

# **Agreed Report for School Community**

**February 2025**

## **Hall of Fame Award**

The recipient of the Hall of Fame award in 2025 will be past student and lawyer, Clare Lawson. Clare is currently Senior Prosecutor at the Specialist Prosecutor's Office (SPO) in the Hague, The Netherlands, where she oversees all investigations and prosecutions of the office, encompassing war crimes, crimes against humanity and offences against the administration of justice. The Hall of Fame award ceremony for 2025 will be held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> March. The format of the ceremony will be a whole-school assembly which will take place within the 40-minute period beginning at 12 noon on the day. Parents will be invited. Students will attend lessons as normal before and after the ceremony. Clare will also facilitate a Q & A session for interested students earlier in the day.

## **Policy Development**

The school's anti-bullying policy will be revised in line with the Department's Bí Cineálta guidelines. The revised policy will be developed using a mandatory template provided by the Department. Work on the school-specific content of the policy is currently being progressed. All partners are invited to read the Bí Cineálta guidelines and to submit suggestions for consideration when the policy is being drafted. Submissions should be sent to the Principal.

## **One-to-one Devices**

The introduction of one-to-one devices for students enrolled in first year in 2024/2025 continues to go smoothly. Digital learning will continue to be a focus of development over an extended period of time. First year students are benefiting from a Digital Skills learning programme which supports them in using the devices. It is planned that the one-to-one device programme will be extended to first-year students in 2025/2026 also.

## **Professional Development**

Professional development for teachers in 2024/2025 includes Oide-led and school-based training for teachers. Teachers attended a subject cluster day on 13<sup>th</sup> January and a whole-school day, facilitated by Oide, is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> April. The whole-school day will focus on senior cycle development. School-led professional development in 2024/2025 has focused on digital learning (Teams and Class Notebook) and student reflection on learning (what students learn and how they learn).

## **School Development Planning**

School Self-Evaluation has become a well-used tool for school development in Ashton. Current areas of focus include assessment practice, digital learning and student wellbeing. Significant development work is also ongoing in the area of provision for students with special educational needs.

## **Tuck Shop**

Following consideration of input from school partners, consideration of possible service providers of healthy only food options, and data gathered on student eating patterns and habits, the Board has decided not to reintroduce a tuck shop at this juncture.

## **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. [0064/2024](#) The Operation/application and deployment of Special Education Teacher resources.
- b. [0081/2024](#) Understanding Behaviours of Concern and Responding to Crisis Situations Guidelines for Schools in Supporting Students
- c. [0084/2024](#) Advice on the use of assessment instruments/tests for Guidance or for additional and special educational needs (SEN) in post-primary schools

- d. [0085/2024](#) New pay rate for School Transport Escorts
- e. [0086/2024](#) Prescribed material for Junior Cycle Irish for students presenting for Final Examination in 2027, 2028 and 2029
- f. [0087/2024](#) NQF Level 9 Graduate Diploma in Social Personal and Health Education/ Relationships and Sexuality Education (SPHE/ RSE) Programme 2025
- g. [0088/2024](#) Cost-of-living measure to support increased school running costs
- h. [0092/2024](#) Special Leave with Pay for Sporting Purposes for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- i. [0093/2024](#) Special Leave with Pay for Sporting Purposes for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools
- j. [0001/2025](#) Guidance in Post-Primary Schools 2025
- k. [0002/2025](#) Prescribed Material for the Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies Examination 2027, 2028, 2029(For student cohort commencing 5th year in Sept 2025, 2026 & 2027)
- l. [0003/2025](#) Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2024
- m. 0004/2025
- n. [0005/2025](#) Special Education Teacher (SET) allocation for the 2025/26 school year
- o. [0008/2025](#) Staffing Arrangements in Community and Comprehensive Schools for the 2025/26 school
- p. [0012/2025](#) Amendments to the Social Education Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Module Descriptor