**Board of Management Annual Report 2022-2023**

Chairperson: Canon Donal Roberts.

Secretary: Mr. John Murphy. (Principal)

Parent Nominees: Mrs Maria Neville.

Prof. John Wenger

Teacher Nominees Ms Laura Collins

Mr. Liam Long

Patron 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 saw the school open in August without any covid related issue unlike the previous two years. In school the wearing of masks and social distancing had been downgraded to advisory since March. The effect on the running and disruption to the school had been significantly reduced as we on a nation returned to a more familiar living environment. The Department of Education continued to provide for additional cleaning staff and PPE products. In addition the school received additional one off funding to alleviate the cost of heating and electrical bills.

The Leaving certificate class of 2022 returned to sitting exams with provision and allowances to acknowledge the challenges students have had to contend with in recent years.

The Junior certificate class of 2022 sat exams for the first time in three years. Due to a administration overload the SEC did not release results until November, hopefully this time delay will be significantly reduced for next year cohort.

The Department of Education undertook one school related inspection in December 2022 in the subject area of English. Six class lessons were observed by the Department Inspector with his overall summary of main findings and recommendations being very positive.

**Student Activities and Achievements**

Two of our leaving Certificate students received scholarships/awards based on their exams results from UCC and UCD.

The school exchange with Marcallo in Northern Italy did not take place for the third connective year, primarily due to covid related issue. Ongoing communications between both schools have taken place and we are confident that the exchange will recommence in the new school year.

The absence of the French Language exchange with our sister school in Bordeaux has left a void. As a result a school tour to Northern Italy took place in April where 60 students and accompanying staff enjoyed a 4 day visit to Milan, Venice and Lake Garda.

Transition years engaged in outdoor pursuits, hill walks and an environmental awareness programme.

GAA activities were once more to the fore at all age levels, unfortunately our seniors lost to Abbey CBS by the smallest of margins in the Munster B Championship who then went on to contest the All-Ireland final.

Much work has been put in by students and coaches over the recent difficult times and we once again look forward to competing at the highest level by returning to the Corn Ui Mhuiri competition next year.

**School Self Evaluation**

1. **School Self-Evaluation (Improving Teaching and Learning)**

Topic 1: Year 1: Investigation year for new phase of SSE: Vsware:

* Our School Self-evaluation committee explored many possible options for our new initiative that would benefit the learning and teaching taking place in De La Salle. These included examples such as; improving the quality of written work; varying teacher strategies and differentiating learning tasks; development of independent self-directed learners; improve oracy skills; student reflection; more frequency reporting to home through an increased use of vsware.
* We were able to present these ideas to the staff during the afternoon session of our JCT day in October. During this session the majority of staff voted for the use of vsware to improve communication between school and home regarding progress and assessments.

We also presented these initiatives to focus groups in 2nd year and 6th year. When surveyed, the majority of students in these focus groups voted for the use of vsware.

* Parents were also surveyed. The majority of parents also voted for the use of vsware as the new initiative to implement.
* During the remainder of this school year, our committee, along with the staff, will decide how best to implement this new initiative successfully. We will explore the level of desired engagement with the initiative and also how this might vary from department to department. We will also explore and potential draw backs to the initiative and how these may be overcome.
* In September 2023, we will begin implementation of the more frequent use of vsware and we will monitor the progress closely by gathering feedback from students, teachers and parents.

Topic 2: Study Skills

Our study skills program is now established. The initiatives are outlined as followed.

* All teachers share techniques and strategies with their students that are relevant to their own subject areas.
* There is a whole school focus on study skills as we approach the Christmas exam and Summer exams. This has 3 elements:
* Ms. Mary O’Connor works with all students during guidance and well-being classes for 3/4 weeks leading up to the exams. During these classes Ms. O’Connor focuses on different study techniques that may be relevant to different subjects and also takes students through practical examples.
* All teachers provide students with a study plan 3/4 weeks in advance of the exams.
* Our newly established study skills focus group composed of 4th year students deliver a study skills workshop to all Junior cycle classes, once they have received their study plans. The main points addressed here are; motivation, study techniques, developing good study habit to limit distraction, balance and well-being and finally the creation of a study timetable.

Topic 3: learning intentions and success criteria

* Learning intention and success criteria was introduced in 2017 and is embedded in teacher practice.

Topic 4: Digital learning plan

* There is a new Digital strategy for schools to 2027. This looks at; embedding digital technology, digital infrastructure, policy, research and leadership. Mr. Jack Cott will be the driving force behind this strategy.

