



## **Spiritan Education Trust Office Report Board of Directors Meeting February 24<sup>th</sup> 2020**

### **SET Ethos Sub Committee**

Further to a meeting on February 20<sup>th</sup> a report on the work of the committee will be presented to the Board of Directors for consideration.

### **SET Community Initiative**

Through the SIFM office, students from Talbot NS will receive a workshop on leadership as they complete their 5<sup>th</sup> class programme. This will help in preparing them for appropriate student leadership roles in the school. SET continues to support the St. Marys' initiative that is ongoing in the school. This is focused on preparing the students for confirmation.

Ronan presented to parents in the Bawnogue parish whose children are receiving their confirmation this year. The feedback from the schoolteachers and parents was very positive.

### **National Rehabilitation Hospital.**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> of January, Eithne- as a member of the Board of Directors- contacted the SET executive with a view to providing some support to the Hospital School in the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire. Eithne is currently the DES- appointed Manager of the school.

In this school, pupils spend a few months/weeks being helped in rehabilitation from acquired Brain injury or Spinal injury...all very serious and life changing. One 5 year old is now paralysed down the right side from a bad stroke and needs to learn to turn his left hand into his dominant one and use it to eventually type/write etc., Walking, toileting etc are all to be relearned with the latter very doubtful. A 12-year-old boy due to go into 1<sup>st</sup> Year was involved in a bad car crash and faces an extended period in rehabilitation.

Parents are very concerned that their children's education is significantly disrupted which adds to the challenges they face. Since Eithne's initial approach to SET, a teacher has been appointed but this still leaves major gaps in the provision of educational services, which created an opportunity for us to support

the young people in this school.

An approach to Willow Senior and Junior has resulted in a very generous and swift response from the Chairs, Principals and teachers of those schools. At the moment, tuition is being provided on Wednesdays and Thursdays in Art, History, Maths and ICT. We cannot meet all the needs of these students but we can make a significant contribution. We hope to continue to provide this support and perhaps even extend it over the coming months.

Ms. Erica Sheehan, D.P. in Willow Junior has been central in this initiative and has shown great leadership and commitment in responding swiftly and effectively to the request for help.

### **Development Education Teachers group**

The work of the lead teachers in all schools in this area is to be commended. There is now real ownership of this programme in the network.

We are holding a training day for all school lead students in Ardracran in early March. Three lead students from each school, including Holy Family will attend. The Development Education Showcase will be on April 30th in Willow. The Showcase theme this year will be 'Regeneration'. Again, the focus will be about creating platforms for the schools to come together in a joint agenda. Each school is working towards preparing a 2minute video on their work as part of their presentation. Duquesne University (Spiritan university) representatives will also be in attendance.

### **Templeogue College.**

A site visit was arranged following the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> January which addressed the issue of the swimming pool and other challenges presented by the campus layout. Consideration now needs to be given to how the very significant infrastructural deficiencies in Templeogue College can be addressed. Tom S. will present some ideas for the board members.

### **Willow Senior.**

Members of the Executive as well as the Chair of the Board of Directors attended the official opening of the new upgrade to the facilities in Willow. The new building includes a sound-proofed dedicated music room, a new library, a "wellness/meditation room and a dedicated ICT facility.

### **Ethos Teachers' working committees**

This committee postponed their meeting this term. Ronan is visiting all schools over the next number of weeks to review their role of the committee and the direction that we may need to follow into the future.

### **Local and International Outreach**

Apart from our initiatives with Talbot N.S. The Parish of Bawnogue and the National Rehabilitation Hospital, opportunities exist for us to engage professionally with some of our Spiritan communities abroad. Such engagement will be of mutual benefit and will strengthen our relationship with overseas Spiritan schools. At the moment we are looking at two overseas initiatives – in Nigeria and France.

- We are in contact with Rev. Jerome Onwughalu the D.P. of BOSSS school - Bishop Okoye Spiritan Secondary School (BOSSS), Oyigbo, Rivers State Nigeria who visited Ireland late last year. We hope to facilitate a teacher visitation programme which will initially see two teachers from BOSSS spending about 4 to 6 weeks in one of our schools. Depending on the success of that initial contact we will examine the possibility of extending such a programme to other areas.
- In recent years, a relationship has been developed with the Spiritan community in the Motherhouse in Paris. The annual pilgrimage “In the Footsteps of the Founders” has helped many of us to walk in the footsteps of Des Places and Libermann. One of the highlights of this pilgrimage is the guided visit to the Orphelins d’Auteuil and the Chapelle de Sainte Therese. This is a foundation, under the patronage of the Spiritans for children facing a broad range of challenges. Exploratory discussions have taken place around the possibility of developing closer links with this foundation.

### **SET/Templeogue College.**

Ronan, along with the Diocesan Advisor met with the RE Department and Principal for discussion around RE policy, faith formation etc... This was an excellent meeting with a very energetic team of teachers. However, at the time there was no RE policy in the school, but this is now being corrected.

