

Principal's Report to the Parents' Association A.G.M.

Loreto College Cavan

Academic Year 2019/20

Tuesday 20th October 2020

The 2019/20 school year began with a W.S.E.-M.L.M. and finished with Remote Teaching and Learning due to Covid 19. All aspects of our teaching and learning lives were critiqued and challenged. Our resilience and ability to adapt was

Teaching and Learning

The 702 students in Loreto College Cavan took courses in the following programmes Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Transition Year.

Option Subjects for Junior Certificate included French, German, Science, Home Economics, Music, Art and Business Studies. Students pick five of the seven subjects for study in First Year and drop one i.e. study four for Second and Third Year.

Option Subjects for Leaving Certificate included Agricultural Science, French, German, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Home Economics, Music, Art, Business, Applied Maths and Accounting.

Transition Year was enjoyed by one hundred and four students, many of whom enjoyed the Dutch Exchange, German Exchange, and the "Young Americans" in co-operation with the Royal School Cavan and funded by Peace IV money.

The Management and Teaching Staff participated in mandated C.P.D. in the areas of J.C.S.A., S.E.T., Co-Teaching, Tracking, and S.P.H.E. There were a number of Teechmeets where teachers learned Digital skills and Critical Thinking techniques. There were five Parent Teacher meetings. All parent teacher meetings were well attended. The newly appointed Deputy Principals were upskilled through N.A.P.D., J.M.B. and Loreto Education Trust.

W.S.E. – M.L.L.

A Whole School Evaluation – Management, Leadership and Learning took place in September 2019.

The following work commenced to follow through on the W.S.E.-M.L.L. recommendations:

- A core team has been established to support planning for teaching, learning and assessment in S.P.H.E. Targeted C.P.D. has been accessed. All Junior Cycle classes now have an S.P.H.E. Class in addition to a Tutor Class.
- C.P.D. for S.E.T. has been accessed and S.E.T. is being restructured in line with CL 0014/2017.
- The restructuring of the In-School Management Team began in February 2020 and is currently on hold due to the demands of the current Covid environment.
- Strategies to develop formative assessment and the further development of reporting and student feedback are a school priority.

School Self Evaluation

The W.S.E.-M.L.L. informed the development of S.S.E.. Strand 2 Literacy and Strand 3 Numeracy are well developed. The two strands which required renewed attention are Strand 1 – Attendance and Punctuality and Strand 4 Critical Thinking in the context of Differentiation and Formative Assessment.

Strand 1 - There were notable improvements in attendance and punctuality, however the good work was cut short with the March 12th school closure and student attendance and punctuality took a new form.

Strand 4 – All subject departments agreed that the three actions taken to promote critical thinking for the 2019/20 academic year should be K.W.L., Blooms Taxonomy Verbs and Effective Questioning/ Wait Time. Also, in line with the W.S.E.-M.L.L. recommendation there was a whole school approach to developing common differentiation and formative assessment in the context of critical thinking. There was more emphasis on higher order questioning, debate and discussion.

The S.S.E. process was used in developing the school's Digital Learning Plan (Strand 5). In September 2019 all members of the teaching staff had a school device. This was year three of our school plan. The school target was that all 1st Year Teachers and students would start using One Note in their subjects for notes and homework. This linked with differentiation in the form of the flipped classroom. Due to the unprecedented time with Covid 19, 100% of staff and students began using the assignments feature on Microsoft Teams for homework, live lessons and class. This linked in with all five S.S.E. strands as students took responsibility for their own learning and became more active and independent. Teachers used a wide variety of methodologies during this time. For example "Literacy Week" was organised via Microsoft Teams.

Student Leadership and Achievement

All 5th Year students participated in leadership training to prepare them for their roles as senior prefects.

Our students participated and achieved recognition in a number of ways in the 2017/18 academic year.

Students from the 2017 Leaving Certificate Class were celebrated for their academic achievements in N.U.I. Maynooth, U.C.D., D.C.U., T.C.D., and the Naughton Scholarship. Three of our students were U.C.D. Ad Astra Scholars in 2019.

Students who demonstrated excellence in Maths and Science by the State Examinations Commission were given the opportunity to participate in the Science Olympiads. The students who achieved grade A in Junior Certificate Business Studies were celebrated by N.U.I. Maynooth.

Student Council

In the 2019/20 school year, the Student Council were under the leadership of Kate Bolan, Kayla McAvinney and Sana Cheema. The whole Student Council attended training with Loreto Education Trust. The Student Council acted as a positive link between the staff and students. They raised awareness and funds for our sister school in Rumbek. The most notable example of achievement and leadership among our student leaders was the way in which they hosted and facilitated virtual meetings with their year group, hosting past students who were giving advice on study skills and the transition to college.

Sport

Despite our sporting year being cut short, our tenacious students were on our way to great successes in 2019/20.

Football: Our U 16A and Senior Teams took home two Ulster Finals beating our old rivals Our Lady's Castleblaney. Our U 16B Team got their campaign off to a winning start with a victory over Breffni College.

Our U 16A Team were due to play Loreto College Navan in the All Ireland semi-final on 19th March in Mullingar. Our Senior Team were scheduled to play Moate CS in the All Ireland Semi Final on 11th March 2020.

Basketball: Our 1st and 2nd Year basketball teams started their year with a 1st Year victory over Eureka and a 1st and 2nd Year victory over St Oliver's Community School Drogheda.

Badminton: The twelve senior students who represented Loreto College reached the Cavan Schools Badminton competition semi-final. The twelve junior students who represented the school qualified for the knockout stages of the cup competition with three teams reaching the semi-finals.

Athletics: One of our 3rd Year students had a fantastic result representing Loreto College and Ireland in the Home Nations Combined Events International in Glasgow in November 2019. This student also helped the Irish Team to a bronze medal in the team event.

One of our 1st Year students ran a brilliant race to finish 12th in the Ulster Cross Country Championships.

Camogie: Our senior camogie team bowed out in the group stages of their competition. Finishing even on points after all the group games St Catherine's Armagh and Loreto College were forced to play again to decide who progressed from the group.

Extra and Co-Curricular Activities

There are numerous extra and co-curricular activities in the school including; the Green Schools Committee, Cupán Tae Club, Credit Union Art Competition, development of a "Reading Room" and all the training and activities which take place after school. May I also take the opportunity to thank our teachers for their ongoing support and volunteerism.

Board of Management

The Board of Management 2017/2020 have just finished their three-year term. The Trustee nominees were Mrs Bernie Ryan, Chairperson, Jacqueline Maloney, Bernie Dolan and Ger Finn. The Parents were represented by Mary Brady Dunning and Paddy Sheanon. The Teachers were represented by Sharon Murphy and Donna Blessington. May i join with you in thanking them for their sterling work for the past three years.

The new Board of Management took office on Thursday 15th October 2020, starting their three year term, 2020/2023. The Trustee nominees are Breege Flynn, Mary Anne Smith and Jacqueline Maloney. The Parent Nominees are Antoinette Burke and Edel Morrison. The Teacher nominees are Cliona Hyland and Siobhán Creamer.

Personal Note

May I take this opportunity to thank the Parents' Association and all the parents and guardians associated with the school for their support and co-operation throughout the year. It is through open communication that we can collaborate and ensure a successful learning environment for your daughters.

Angela McGarvey, Principal

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