1. **Numeracy and Literacy**

* Paired maths and paired reading programs have been very successful since their introduction.
* Numeracy and literacy testing (Staine Test) for first years was carried out at the beginning of the year. This allowed us to identify students who would require additional help and who may also benefit from the paired maths and reading programs.

1. **Promotion of student Voice**

*Student council*

* Student council members were elected by their peers at the beginning of the year and meetings were carried out every two weeks to allow the council members voice any concerns or opinions on school business. Members from last year’s council were given the option to continue as part of the student council. Most senior cycle students decided to stay on.
* Some student council meetings were attended by Mr. Murphy (principal), to allow students an opportunity to convey their opinion or concerns on school issues directly to the principal.
* Student council were responsible for reviewing, amending and approving certain school policies.
* Michael O’Riordan and Liam Mcsweeney developed the school’s first Student Voice Policy that was approved by staff members.
* Student council members visited Junior Cycle classes in the first half of this year to promote the idea of Looking After Our School. The aim of this is to get students to take responsibility for looking after their own areas and classrooms and also the common areas and toilets of the school. Student council ran a poster competition with the theme ‘Looking After Our School’. There were some excellent entries.
* Student council continued to raise money for sending 2 students to Lourdes. There is enough money now to hopefully cover the full cost.
* Our chairperson Michael O’Riordan ran for Vice-president of the ISSU and ran a campaign with the help of some students from De La Salle. He came second in the came, narrowly missing out on the position

**School Planning**

The school Plan 2020-2026 is presently being implemented. This plan can be assessed in our school plan development on our newly revamped website.

It outlines plans for school building developments, school self-evaluation, digital learning, post of responsibility, Junior cycle curriculum development and revised wellbeing programme.

**Staff**

James o Donovan and Aoife Cotter (ASD) and Shannon Walsh (Resource Science Chemistry) were rehired.

Michelle Healy (English and History) and Ciara Creedon (English) joined the staff on RPT contracts.

Our longest serving staff member Mr Pat Walsh(Science, Chemistry) gave notice of his retirement on 31/08/2023 after 40 years of outstanding service to the college. May he enjoy a long, healthy and happy well earned retirement.

**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. Where such incidents took place, full pastoral support was provided to help facilitate a positive outcome.

**Child Protection and Safeguarding Measures**

DLP: Mr John Murphy

Deputy DLP: Mr Eric Graham

All Child Protection legislation and safeguarding measures have been implemented. A mandatory comprehensive risk assessment has been completed and new anti-bullying protocols and safeguarding have been implemented.

**Parents Association**

The AGM was held in October.

The officers elected was as follows:

Chairperson: David McSweeney

Vice Chairperson: Timjoe O’Riordan

Secretary Marie Counihan

Assistant Secretary Cornelia Moss

Treasurer: Darrin Ring

Members of the association have been involved throughout the year in reviewing draft school policies and engaging in school related initiatives such as promoting anti vaping initiatives and education.

**Plant and Equipment**

Since the Department of Education building section in Tullamore announced in December 2021 that we were to be included in the Department ADAPT 3 building programme Rogerson Reddan Associates have been appointed project managers of the overall scheme.

In March 2022 Board of Management representatives met with Department officials as part of the tendering process to appoint a design team (DT).

The Design Team were appointed in April 2023, please see the attachment.

The department of education requested that the design team complete stages 1,2,3 within 24 months.

Stage 1 Preliminary design

Stage 2 Development design

Stage 2B Detailed design and planning permission

Stage 3 Tender

Stage 4 Construction

Stage 5 Final account

The existing school campus now comprises of three main buildings.

Block 1 Original permanent structure

Block 2 Temporary single storey structure on school field

Block 3 2 storey structure on school field

Due to the increase in students numbers in recent years, all 10 classrooms in block 2 and 3 will be fully occupied in the coming year. With a projected enrolment figure for a first year intake of 100 pupils, all existing classrooms will be fully occupied. Ist years will consist of 4 class groups for the 1st time in the school history with overall numbers heading for 450 pupils.

As part of the schools digital plan, all classrooms will have interactive screens bringing the number of screens to 24.

KC Catering have completed a year as service provider for our canteen facilities. This will be reviewed on its feasibility going forward into next year.

Our school community has been enriched with the addition of 7 Ukrainian students who joined us during the school year. There presence is a welcoming addition to our school community

**Thanks**

The Board of Management would like to thank the Parents Association, 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.