



## Annual Report 2014-15

### 1. Mission Statement

Presentation Secondary School Clonmel is committed to offering our students a holistic Catholic Education in a caring environment conducive to learning and personal development.

As we review another academic year, it is time to reflect on what has been a wonderful and exciting year for all of us in the Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel.

Due to the changing roles of the acting deputy-principal & the acting principal in our school at the end of this academic year, there are a number of people that we must thank that have made our journey in our acting positions a very memorable and enjoyable one.

The “proof of the pudding is in the eating” as the old saying goes. In the education system of the early twenty first century there are various systems of testing and evaluating the effectiveness of a school and of measuring the extent to which a school “delivers” for the students in its care. However in my opinion the ultimate test is the calibre and quality of the student who walks out the front door at the end of five or six years in Presentation Secondary school.

Indeed, it was often remarked on by visitors to the school who independently and without prejudice commented favourably on the work rate, the level of application, the extent of the cooperation, the sense of responsibility and courtesy displayed by the students.

As acting principal, I have been privileged to work with a dedicated committed teaching staff, whom always have their students best interest at the core of their work. The high standard set by the Leaving Certificate class each year is highly instrumental in developing and enhancing a culture and school spirit where academic achievement, positive behaviour and high standards in all aspects of school life are valued, recognised and rewarded. This is all lead by our teachers.

The high standards of engagement and achievement in the academic life of the school also is reflected in our extra curricular activities programmes. The level of involvement, the extent of the achievements and the uplifting and positive nature of the many dimensions of the extra curricular programme are central aspects of the quality of life in the Pres.



This year alone we had the great pleasure in greeting success at All Ireland and regional level this year in areas such as Third level Academic scholarships, Junk Kouture, Enterprise Awards, Doodle for Google, Sci-Fest, Athletics, Spikeball and Basketball.

The extent and diversity of the extra curricular programme are directly related to the idealism and generosity of the staff of the school, coupled with the commitment and talent of the students supported by the flexibility and enthusiasm of parents. In mentioning the major highlights of the extra curricular programme one is always conscious of the phenomenal amount of activity and involvement which takes place on playing fields, in rooms, assembly areas, the sports hall, which never attract a place in the limelight. However, without this less glamorous but equally demanding and ongoing level of activity the name of Presentation Secondary School would never be engraved on trophies or make local and national headlines.

In a similar way the involvement of students in the Student Council also provides students in all year groups with a forum in which they can contribute to enhancing the quality of life in the Pres. Each class in the school has an opportunity to elect a class representative to Student Council. The student council meets on a monthly basis and the ideas that are discussed and agreed at a formal meeting with Ms Murphy. In addition to being a channel of communication between students and management, the Student Council assists with events such as the annual Open Night/Positivity week and also arranges fundraisers for a particular charities.

The role of the Parents' Council in the life of Pres is a perfect example of the spirit of partnership which is required in these challenging times. The Parents' Council meets approximately six times a year and a range of educational issues at school and national level are discussed. They have helped with a number of projects over the last 5 years which have benefit and enhance the quality of life for students, teachers and parents. This financial support and assistance is invaluable at a time when all school budgets have experienced drastic cutbacks. Undoubtedly the single greatest achievement is the establishment and consolidation of the Anne Butler Memorial Bursary Fund. The fund continues to assist students in a small financial way on your start in third level education. I thank and compliment all the parents involved in the Parents' council and I extend a particular word of thanks to the Chairperson Mrs. Majella Hogan, the Secretary Mrs. Anne Marie McGrath and the Treasurer Mrs. Helen Ruth for their leadership and dedication to the Parents' Association which is central to the success of our School.

The ultimate and overall responsibility for managing the many diverse aspects of life in Pres rests with the Board of Management. The Board of Management is responsible for the management of the curriculum, the policies and procedures, budgets and financial matters, staffing allocations, building and maintenance issues and



a range of other issues which arise during the course of the year. The members of the board of management, both individually and collectively, have the challenge of leading, managing and ensuring the quality of the educational provision for the entire school community. I thank members of the outgoing board of management for their support and their collective wisdom and for their contribution to the successful operation of Presentation secondary School over the last five years. It is a purely voluntary role and I would like to acknowledge their work tonight. I have been blessed to work with a brilliant chairperson Mr Peter Morrissey who is always willing to take the call from me to discuss issues as they arise. Peter does Trojan work for the school in such a quiet but effective manner. I thank you for your guidance, advice and support over the last 5 years.

For those 5 years, I have been very lucky to work with outstanding deputy principal. As deputy principal, Mrs Dwyer has made an enormous contribution to the quality of life in the Presentation.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the entire school community I thank Mrs.Dwyer for her outstanding contribution to life in the Presentation Secondary School.



❖ **Priority Areas and Action taken in 2014/2015**

<b>School Development Planning</b>
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**Priority Areas for School Planning**

Over the last eight years, the following policies have been ratified by the Board of Management. Some of them have been reviewed over the period as well.

