

## REFLECTION AND EVALUATION – 2013

A “Reflection and Evaluation – 2013” questionnaire was distributed at the end of year staff meeting. 68% of staff responded to the questionnaire. (9 teachers did not return the evaluation sheet.)

The findings indicate what teachers identified as the highlights of 2012-2013 Academic Year and the areas teachers identified for improvement going forward into 2013-2014.

Feedback has been prioritised in order of the number of times a point was made – e.g. (10) after a comment means that particular point was made ten times.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR 2012-2013:

- Endeavour Awards (x14): excellent organisation, very positive event, amazing, an inspiring night. “The students loved it and it really creates an atmosphere around the school”, the endeavour pins are a great idea, excellent turnout, the 3-pin award system is excellent.
- Graduation Ceremony (13) - a special night. “So well organised. “ “Very well structured”
- TLC/Campus Teaching and Learning Network (8); presentation of our work in this area at EU Conference; NCCA videoing of Leaving Certs on their Learning
- Be Active Week (7)
- Academic Awards Ceremony (6) – a boost for hard-working students
- Halloween Talent Show( 5)
- Teaching (3) - Particular mention for A1/A2; “Getting everyone in B3 to complete a task to a level that they were all delighted with themselves.”
- Relationships between staff and students and school atmosphere (3)
- Choir (x3)
- Science and Technology Introductory Day for Incoming First Years (3)
- Inspirational Student and Teacher Awards (3)
- JP McManus Award (x3)
- Visits to St Vincent’s Hospital (3)
- VEC Schools’ Cycle (2)
- TriAthy Registration in Athy College (2)
- Open Day (2)
- Spelling Bee (2) – fun
- Introduction of Prefects (2)
- The Care Team (2)
- Second Year Tour (2) – excellent team building exercise
- Use of Moodle in classrooms (2)
- Darkness into Light x2
- Art Exhibition (2)
- Business Link with Athy Concentrates - Shackleton Presentation(2)
- Establishment of a Basketball Club
- Team Teaching

- Further development of the School and Campus – including plans for floodlights, marking the pitch, percent for art,
- New staff with new ideas
- Secret Santa.
- Aviva Mile
- Seeing the difference (ie improvement) in C2 behaviour
- Getting outside coaches for sport – will lead to winning teams
- A good year of sporting activity
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Lotto grant
- JCSP Christmas Party

## IDENTIFYING AREAS FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT:

- Tutors and Year Heads need more time and opportunities to plan, co-ordinate and discuss. (x5) Teachers need to email tutors AND then put on eportal any matter that teachers are drawing to the attention of a tutor /year head. (xx2) Teachers should work through the Guidelines for Class Discipline Procedures before contacting a tutor/year head about a matter. Time for tutors to meet with their groups is important. It is impossible to sign journals, check uniform and address any issues in a SPHE class while teaching a lesson. A class or 8minutes per morning should be set aside for these issues plus one class per week to meet with year head. Not all teachers are using email correctly so there can be a lack of communication involving important matters such as projects or pupil ill health.
- Could Be Active Week be moved to a different time of the year (x4) – very late in the year for exam classes. Should be held in September to enable students to build relationships with each other early in the year. **All** timetabled staff to attend with their classes for Be Active week activities. While Be Active Week is an enjoyable and valuable part of our school year, the timing needs to be considered. So close to the end of the school year, it was disruptive for exam students and it was hard for many students to settle down and focus for the last 2 classes afterwards. Perhaps it could be held in September?
- Summer tests should also be timetabled for 2<sup>nd</sup> years. (x3)
- Across the board uniform checks (3)– especially shoes. There must be consistency in areas such as school uniform, discipline and stands for ALL teachers to follow.
- More time could be spent on staff well-being/team building/improving morale/staff get together (2). Perhaps some Croke Park hours could be used for this? Teachers have MASSIVE workloads.
- The overall ability of staff to use labour saving IT options (e.g. cut and paste). (2) Can we use some the Croke Park hours to develop staff's overall ability to use IT?
- **All** timetabled staff to attend with their classes for BeActive week activities.
- Use resource teaching hours for intensive work with small groups of students who need extra help in literacy and numeracy.
- More clubs for students (e.g. video production, chess, photography).
- Development of music in the school.

- While most students have excellent manners and courtesy, an initiative on this for all students.
- To give greater allocation of time to one-to-one guidance so that there can be greater development of whole school guidance. There is greater need for on-the-spot counselling (child safety issues) and need to develop guidance around transition from primary to post-primary.
- Overall teacher involvement in extra-curricular activities and in extra voluntary supervision – it's very disheartening on the small number of staff who always try their best for the school and students.
- The Endeavour Awards is a lovely night for showing our appreciation and while it's never possible to include everyone, the teachers who train teams got very little recognition for the hours they spend training at lunchtime and after school. Maybe they could get a mention next year.
- Structure of parent-teacher meetings – parents to be given appointments perhaps or bells to ring frequently
- Could TLC be part of Croke Park hours?
- All teachers need to implement the school's discipline policy. We need to get firmer re not accepting indiscipline.
- Green Schools
- More use of Moodle now that it has been developed.
- Litter and chewing gum have become serious problems. More teachers required at breaks to supervise.
- Avoid having school tours during the summer test period
- Possibly have a relaxation room/"chill out zone" for JCSP students/or other students in need of such a facility.
- CPD in Behaviour Management, Health and Safety and First Aid Course for games teachers.
- G13 has no internal phone – led to feeling isolated when support was required.