**NEWBRIDGECOLLEGE PSA AGM**

**24thFebruary 2015**

**Attendees:**

**Geraldine Caulfield, Orla Traynor, Paula Hart, Aine Hanlon Lynch, Kathleen Ryan, Pat O'Brien, Neville Conroy and Fr. Larry Kelly - refer to register for list of parents.**

**Apologies: None**

GC welcomed everyone and expressed congratulations on behalf of the PSA to Senior Cup Team who meet Roscrea in the Leinster Schools Senior Cup Semi Final on Wednesday March 4th and commiserations to the JCT who were beaten by Gonzaga in the last 16. She also wished the student mathletes well in their upcoming competition,

**Pending Items:**

**PE for Senior Cycle**

To remain pending

**School Report Format**

See previous agreed actions

**Canteen**

See previous agreed actions

**Outside Furniture/Table Tennis Tables**

**Supergeneration**

**eBooks**

**ASTI**

**Lights/ Painting maintenance programme summer 2015**

See previous agreed actions

**previous agreed actions**

**Arrange Dr Heffernan talk**

It was agreed the proposed talk be reviewed again next school year.

**Student Enterprise Volunteer**

GC thanked the parent who had volunteered to judge the TY mini-companies for the Student Enterprise Award and asked the parent for a summary of the day. She stated that it was a very interesting experience and that it was very difficult to narrow down the selection to 3 or4. All the students were very passionate about their projects and had put a lot of work and effort into the companies.

Ms O’Keeffe (Asst. TY Co-ordinator) sent an email to the PSA informing them that 3 mini-companies have been selected to represent Newbridge College in the county final of the student enterprise awards in Killashee on March 10th.  They are Maeve’s Crafts (Maeve Fennin), Daisy Creations (Aine Fleming, Sabrina Keane & Lauren Colivet) and Gift Gro(Elliot Davis, Caitlin Breen, Chloe Sutton & Sean Murphy).  Two other companies were shortlisted and highly commended by the judges.  They were Bella Dana (Lauren Mullins, Caelinn Van Der Hoven & Lucie Sargeant) and Clear T (James Roe, Paddy Ryan & Sean O’Neill).

**Meeting with Canteen operators**

To be arranged.

**Careers Event**

At the Student Council meeting the idea of resurrecting the Careers Event was raised. However, the event had previously been held in the evening and had been poorly attended. It was proposed that there may be an opportunity to schedule talks during class time for TY students. The committee met with Mr Howard and he is very supportive. He has suggested that the talks take place in the Theatre during the already scheduled careers class time for TYs. The 40 minute talks will take place on the 3 weeks after the Easter holidays (Tues 14th, 21st and 28th at 12.20 and Wed 15th, 22nd and 29th at 9.15 and 11.50) with 9 different sessions. Mr Howard has suggested that less traditional careers might be more beneficial with the emphasis on business (as this seems to be a preferred option for a large number of the students). There will be Student Ambassadors appointed to “meet and greet” the speakers. The PSA will organise the speakers for this trial event which if successful maybe become an annual event. If someone would like to volunteer a speaker (parent or non-parent) please contact Kathleen Ryan (086-2641115 or kathleen.odonoghue@repak.ie).

**Follow up meeting with Students Council**

Mr Newsome is to be replaced as Student Council Co-ordinator and the PSA are awaiting the new appointment before arranging the follow-up meeting.

**1st year lockers**

Will be addressed under the summer 2015 Lights/Painting maintenance programme.

**Concussion awareness talks**

Shane Mooney, the First Aid and Injury Co-ordinator of the IRFU, has agreed to give a talk to both the parents and the students free of charge. The talks will take about 40 minutes and the details are to be passed on POB. Ideally suggest 2-3 dates for each talk. It was agreed that the student talk should be arranged first and should take place during school hours. If that meeting was timetabled by the March PSA meeting an evening time could be scheduled for the parent talk. The IRFU also offer a SAFE Rugby Level 1 course at a cost of €40 per participant. A minimum of 21 participants is required and the course must be offered to all other clubs in the locality.

**Student reports**

To remain pending

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

The Treasurer gave an update reporting that there was no income and expenditure since the last meeting. The next large expenditure will be the purchase of the graduation gifts for the 6th year students.

