being converted into classrooms and the Technology room extended with the removal of an internal wall to create additional physical space to comply with Covid related protocols. The removal of student lockers and students being allocated designated classrooms was also necessitated. The school canteen had to be closed for the school year due to lack of available social space.

Fortunately, the provision of additional temporary accommodation, consisting of 4 classrooms, 2 SET rooms, a Science lab and prep room, toilet block and 2 ASD units came on stream in September to help alleviate the additional constraints that Covid restrictions and additional student numbers provided. The Board of Management have requested 4 additional classrooms and 1 SET room which will be available for use after the October mid-term break.

The State exam classes of 2020 were unusual in that neither class sat formal written tests. Instead the school provided Student Profile of Achievement certification to our Junior Cert. students based on in house assessment criteria. The Leaving cert students were part of the nationwide calculated grades process. Feedback from both parents and students was overwhelmingly positive as students progressed onto the next phase of education and training.

Due to Covid related demands the Department of Education did not take part in school related inspections instead Inspectors were assigned to each school to provide support and guidance as needed.

**Student Activities and Achievements.**

Once again due to Covid restrictions, school activities were hugely constrained. The school exchanges to Milan and Bordeaux were cancelled for the second year in a row while sports and outdoor related activities were cancelled for the school year.

Transition year saw its activities limited, constrained by Covid, outdoor pursuits, hill climbing, debating and environmental awareness programmes were all cancelled while work experience had to be severely curtailed due to work place closures and restricted access.

On a positive note, students returning in September engaged very positively and both staff and students adapted well to the new requirements of school life.

In December Conor O’Shea, a student in one of our ASD units was honoured with the West Cork Garda Achievement award for his voluntary work with Jack and Friends Autism Group in Bandon in recent years.

In January 2021 Transition year student Finn Brady was awarded 3rd place in the individual Social and Behaviour science category in the BT Young Scientist Exhibition which was held virtually this year. Other projects to impress was one on “Bike Blinkers” undertaken by Dylan Wenger, Marcin Olesky and Fionn Crowley.

In February 2021 6th year student Tom Downey took part in the Chemistry Olympiad Ireland which is an individual subject based science competition for students. The top students are selected to form a team of the best Chemistry students in the country to represent Ireland in the World Chemistry Olympiad competition.

**School Self – Evaluation. School Self-Evaluation.**

**Phase 2: Topic 1: Year 3**

**Learning Intentions and Success Criteria**

* We completed year 3 of 4 of this initiative in this academic year.
* The good work carried out by teachers with last years first years was continued with this years second years and the new first year group.
* Teachers have also employed this initiative with other year groups.
* It is the committees’ intention that in the final year of this cycle, all teachers will be using learning intentions and success criteria, in all Junior cycle classes, hence creating an expectation from students for this practice to continue into senior cycle.
* A Whole School Junior Cycle CPD day carried out this year also reinforced our decision making in developing these initiatives. This CPD day helped further develop teachers practice in implementing these initiatives.

**Phase 2: Topic 2: Year 2**

**Study Skills.**

* The student focus group developed in year one of this phase conducted study skills workshops with all first and second year students at the beginning of the school year and 3 weeks prior to Christmas exams. These were workshops were to be carried out prior to the summer exams also. Feedback from teachers and students was very positive and these workshops will continue into the future
* This focus group also redeveloped the study skills section of the school website.
* Teachers employed a number of different approaches to help improve study skills with students.
* The SSE committee will help to further develop these approaches over the next 2 years of this phase.

**Topic 3: Digital learning Plan**

* Our Digital Learning Plan has been integrated into the SSE process.
* Teachers received professional development workshops throughout the year in the use of Microsoft office 365 and also the use of the ipads in a classroom setting.
* This professional developed has contributed to the schools successful transition into online teaching.

**Numeracy and Literacy.**

Paired Maths and Paired Reading programme.

These programmes, now in their fifth year have been very successful in achieving objections set out on both a social and academic level in a safe, non-judgemental environment. They provide first year students the opportunity to improve their basic maths, reading and social skills by being paired up with a fourth year student.

Teachers and students continued in the development of a numeracy and literacy rich environment both in the classrooms and in the school corridors.

**School Planning.**

A new school plan for 2020-2026 was developed this year. This plan can be accessed in our school plan document on the school website from September 2020. It outlines plans for; school building developments, school self-evaluation, digital learning plan, policy review and development, post of responsibilities, Junior Cycle and curriculum development, well-being programme, ASD unit expansion.

**Staff.**

The sudden passing of Ms. Helen O’Sullivan RIP in October 2020 was a great shock to the whole school community. Helen had been a much loved and highly respected member of staff for 21 years.

In February 2021, maintenance man and caretaker Declan Coughlan RIP died after being ill for a period of 18 months. He was a highly regarded member of staff for 27 years. Both Helen and Declan will be sadly missed.

In September Ms. Meig Collins joined the ASD team on an RPT contract. The Board of Management approved a career break for Jean O’Donovan who was replaced by Ms. Laura Collins (English and History) on a fixed term contract. John Sugrue was re-appointed to and RPT contract (French and Economics). Roy Cranitch (PE and Maths) and Aisling Kelleher (Science) were awarded fixed terms contracts as part of the Department of Education Covid provision. Raymond Murphy (History and Geography) was appointed on an RPT contract to replace Ms. Helen O’Sullivan RIP.

**Tusla/NEWB Reporting.**

Mandatory submission of end of year reports to the NEWB were undertaken and all student absences in excess of 20 days were reported.

**Child protection and safeguarding measures.**

Designated Liaison person: John Murphy

Deputy designated Liaison person: Eric Graham.

Updated Child Protection legislation and safeguarding measures have been implemented. A mandatory comprehensive risk assessment has been completed. All staff have undertaken required training. All staff have been vetted. The Board of Management have been provided with access to e-learning module training.

**Parents Association.**

The activities of the Parents Association were curtailed due to Covid restrictions. This resulted in the AGM being postponed in October and the election of the parents representatives to the Board of Management by ballot by members of the parent body. The outcome of this ballot saw Maria Neville and John Wenger become members of the newly appointed Board which will be in place for a period of three years.

The officers of the Parents Association are as follows:

Chairperson Catherine Bradley

Secretary Geraldine Cotter

Treasurer Darren Ring

Members of the Parents Association have been involved throughout the year in the review of 16 draft school policies and I would like to thank all involved for their contribution during these challenging times.

**Plant and Equipment.**

The board has sought to make progress on technical issues relating to the proposed greenfield site in Sandy Hill. A meeting via Zoom in relation to these issues took place in December 2020. This was facilitated and attended by Minister Norma Foley, Board and Department representatives. It is hoped that progress can be made in this protracted issue.

In the meantime the College has sought to improve existing provision. As previously referenced 9 new classrooms were located on the school field last Summer and it is expected that 4 additional classrooms will be in place after the October mid-term break adjoining those already located in the school field. This additional accommodation will help meet the needs as a result of an increase in student numbers and the broad educational needs of our catchment area.

**Thanks.**

The Board of Management would like to thank the Parents Association, all Parents and Guardians, Staff and Friends of De La Salle College for their work and contributions on behalf of the school and students over the past year.

John P. Murphy,

Secretary of Board of Management.