

## **Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community January 2025**

### **In Memoriam**

The Board acknowledges the recent death of Mr. Philip Sheridan, father to Faye Sheridan (4TF) and Mimi Sheridan (2RCN). The Board extends its condolences to Faye and Mimi and to the wider Sheridan family.

### **Transition Year Programme Evaluation**

The school received a *Transition Year Programme Evaluation* inspection from the Department of Education in December 2024. The *Programme Evaluation Report* is positive in relation to teaching and learning, programme provision and whole school support and programme planning, co-ordination, and evaluation. This is welcomed by the Board. It was noted that the timing of this inspection in the context of the required new TY Programme Statement for 2025/2026 was fortuitous, as the school engages in an audit of its current programme. The Board acknowledges all those involved in the Transition Year Programme for their exceptional ongoing commitment to a successful and highly regarded programme.

### **Oide Teacher Professional Learning**

The Board notes the successful engagement of teachers in the Oide delivered cluster workshops in November 2024, covering a variety of core and optional subjects. The focus was on both Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle redevelopment. The Oide delivered full day teacher professional learning, *Planning for Change, Senior Cycle Redevelopment* took place in December 2024 and covered the vision, rationale, and key aspects of Senior Cycle Redevelopment, the key competencies of Senior Cycle and the new programme statements for both Transition Year and for Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes (L1LPs and L2LPs).

### **Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

The Board wishes to acknowledge the stairwell installation project supporting the United Nations' seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The World Wise Global Schools' team, the Green Schools' team and the teachers have been working on raising awareness of the SDGs and the stairwell installation has been very well received within the school community. The Board encourages campus visitors to view the east stairwell on their next visit to the main building.

### **State Examinations**

Mock Leaving Certificate examinations are being held over nine days from Tuesday 4 February to Friday 14 February 2025. Mock Junior Certificate examinations are being held over seven days from Thursday 6 February to Friday 14 February 2025. The Leaving Certificate mock exams are being held in the gym for their duration while the Junior Cycle exams are being held in classrooms.

### **Trinity College Dublin, Entrance Exhibition Awards**

The Board acknowledges Eva O' Donnell and Séamus Ó Ciosáin (Class of 2024) on their recent award of an Entrance Exhibition by Trinity College Dublin. Entrance Exhibitions reward academic achievement of new undergraduate entrants to Trinity College Dublin. They are awarded to the student(s) accepted into the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme who achieve the highest points among Trinity entrants from their secondary school.

### **Newpark Newsletter**

The Board wishes to draw attention to the most recent issue of the *Newpark Newsletter*, which was published in January 2025. It is a comprehensive document, reflecting both the number and variety of curricular and co-curricular achievements and successes in term one. The Board wishes to acknowledge the commitment of the editors, and indeed all contributors from within the school community, in bringing this prodigious publication to fruition.

### **Department of Education circular letters since the last meeting of the Board:**

0064/2024

The operation/application and deployment of Special Education Teacher resources.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/f55a5-the-operationapplication-and-deployment-of-special-education-teacher-resources/>

0081/2024

Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations Guidelines for Schools

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/5ec83-understanding-behaviours-of-concern-and-responding-to-crisis-situations-guidelines-for-schools-in-supporting-students/>

0084/2024

Advice on the use of assessment instruments/tests for Guidance or for additional and special educational needs (SEN) in post-primary school

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/aa86a-advice-on-the-use-of-assessment-instrumentstests-for-guidance-or-for-additional-and-special-educational-needs-sen-in-post-primary-schools/>

0086/2024

Prescribed material for Junior Cycle Irish for students presenting for Final Examination in 2027, 2028 and 2029

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/d6d11-prescribed-material-for-junior-cycle-irish-for-students-presenting-for-final-examination-in-2027-2028-and-2029/>

0087/2024

NQF Level 9 Graduate Diploma in Social Personal and Health Education/ Relationships and Sexuality Education (SPHE/ RSE) Programme 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/c843b-nqf-level-9-graduate-diploma-in-social-personal-and-health-education-relationships-and-sexuality-education-sphe-rse-programme-2025/>

0088/2024

Cost-of-living measure to support increased school running costs

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/b8a00-cost-of-living-measure-to-support-increased-school-running-costs/>

0092/2024

Special Leave with Pay for Sporting Purposes for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/228f4-special-leave-with-pay-for-sporting-purposes-for-registered-teachers-employed-in-recognised-primary-and-post-primary-schools/>

0093/2024

Special Leave with Pay for Sporting Purposes for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/f1b32-special-leave-with-pay-for-sporting-purposes-for-special-needs-assistants-employed-in-recognised-primary-and-post-primary-schools/>

0001/2025

Guidance in Post-Primary Schools 2025

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/efb5c-guidance-in-post-primary-schools-2025/>

0002/2025

Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Examination 2027, 2028, 2029 (For student cohort commencing 5th year in Sept 2025, 2026 & 2027)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/ba1f4-prescribed-material-for-the-leaving-certificate-drama-film-and-theatre-studies-examination-2027-2028-2029for-student-cohort-commencing-5th-year-in-sept-2025-2026-2027/>

0003/2025

Teacher Fee Refund Scheme - providing a partial refund towards the cost of course fees and examination fees upon the successful completion of the teacher professional learning course/s.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/circular/4458a-teacher-fee-refund-scheme-2024/>

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