



SET Board of Directors' Meeting September 2020

SET Executive Team report

Executive Meetings

The executive has continued to meet with Pat by Zoom on a weekly basis. These meetings have identified and implemented the best policies for maintaining a positive contact with the schools and supporting them as they addressed the considerable challenges they faced in reopening and welcoming students back.

Faith and Mission School Resources

The Faith and Mission Resource Pack has been very positively received. Feedback was received from School Principals, R.E. Teachers, D.E. Lead Teachers, teachers, Spiritan province members team, school chaplains etc... A copy of the resource pack is available for all board members.

Digital Resources: The digital resources have been uploaded on the Spiritan Education Trust YouTube Channel

Online Resources: The teachers' area on the website has been helpful to teachers in supporting RE and ethos initiatives in the schools. It requires a simple login and registration. This will be coordinated in consultation with the Teachers Ethos working group

SET Bursary Scheme

Fourteen teachers have submitted applications to the SET bursary scheme which subsidises courses of study likely to enhance professional performance. These applications are currently being assessed and it is hoped that within our budgetary parameters we will be in a position to support these teachers.

School Retreats

1st year Programme: The Retreat programme for 1st years (650 students) has now been commenced. All schools are included apart from HFCS, Rathcoole. The team is Angie Escara, Levis Kapchanga, (Spiritan Seminarian) and Ronan. The areas of interest that are covered include, building community, meditation, and prayer, living the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understanding Spiritan values. The feedback from the School Principals and Chaplains on this programme was very positive. They were happy with the content and the overarching themes of faith and mission that rooted the programme.

Confirmation retreats will also take place over the coming months and in consultation with each school.

Student Mentoring

The SIFM office provided mentoring training in HFCS in late August for the 6th year students who have been chosen for mentoring first years. The training took place over two days and explored style of leadership, child welfare, school community and the values that underline good peer leadership.

Rockwell College.

Board of Management.

A new Chair, Damien Kennedy has been appointed to Rockwell for the final year of that board's term of office.

Following the resignation of the acting Chair due to family commitments, we have identified another individual who is willing to serve. Her name will be submitted to Pat for approval by the BoD. She was already a parent nominee on the board but will have no child in the school in the coming year. (her two sons were L.C. students). She served as acting Chair following the resignation of the previous acting Chair who replaced Triona Barrett.

Rockwell Finance.

There has been ongoing communication with Rockwell over the Summer in relation to the financial challenges the school faces. A number of meetings with the finance sub-committee have taken place. A further meeting attended by the Executive and Finance officers of SET with the new Chair of Rockwell ensured that there is a clear understanding on both sides of the trust's concerns and the schools obligations under the articles of management in relation to financial stability.

Rockwell Appointment.

Following interviews conducted in Rockwell on 21st of August a new D.P. was appointed to replace Michael Doyle who has retired. Conor Desmond is a young man who was very impressive at interview, received extremely positive references and is committed to the Gospel values which should underpin everything we do. It is our hope that this appointment will significantly improve the performance of the leadership team.

Feast of Claude Poullart des Places Online Prayer Service.

This year on the feast of Claude Poullart des Places (October 2nd) we will gather as a Spiritan School family in prayer via zoom .Our five-colleges, linking together in the Spiritan way, of *cor unum et anima una* (one heart, one soul) will gather (possible 5000 students and teachers audience) via a zoom prayer service. This prayer service will celebrate the feast of the first

founder and launch our new website. The website will help demonstrate the impact on the Spiritan communities at home and overseas.

Spiritan Website.

On behalf of SET Ronan sat on the Province communications sub-committee and has contributed to the planning of the website and the launch of the website. His work on this project is much appreciated by both SET and the congregation.

School Chaplaincy.

The SIFM office has provided 1:1 support for school chaplains over the Summer and at the start of the year giving direction on appropriate pastoral responses within school settings. The office has been in contact with all chaplains since their return to school to offer further support.

