

PROGRESS REPORT IN AREAS IDENTIFIED FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT IN MAY 2014

Below is a summary of progress made in areas identified for attention a year ago. The report is coded as follows:

Green: Areas where significant/total progress was achieved.

Black: Areas where it is difficult to comment as the matter relates to whole staff matters or are matters of opinion.

Red: Areas which are still to be acted upon.

Teaching and Learning:

- More subject planning meetings need to be scheduled - 5 hour allocation was assigned at the beginning of the year.
- Students need to use journals properly (3).
- International students and LC repeat students not from Athy College – effect on other students' learning is not always good. Placement in 5th year is a better option for international students.
- Motivation of senior cycle students. Suggestion: Connect in with "Managing Myself" key skill (School Improvement Plan). Monitor attendance of senior cycle students (2)– involve parents early where there are problems.
- Emphasise the importance of homework and the use of the journal with all classes.

Pastoral Care and Student Issues:

- More meetings of Pastoral Care teams need to take place (4).
- Significantly increase the number of nominations required to receive an Endeavour Award.
- A meeting needs to be held at the beginning of the academic year to explain the role of tutor, roll book etc to new teachers. Students are frequently being sent to tutors' rooms without phone call, note etc during class time. This is very unfair on the tutor and on the class whose tuition time is being interrupted (3).

Student Discipline:

- School bags at doorways and in corridors a problem. Suggestion: shutter in canteen not to go up for 5 minutes after the bell to give students time to go to lockers and stop rush for food.
- Students not bringing school bags home. Focus needed on students bringing all equipment to class. (3)
- Suggestion: Cameras in corridors and locker areas.
- Uniform – need to re-focus in particular on shoes and have a common approach (2).
- Suggestion: Return of weekly/fortnightly blitzes on particular focus points. Principal texting parents throughout the summer to remind about purchasing the proper school uniform.
- Some senior students stayed down town during class 7 activities organized for Be Active Week.
- Increase number of teachers on break duty (2).
- All teachers promote courtesy, respect and manners amongst students. Suggestion: Link in with “Managing Myself” (School Improvement Plan)

Staff Wellbeing and Professional Development:

- ePortal comments on student matters; do not use tutors’ break times to discuss student discipline matters. Every teacher deserves his/her break (3).
- More opportunities for collegial/staff bonding and team building. Suggestion: Ovoca Manor (3) – Claire organised our Christmas party away
- More staff to be trained in area of First Aid (2)

Administration:

- More meetings of in-school management team and staff meetings should take place.
- Would it be possibility to make allowance within Croke Park hours for voluntary Saturday mornings? The three Saturday mornings amount to about 12 hours for any teacher who participates in all 3. Would it be possible to sue some Croke Park hours for correcting mocks?
- Planning time for subjects early in the first term
- Issues around supervision of cleaning the canteen area.

Building and Facilities:

- Gravel channel at front door could be paved to prevent gravel entering the building.
- Improved sound system required for some events.
- More air-dryers in toilets to replace paper towel.