**MANAGEMENT & PLANNING**

**Mock Interviews**

KR outlined the details for the Mock Interviews. These take place on evening of **May 5th.** The interviews take about 2 hours (7.30-9.30) and panels of 2-3 parents interview 3-4 students. Every year the PSA asks parents to volunteer for this very positive and certainly worthwhile exercise. An email will be sent to all parents in the next month requesting volunteers. About 50 parents are required to help ensure the evening runs efficiently for all.

**CURRICULUM**

**Parent Teacher Meeting Organisation**

AHL brought details of the schedule for Parent teacher meetings from another school were parent nominate teachers they wish to meet and are allotted a scheduled time for each meeting. It was agreed that there were ways in which the Parent Teacher meetings at Newbridge College could be improved. A number of parent suggested that a bell (buzzer/alarm/egg timer) be used to notify parents that the allotted time had passed. Reminders to parents to be conscious of other parents and not go over 5 minutes were also suggested and finally it was suggested that the school might consider progress emails to parents prior to the Parent Teacher meetings.

**LEARNING AND TEACHING SUPPORT**

**communications**

**Suggestion Box**

Will be available at the next meeting

**AOB**

**Parent Power**

Amazing Brains run a Parent Power seminar that empowers parents and gives them the opportunity to help their own children develop the essential study techniques to succeed in schools and exams. GC suggested the PSA fund an evening seminar for parents. POB informed the meeting that Amazing Brains have already been provisionally booked to provide their 3rd year seminar and parents talk in September. He also informed the meeting that Supergeneration will be providing a study skills workshop to 6th years in September. Therefore at present both exam years will be covered next year but the plan is to “roll out” one or both programme(s) to all years in the future.

**Indigo**

A number of TY students have recently completed a personality profiling conducted by Indigo. The students received feedback both in person and documented and while it was a pilot study and may need some tweaking it did firm up on a number of personality traits and types. Mr Corbett (TY Co-ordinator) is considering introducing the testing into the TY options for next year. It was agreed to that POB would review/research the programme with the TY Co-ordinators and the Guidance Counsellors and bring his recommendation to the next meeting.

**Upcoming events**

GC reminded parents that in the coming months there will be the Mock interviews, the Horse Show – with the TY Bake Sale, the Graduation Mass and the Debs Ball.

The Sports Development Fund is reaching the end of its two year trial period. It now has to be decided if (i) should the Fund continue, (ii) who should fund the Fund and (iii) does it remain a Sports Development Fund or broaden to Sports and Arts Development Fund. The Sports Development Fund needs to be put on pending items.

Finally the 4 year term for the current Board of Governors is coming to an end. 2 Parent Reps are elected to the Board of Governors. The nomination forms were previously sent out to parents during the summer and this lead to a delay in electing the Reps. It was proposed that the papers be sent out in April with a discussion at the May PSA meeting and the election in September

**School reports**

While it was agreed that the issue of school reports would remain on the agenda it was raised again during AOB with one parent suggesting the addition of two more columns in the report – (i) areas to improve and (ii) target mark for next exam.

**School Uniform**

A parent who is a uniform supplier to the school raised the issue of the school jacket and sought clarification regarding the anorak, fleece and soft shell jacket. It was explained that the uniform policy has been amended to remove the anorak and that the current policy is “Black Fleece jacket (with College Crest) or black soft shell jacket (with College Crest) for all students” as per the school website.

The issue of the school jumper was raised with the query as to whether it should be made compulsory. POB informed the meeting that a big effort has been made with regard to neatness and the correct wearing of the uniform. The shirt and tie must be visible and the issue of school trousers has been addressed with uniform detention in place for those in breech. It was agreed to put the uniform and the wearing of the school jumper on the agenda for the March meeting.

**Horse Show**

PH suggested that a member of the Horse Show Committee be invited to a PSA meeting to discuss the Horse Show and what additions/changes if any could be made.

**Student Enterprise School Program**

A parent who has a contact with Enterprise Board raised the issue of mini-company facilitation. NC will pass details on to TY Co-ordinators and get feedback for next session

**Agreed Actions**

Canteen Staff meeting OT

Careers Event KR

Arrange meeting Prefects OT/AHL

Items to be put in Pending Items on Agenda KR

(Uniform, Parent Teacher meetings, Sports Development Fund)

Concussion awareness talks POB/NC

Mock Interviews KR

Suggestion Box AHL

Indigo POB/NC

Board of Governors elections GC

Invite Horse Show Committee member PH

Student Enterprise Programme POB/NC

**THE NEXT PSA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON 24thMarch 2015**