Meeting of Principals and Chairs.

On the 14th of August in an attempt to support our principals and in response to a number of requests it was decided to invite all our School Principals and Chairs to a socially distanced meeting in Blackrock College. The rationale was to create a collegial space which would be conducive to a sharing of concerns and good practice.

Tom S. and Tom J. both addressed the group briefly, but the main body of the meeting was an exchange of challenges, difficulties, solutions, and innovations between the school representatives. We were especially pleased that the incoming Principal of HFCS, Ingrid Fallon was present. Her contribution made it clear that the scale of difficulties faced by HFCS and the resources available to tackle those difficulties present challenges significantly beyond what our other schools are facing. A number of the subsequent speakers acknowledged that their problems seemed manageable in contrast with what Ingrid is facing.

It was good to see that people shared ideas and offered support to one another. The feedback was very positive and a number of people sent their thanks to the SET office for facilitating this meeting.

New BoM's.

Blackrock College - Three of the four trustee nominees to serve a second term. One trustee nominee to be replaced, having been on the board since 2014.

Willow Junior - Three of the four trustee nominees to be replaced. One trustee nominee who joined the board mid-term to remain.

St. Michael's Senior - Three of the four trustee nominees to serve a second term. One trustee nominee to be replaced having been on the board since 2014.

St Michael's Junior - The Chair to be replaced as he is not available to serve another term due to family circumstances. We have not yet identified an individual with significant primary school experience to replace the previous Chair.

Willow Park Senior - A trustee nominee to be appointed to replace an individual who has resigned due to work commitments.

Rockwell College - A trustee nominee to be appointed to replace an individual who has resigned due to work commitments.

School Documentation.

Annual School Reports.

The templates for ASR's were issued to schools last February with a return deadline in September. Given the current circumstances in schools we have been flexible about the return date, but they are now being submitted and we will encourage all schools to make the return by the end of October at the latest.

Admission Policies.

All schools have submitted their admission policies to SET and following dialogue with each school we have approved these policies as they are all legally compliant. We have made suggestions to schools which are not legal requirements. Some schools have responded positively to these suggestions – others have not. The deadline for approval was September 15.

Child Protection Guidelines.

As an educational trust we are required to maintain up to date documentation from all schools as set out below:

1. Child Safeguarding Statement
2. Risk Assessment.
3. Notification of an annual review having been conducted by the BoM of the Safeguarding Statement and the Risk Assessment.

While all schools submitted the above documentation, we continue to engage with them to ensure that we have signed current copies, following the annual review.

Annual calendar.

Principals' network meeting.

Chairpersons' network meeting.

Deputy Principals' network meeting

The above will not take place this year at the usual time- perhaps we can reschedule for later in the year.

Middle Leaders' programme - A joint meeting of the trusts will consider how if at all this programme can be implemented.

New Teacher Induction.

Should be possible to conduct by Zoom.

SET Annual Conference.

No plans at the moment for a conference.

Deputy Principals' conference

No plans at the moment for a conference.

Paris Pilgrimage

Pilgrimage will not take place this year.

Association of Patrons and Trustees of Catholic Schools.

A Zoom meeting attended by representatives of the four trusts which together are entitled to have two representatives sitting on the board of APTCS was held on 13th of August. At that meeting, Brian Flannery of the Jesuit Trust and Michael Sexton of the Presentation Brothers Trust both agreed to sit on the board for the first term of office. It was further agreed that there should be a rotation among the trusts so that at the next term of office a Spiritan representative will be appointed.

World Wise Global Schools Grant.

A financial grant has been confirmed to SET to the value of 950E. World Wise Global Schools, established in 2013 works with schools nationwide to integrate Global Citizenship Education into all aspects of teaching and learning at post-primary level.

Administration and Licence fee Demands.

The above demands were issued in August by Tom Jackson and there is no reason at the moment to be concerned about schools' ability to pay.