Policy			Future plans
	Year	Review	
S.S.E	2013/14	14/15	Ongoing
TL21	2013	Completed	Ongoing for 2 years
Literacy & Numeracy	2013		
Ty Policy	2012	2015	
Posts Review ongoing	2012		Ongoing
Curriculum Review/Timetable	2011	May 2013	Ongoing
Work Experience	2010	2013	
Religion Education	2009	2014	
Guidance	2008	Annually	
SPHE	2008	Annually	
Dignity at work	2008		
Mobile Phone	2004	2008 & 2010	
Pastoral Care	2007	Annually	
Admissions	2005	2007 & 09	Annually by BOM
Anti Bullying	2005	2014	
Internet Usage	2004	2013	Ongoing
Code of Behaviour	2003	2005/07/09	Audit ratified by BOM in 2010
Substance Misuse	2002	2004 & 06	Review in 11/12



## Priority for the School

### School Planning Steering Committee 2014/15.

Key Areas for Planning	Future plans
SSE	ongoing
Literacy & Numeracy	ongoing
Curriculum Audit	Completed.
Posts of Responsibilities	Started Sept 2012. To be completed in 15/16
TL21	A two year project now completed
Work Experience Policy	Completed
Programmes for JSCP/TY	Completed
Literacy & Numeracy	Ongoing
Teachers Handbook	Revised & updated
Homework Policy	As per code
Resource/Learning Support /Special Needs	Reviewing/ Committee stage
Health & Safety Policy	Reviewed Annually
I.T	Survey completed
LCA & Ty Programme	Completed/BOM
Awards	Reviewing / Committee stage
School Timetable	Completed. New IT package.

#### ❖ **Special Needs Education**

Our allocation regards SEN students continues to be reduced due to government cut-backs. Our SNA allocation is 1.5.

#### ❖ **Traveller Education**

Two of our students completed their Junior Certificate in 2015 and two of them has enrolled for Leaving Cert Applied in 2015.

#### ❖ **Newcomer Students**

❖ Our open door policy continued to welcome new students. All first years with their parents would have individual meetings with the Senior Management in June, followed by an induction programme with the Sixth year Leadership team on their first day in school



❖ **Disadvantaged Students**

- ❖ Despite reduced grants from the DES, we continue the Junior & Senior Book Rental Scheme, breakfast & lunches club and offer free counselling services for our disadvantaged students.
- ❖ Also, we continue to work in partnership with Barnados and Clonmel Youth Diversion Project.

**2. Faith Development to include :**

❖ RE Provision

All classes are assigned three periods for RE. Religion is not an exam subject but the examination syllabus is used as the basis for class programmes.

❖ Observance of the Liturgical Year

School liturgies were held to mark each of the church seasons. St.Marys Parish was most supportive in allowing us to use St Mary's Church for these celebrations.

❖ Culture of prayer and sacramental life in the school

❖ Retreats for students/reflection day for staff

6<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students participated in retreats facilitated by the Mustard Seed team. 5<sup>th</sup> Years trained in peer ministry and facilitated a retreat for 1<sup>st</sup> Years and TY students participated in a retreat with the boys from the High School. This was facilitated by the RE teachers from both schools as part of a co-operative RE programme which is run each year.

❖ Chaplaincy services

Unfortunately the school does not have a Chaplain but receives support from St Mary's Parish Irishtown

**3. Ongoing professional development**

- ❖ All staff encouraged to participate in appropriate professional development for subject areas and in relation to posts of responsibility
- ❖ TL21 Project
- ❖ We had a whole staff in-service on Posts Review.
- ❖ Noel Buckley is a member of the Teaching Council.
- ❖ Donal Coughlan is chairperson of Maths NCCA Committee.



#### 4. **Pastoral Care**

- ❖ The junior and senior pastoral care teams continue met weekly and liaised with Social Services, NEPS, Barnardos, CAPS (Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Services and SHE Substance Mis-use Counseling Services where necessary. The contact with Social Services was extremely frustrating when dealing with high profile, high risk cases.
- ❖ The HSCL post was lost in the budget cuts in 2009 has impacted very negatively on the provision of pastoral care.
- ❖ The non-post holding Year Head system was once again extremely effective but also hampered by the reduced HSCL support.
- ❖ **Mental Health**  
Positivity Week was successfully held in March.

#### 5. **Positive behaviour**

- ❖ Weekly assemblies were held for all year groups. As far as possible an effort was made to compliment some aspect of positive student behaviour each week. Tidy classroom competitions and No White Card leagues helped to encourage good behavior.
- ❖ TV screens kept the students updated on different school events and was updated regularly by the Principal/Deputy-Principal & Teachers assisted by students
- ❖ The annual school awards ceremony was held in Oct '14. This is the public acknowledgement of the positive behaviour and excellent standards achieved by students across a wide range of activities.
- ❖ A Principal's Noticeboard displays letters of commendation from members of the public and congratulations from the Board of Management on student achievements
- ❖ The use of the new text messaging system to send messages of congratulations to students and their parents
- ❖ A Facebook page & Twitter page was developed to update the school community & the public regards school developments.