Following that meeting, Templeogue College also underwent an RE Department Inspection. Initial feedback was positive. We await the full report.

### **SET / St. Mary’s College.**

St Mary’s College students gave an excellent presentation at the Ember team day

in Clonliffe. Over 100 young people and lead teachers who have developed Ember leadership programme in their schools gathered.

### **SET education Sub-committee.**

The committee met on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February with Caroline chairing. A report will be available at the BoD meeting of the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **Middle Leaders Programme.**

The middle leadership programme was again delivered through a Webinar. The focus of the programme was the presentation on the action reflection project.

The final evening for the Middle leaders will be planned at a meeting of the four trusts which will be hosted by the SET executive and held in Kimmage on Wed March 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **SET/BOM Training.**

A meeting for all boards will take place on March 31st here in the SET building. The main speaker will be Dr. Gareth Byrne. Gareth will address the Boards of Management as leaders of Catholic schools.

Gareth is the Associate Professor of Religious Education and Director of the Mater Dei Centre for Catholic Education at the DCU Institute of Education, DCU St. Patrick's Campus. He is a member of the Institute of Education's Faculty Board.

Dr. Byrne's teaching, research and engagement focus is on themes associated with Catholic education, religious education and faith development. He is a member of the executive of the Religion Teachers' Association of Ireland, the National Faith Development Team of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference, the Episcopal Council for Pastoral Renewal and Adult Faith Development and the Dublin Diocesan Board of Formation in Ministry.

Dr. Byrne is the Chairperson of the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) Religious Education Development Group, developing the specification for Religious Education as a subject available to all students, as set out under the Framework for Junior Cycle 2015 published by the Department for Education and Skills.

### **St Michael's Anniversary Concert.**

Members of the executive attended the Anniversary Concert held in the National Concert Hall on Monday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of February. Students, teachers, parents and past pupils all performed in a celebration of 75 years of Spiritan education in St. Michael's. The concert was very well attended and was enjoyed by all.

### **Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.**

Further sections of the above act have been commenced and will apply to admissions for the school year 2021/22.

A key challenge to us is in Section 62(7) n which states that any student who wishes to absent from religious instruction must be accommodated by the school while ensuring that such accommodation does not result in a reduction in the school day in respect of that student.

A series of consultations has been arranged between SET and the schools as well as a wider meeting of representatives of all BoM's with the SET executive to consider the Act and the implications for our schools' Admissions Policies. A draft policy must be submitted to SET by April 30, following consultation with SET and the patron will approve the draft policy or approve it subject to modifications. SET must approve the policy by 15<sup>th</sup> September at the latest and it must be published on the school website.

### **Rockwell College.**

The process of addressing the challenges at Senior Management is continuing- following the agreed protocol.

The D.P has informed the BoM that he intends to retire at the end of the current academic year. The process of advertising for and employing a new D.P. has begun.

### **JMB Training.**

The E.O. attended a competency-based recruitment and selection seminar which addressed the current legal context in relation to Data protection and Discrimination. Examples of case law were very helpful. Ronan will also avail of this training later this year.

### **St Mary's Junior School BoM Training.**

Tom delivered a training session to the newly appointed BoM of St Mary's focusing on:

- The context within which the board operates.
- Role and Responsibilities.
- Governance.
- Knowing where to find further support and information.

There was a very positive response to the evening. Ronan will meet the board shortly and concentrate on the Spiritan ethos which will inform all deliberations and decisions at board level.

### **Libermann Day.**

Celebrations for Libermann Day 2020 took place in **Kimmage Parish Hall on Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> January from 3pm**, concluding with dinner. The SET executive attended, and the gathering was a fitting tribute to the life of Francis Libermann.

### **5 Colleges Dinner.**

SET was well represented at the 5 Colleges Dinner whose principal organiser is Joe Barrett, a former member of the Board of Directors. The event is a fundraiser and this year the main beneficiary is Pieta house which provides a free, therapeutic approach to people who are in suicidal distress and those who engage in self-harm.

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

February 24<sup>th</sup> SET BoD meeting. 6pm.

February 26<sup>th</sup> APTCS meeting in Milltown, Tom, Ronan and Pat to attend

March 4<sup>th</sup> Joint Trusts Meeting in Kimmage.

March 19<sup>th</sup> Education Committee

March 25<sup>th</sup> Middle Leaders programme- Dublin. Leading for Justice.

Presentation of Certificates.

March 31<sup>st</sup> BoM Training. BoM's as leaders of Catholic Schools - Dr. Gareth Byrne.

April 1<sup>st</sup> - JMB Training, Tom and Ronan to attend.

Middle Leaders programme- Thurles. Leading for Justice. Presentation of Certificates.

April 30<sup>th</sup>. Global Citizenship Education Showcase (Dev. Ed.) in Willow park School.