

## St Louis Secondary School

### Parents Association AGM – Thursday 14th October 2021

**Guest speaker:** Lauren Spiers of Parenting NI

Lauren has a background in Applied Psychology and Youth Work specialising in Social and Emotional Learning and Parenting. Children's Services Manager and Parenting Consultant with 13 years' experience of working with parents- interests include parenting styles, children's emotional health and wellbeing, risk taking behaviours, and brain development. Lauren is interested in improving outcomes for children through evidence-based practice.

Mr Andrew Matthews, PA chairperson thanked Lauren who gave an engaging presentation on Teens Emotional Health & Wellbeing, which was very well received by the parents present. For anyone who couldn't make it please see Cadoo for a copy of the presentation.

#### Principal's Update

Ms Patton gave an update on everything that happened in the school last year and plans for the year ahead. Key points are as follows:

- Continued upskilling of ICT skills for teachers
- School covid inspection was very successful and had no further recommendations given
- Excellent Junior and Leaving cert results
- Successful induction program for 1<sup>st</sup> years' which includes links to key skills in the Junior Cycle
- The school's new ASD class, Rang Sorcha, opened in September 2020. The class includes a range of resources to cater for all students with additional needs
- Priorities for the year ahead
  - Health & Safety of all students and staff
  - Biodiverse area development at Proules River on site
  - Development of the Sensory Garden
  - Upskilling teachers and students in online teaching, learning and assessment
  - Continued implementation of the 5-year strategic plan
  - Maintain high standard in state exams & extracurricular activities
  - Manage wellbeing of staff and students
  - Progress application for major capital works project with the department
- Extra-curricular
  - Annie musical unable to go ahead due to Covid restrictions
  - Day trips to Tanagh Outdoor Adventure / Muckno Outdoor Adventure
  - Various online activities & talks
- Building: several improvements were made last year even though progress was slow due to covid.
  - Outdoor classroom & seating area
  - Heritage Council Grant – refurbishment of windows in primary school building
  - New blinds
  - Heating pipes updated in some areas and new radiators in staff room

- Lease on Convent building; new reception, boardroom, classroom, staffroom, meeting rooms and an isolation room
- Board of Management
  - Derek Murnaghan & Anne-Marie Browne were elected from the parent nominees and have met regularly during the year
- Student Council Report
  - Re-useable water bottles were introduced and available for purchase
  - St Louis Network Leadership Training
  - CPR Training
  - Fundraiser for Yemen
  - Policy Reviews
  - Student Wellbeing
  - Darkness into Light
- Attendance continues to improve
- Online learning engagement was monitored
- Reminder to parents that it is important to only sign out your daughter if absolutely necessary
- Finance
  - Healthy as shown in annual accounts
  - 96% of parents are using the online payment system
- Enrolment is now open, forms available on the website and runs until 12<sup>th</sup> November
- Student Sampling day on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> October with a Halloween theme
- Open Day Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class girls, with 1½ hour slots which can be booked online
- Assessment tests were postponed due to lockdown and held at the start of term instead

A full and more detailed report is available on the website under the Parents' Association section

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms Sharon Boyle gave a brief report update on PA finances. There had been no activity last year due to covid restrictions and the balance of the account therefore still stands at €1495.

### **Election of Parent's Association Officers**

Last year's Parents association officers were re-elected for the year ahead:

Chairperson: Mr Andrew Matthews

Secretary: Ms Samantha Rushe

Treasurer: Ms Sharon Boyle

Ms Patton encouraged parents to get involved with the parent's association, which is not an onerous task as we only meet a few times a year. It would be great to get additional and new voices on the parent's association, and interest can be registered with the school office.