



## Spiritan Education Trust Executive Report Board of Directors Meeting November 2018

### **ATCS AGM.**

Emmaus, Swords, Co. Dublin. Tuesday 6th November. The E.O. attended the above AGM.

The meeting was updated on the CESC Strategic Plan (Gerry Lundy and Eithne Woulfe). See amendment in Directors' Area.

A motion was passed unanimously that the board of ATCS would investigate the possibility of mounting a legal challenge to the Admissions Bill.

The strategic goals for ATCS 2018- 2020 were presented. (In Directors' Area)

The keynote address was delivered by Archbishop Jude Thaddeus Okolo, Papal Nuncio to Ireland. In his address the Archbishop challenged Irish Educational Leaders to be more active in supporting /defending Irish Catholic Education.

ATCS October Newsletter is also in Directors' Area.

### **School Community Initiative.**

Delighted to receive the below from Willow Junior, Principal, James Docherty:

“Secondly, just to keep you both up to date with Talbot SNS. The pupils are coming to Willow on Thursday the 15th of November to participate in our annual themed STEM week - please look at timetable attached. I know that both of you are extremely busy, but you are both welcome to come along on Thursday the 15th of November.”

Some of the activities are as set out below:

- Activity List
- Planetarium for 25 children in the gym hall. Look at <http://www.explorationdome.ie/>
- HUB – Eight hands-on experiments with the Transition Year boys from Blackrock College.
- Intel 4th Form – Reception area discuss projects with Fourth Form pupils.
- Swimming – One 40-minute lesson with both P.E. teachers. Mr. Paul Byrne and Ms. Cliona Willis

Both Tom and Ronan will attend for part of the day.

### **New Boards of Management Training.**

Over the month of November, training for our new Boards will be held on Saturday, the 10th and 24th (2 venues) in Dublin and Thurles. Presentations will be made by Tom and Ronan to our new boards: Rockwell, Willow Senior and Templeogue.

### **Catholic Secondary Schools Parents' Association.**

Tom will attend the annual conference which will take place on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> of November. The following presentations will be made:

- Understanding and living the ethos of a Catholic School: Mr. Ferdia Kelly, former General Secretary of the AMCSS
- Teenagers – Building Resilience and Relationship; A practical toolkit for Parents: Dr. Eddie Murphy is a Psychologist and author of the best seller 'Becoming Your Real Self – A Practical Toolkit to Manage Everyday Problems.
- Cracking the College Code: Catherine O'Connor, Trinity College Dublin, Education Consultant and author of 'Cracking the College Code', a practical guide to making the most of the first-year college experience.

### **Paris Pilgrimage; *"in the footsteps of the founders"***

The second annual trip to Auteuil, Paris took place from Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> until Sunday the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. The party of travellers included teachers from a number of schools as well as the Chair of the BoD. Feedback received from all schools and participants was very positive. Some comments included, 'great to meet people from other schools' 'an opportunity to see the charism in a different situation', 'a chance to reflect', 'a learning experience', 'it has brought great energy to those who went', 'it was an opportunity for a cross section of teachers, not just the RE teachers to go and deepen their understanding of ethos' etc....

The SET Executive would also like to thank the French province, for their ongoing support to this programme of formation. IT is hoped that we would continue to support this programme as we move forward. It would be an important moment in the formation of Spiritan leadership with our senior teachers and other leaders within the school community.

### **Spiritan Chaplaincy.**

A Spiritan, Tom Hogan, has been appointed to Rockwell College as a school chaplain. This appointment was made without reference to SET. This office received a phone call after the appointment was made by a member of the PLT around the difficulty that this caused. It was requested at the time of this call that the appointment would be re-directed to SET immediately. We still await communication on this issue.

## Deputy Principal's Conference.

This conference was held in Mullingar from the 8th to the 9th of November and was a joint venture between SET and the Le Cheile trust. It was very well attended, and the topics covered included:

Developing Leadership Potential.

- Current Issues (Child Safeguarding inspection models, GDPR and others)
- Social and Spiritual Benefits of Religious Education: Dr. Gareth Byrne.
- Navigating the Maelstrom: What is the role of School – Very Revd Maria Jansson, Dean of Waterford

## Development Education.

Our next teachers' meeting in November 28<sup>th</sup>. However, a student leadership workshop has been organised with Willow Park Senior through the school liaison officer, Karen Jeffares.

