

Agreed Report for School Community

November 2023

Leaving Certificate Results 2023

The Board has acknowledged that the Leaving Certificate results of the Class of 2023 were outstanding with four students achieving the top score, ten students achieving scores of 600+ points and thirty-two students achieving scores of 500+ points. Twenty-nine of the thirty-two students who achieved scores of more than 500 points attended a special assembly on 6th September during which their achievements were acknowledged. The Board wishes to congratulate the Class of 2023 and their teachers on the success.

Boreenmanna Road Entrance

The driveway from the Boreenmanna Road entrance has been resurfaced and a pedestrian route has been clearly marked with white painted lines.

Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal Ms Hewison retired at the end of October. Ms Hewison's contribution to Ashton School was acknowledged by students, staff and the Board of Management during our annual Prize Day awards ceremony on 26th October. Immense appreciation and gratitude was shown for what Ms Hewison contributed to Ashton School in the role of deputy principal. We whole-heartedly wish her well for her retirement.

The Board of Management also wishes Mr Lester well and every success in his new role as deputy principal since 6th November.

Information Meeting and Open Day

An information evening for the parents of prospective students was also held on the 28th September. The school was opened to the public on the 29th September. Both were well attended.

Prize Day

The format of the school's annual awards ceremony was reviewed in 2023. On 26th October the remodelled ceremony took the form of a special assembly between morning break and lunch time with normal classes running in the morning and afternoon. The new format included an additional musical item and unannounced prizes for significant achievements which were well received.

Admission for 2024/2025

Interest in the school remains extremely strong with many more applications being received than places available. Offers were posted on 16th November to fill 90 places in first year in 2024/2025. Unsuccessful applicants have been invited to have their names placed on a waiting list.

One-to-One Devices

As part of its school development plan and in the context of the digital strategy for schools, Ashton School will introduce one-to-one devices for first-year students who enrol for 2024/2025.

Policies

The Board has recently reviewed and updated its Child Safeguarding Statement and Anti-Bullying policy. The revised policies are available on the school website. In the context of child safeguarding, Mr Landen is the school's Designated Liaison Person and Mr Lester is the school's Deputy Designated liaison Person.

DES Letters and Circulars

The following Department of Education Circulars have been noted by the Board and are brought to the attention of all members of the school community.

- a. [0026/2023](#) Recruitment of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) - Supplementary Assignment Arrangements for the 2023/2024 school year
- b. [0027/2023](#) NQF Level 9 Graduate Diploma in Social Personal and Health Education/Relationships and Sexuality Education (SPHE/RSE) Programme 2024
- c. [0028/2023](#) Arrangements for the implementation of the Framework for Junior Cycle with particular reference to the school year 2023/2024.
- d. [0030/2023](#) Home Tuition Grant Scheme - Maternity Related Absences Component
- e. [0031/2023](#) Home Tuition Grant Scheme for children without a school place
- f. [0032/2023](#) Supervision and Substitution Scheme – Opt-in for Principals and Deputy Principals with effect from 1 September 2022
- g. [0033/2023](#) Carer's Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- h. [0035/2023](#) Teacher Supply Post Primary: Teaching Hours Extension Scheme 2023/24
- i. [0036/2023](#) Publication of Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post- Primary Schools (revised 2023)
- j. [0037/2023](#) Partial Absences for Medical-Related Service Appointments for Post Primary Teachers
- k. [0038/2023](#) Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2022 Implementation of Sectoral Bargaining with effect from 1 February 2022– Payment of PME/HDip Allowance to post primary teachers on the pre-2011 teacher pay scale
- l. [0041/2023](#) Revision of Teacher Salaries under the Building Momentum Pay Agreement with effect from 1 October 2023
- m. [0042/2023](#) Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 ("The Agreement")
- n. [0044/2023](#) Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools under Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 ("The Agreement")
- o. [0046/2023](#) Revision of Salaries of for school secretaries previously funded under Ancillary grant funding
- p. [0047/2023](#) Adoptive Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- q. [0048/2023](#) Adoptive Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- r. [0050/2023](#) Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- s. [0051/2023](#) Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- t. [0052/2023](#) Breastfeeding Breaks for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
- u. [0053/2023](#) Breastfeeding Breaks for Special Needs Assistants employed In Recognised Primary and

Post Primary Schools

- v. [0054/2023](#) Curriculum and assessment related developments at Senior Cycle with particular reference to school years 2023/24 and onwards
- w. [0056/2023](#) Cost of living measure to support increased school running costs