#### 6. **Parental Involvement**

As always the Parents' Council had a busy and productive year. Amongst their many activities they organised the purchase of materials for the resource room, helped with the school show disco, made posters to highlight the work of the parents council for the Parent-Teacher meetings, helped with the organising of the Debs, provided funding for the purchase of materials for the resource department, organised the bag pack to raise funds for the Anne Butler Memorial Bursary Fund, organised a Table quiz and Easter raffle fundraiser, organised a speaker for parents for the next AGM and are helping with the book rental scheme due to a retirement which will leave this in-



school management post vacant. Parents also played a key role in the organisation and supervision of the Library at lunchtime. Also they have also given enormous support to the school in helping to complete the cataloguing of the Library and helping with the Book Rental.

#### 7. **Board of Management**

The Board of Management held seven meetings from September to June.

As always the members of the board worked very hard in the best interests of the school with the greatest care being taken in all situations which required decisions that had serious consequences for students, parents and staff. The ethos of the school was always to the forefront of minds when such decisions were being made.

Great care was also exercised in all decisions relating to financial matters. Work was completed on the repair of the roof in the senior college. New windows were granted for the Senior College building. Work to commence in Sept 2015.

#### **Student Council**

❖ The student council was elected during the month of September. The President of the council was elected by the 6<sup>th</sup> Year students at the end of September. The council met fortnightly and discussed many issues of interest to the student body. The student council organised Positivity Week in March in partnership with the Principal. The President and another representative met regularly with the Principal to update him on issues raised by the members.

#### 8. **Extra Curricular activities**

Students continued to engage in a wide range of extra curricular activities. This involvement would not have been possible without the willingness of teachers to freely give of their own time and expertise to encourage students in these activities thus contributing to the holistic education of our students.

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#### **Lunchtime Activities**

Activities covered a range of sports including basketball, GAA, spikeball, badminton, computer classes at lunch time, senior and junior choir, athletics, were arranged for students during the school day.

#### **Achievements.**

The **Presentation Bi-centenary celebrations** came to a close with a very special concert with Micheal o'Suilleabhain in Clonmel Museum.

**Science Awards**.....Meagan Fitzgerald won awards at MSD "Bright Ideas" and Scifest Waterford competitions for her project "Study of the effects of ammonia on horses".





Congrats to **Sr. Anne** who celebrated her Golden Jubilee in May 2015.

**Comhairle na nOg** Anne Marie Power & Mairin Mcgrath were elected to the County Tipperary Comhairle na nOg.

**Caoimhe O'Flynn** won a trip to Somme, France in the "Adopt a soldier 2015 trip to Sommes" Essay writing competition.

**5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> years** studying Home Economics students visited Sorrento Italy.

**Master Chef Competition** was held in WIT in May. Aoife Shortiss won the Senior event and Katie Glynn won the Junior competition.

**Academic Awards** **UCD Ad Astra Award** was presented to Roisin Cleary who achieved 7A1s in her Leaving Cert in 2014. She is now studying medicine in UCD.

**Spikeball** First years won the Regional Spikeball Championship and qualified for the All Ireland Finals.

**Athletics** Sarah Ni Cheallaigh qualified for the All Ireland Final in 800m. She finished third in the Munster Final.

**Art** Nene Lonergan qualified for the All Ireland Doodle for Google Competition. Aine English qualified for the All Ireland Credit Union final.

**Enterprise Awards** Beibheinn Nolan & Sophie O'Sullivan reached All Ireland Enterprise Awards in Croke Park in April

**Junk Kouture Competition** One team reached the All Ireland Final in May

### **School Show**

The High School and Presentation Secondary School, Clonmel presented "I will follow Hymn" as their annual school show in White Memorial Theatre, Clonmel from Monday-Thursday October. This joint schools project has been running for 38 years. We were treated to another excellent production.

### **Extra-curricular activities**

Other extra-curricular activities included St. Declan's Way walk, Challenge to Change competition, Science competitions, Young Entrepreneur, Art competitions, Master Chef competition, JCSP Make a book Exhibition, fundraising for St. Vincent De Paul Christmas Appeal. Students also attended a number of drama productions related to their courses as well as college open days.



**9. Enrolment Challenges**

- ❖ As always the same challenges that arise every year regarding the early enrolment procedures. We continue to offer an open enrolment policy.

**10. Financial Overview**

- ❖ The finances of the school continue to be challenging.

**11. Other relevant areas**

Our website is revamped at [www.presclonmel.com](http://www.presclonmel.com) and is now live with weekly updates.

Third Level Education 86% of 2013 LC class started Third Level in September 2013.

**Leaving Cert Results 2015.**

We had a 100% success rate in our Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate 2015.

Over 42% of our leaving certificate class received over 400 points.

Over 12% received 500 points.

This Annual report once ratified by the Board of Management in April 2016 will be published on our new website. A copy will be available in the staffroom and the school office. Also, a copy will be given to the Chairperson of the Parents Council and the President of the Students Council.