## SET's New Staff induction.

The Induction programme was held in Stillorgan last Monday. 40 new members of the Staff attended. At the induction the new teachers heard inputs from SET, Spirasi and the Haiti overseas volunteering programme led by a Spiritan Teacher.

## SET and Trócaire.

The SIFM office has met with Trocaire over the last week to develop a collaborative event in providing space and hospitality in the SET offices and Kimmage Campus for surrounding schools in the promotion of Dev Ed. We await further development on this programme.

## Chaplain's Conference.

This conference is on November 29<sup>th</sup> and is a joint venture by Loreto and Spiritan 'ethos' offices. The input will be from Gerry O'Hanlon SJ. Gerry O'Hanlon is a Jesuit priest and theologian who has written extensively about faith and culture, faith and justice, the place of religion in the public square and church reform and renewal. Until recently a staff member of the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, he is currently Adjunct Professor in the Loyola Institute at TCD. Among his publications are A New Vision for the Catholic Church (2011) and more recently The Silent revolution of Pope Francis (2018). Gerry's input will focus on responding to the Francis' call for leadership. The venue will be Ardbraccan. We are hopeful that all our schools' chaplains will be in attendance.

## Middle Leaders' Programme.

The next session will take place on Wed. evening, the 21<sup>st</sup> of November in Stillorgan. The topics covered will be:

- **Leading in a Digital Age**
- **Catholic Schools in a Secular Age.**

Preparations are continuing for our Webinar session in January.

### **School Retreat Programme.**

The school retreat programme is now complete until January. We have been involved with *485 1<sup>st</sup> year students, 120 6<sup>th</sup> class students and 30 6<sup>th</sup> year leaving cert students* to date in this programme. We will also have engagement with a further 250 students post-Christmas. Another aspect of this programme is connection with Teachers who coordinate various faith-based programme in our schools. Many thanks to the Property and Finance office here on the campus for their involvement in preparing the KDSC building for the retreat programme.

### **New School Boards**

Four of our schools have new BoM's: Holy family Community School, Templeogue College, Willow Park Senior and Rockwell College.

**HFCS.** We share trusteeship with two other trusts.

**Willow Senior.** The Chair has been there for the past year and the board will continue to be very effective in supporting the principal and the school.

**Rockwell.** There are considerable challenges in Rockwell: financial, administrative employment. The new Chair is very experienced and is being briefed around all of these issues. She has now read the RBK report and is familiar with the issues. The most significant threat to the school is the declining boarding numbers which has compromised the budget and resulted in revised figures being presented to SET. As a result, a letter has been sent to the board requesting a detailed analysis of the new figures. It is envisaged that we will have to meet the finance sub-committee to support the board in what could become a threat to the long-term viability of the school if action isn't taken now.

Three new developments will be positive:

- 1 The new board is headed by a very experienced Chair who will work closely with SET.
- 2 A new D.P. appointment in the coming year will provide an opportunity to fill the skills deficit which currently exists in the senior management team.
- 3 The introduction of SIMS will give SET the sort of oversight which is required to ensure that finances are put on a stable basis.

### **Templeogue College.**

The new board is again headed by a very capable Chair who will put Spiritan ethos at the centre of school life and at the centre of the decision-making process.

Through a series of briefings with SET, the Chair has a very good understanding of the challenges we face in Templeogue. She has the time and energy to make a real difference and will work closely with the principal in a supportive role to ensure that the school reaches its full potential in the context of its Spiritan identity.

A priority will be to build leadership capacity among the teaching staff and encourage the sort of distributed leadership which will allow the school flourish.

### **Holy Ghost Prep.**

A representation from an American Spiritan school will visit Blackrock College over the Christmas break. A representative group from each Secondary school is being invited to attend for a workshop which will be co-hosted by SET. The theme of the workshop will be 'A Spiritan school in 2030'.

### **Dates for your Diary:**

- **December 12<sup>th</sup>**                      **Dinner in Dropping Well 7p.m.**
- **January 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>**            **SET Annual Conference**
- **January 21<sup>st</sup>**                        **BoD Meeting**