



Principal's report to the board of management

- January 2016

The Secretary outlined a number of events that had taken place in the school recently or which are scheduled to take place shortly including:

- The school held its Open Day & Open Night on 11th November 2015. Both events were very well attended. The principal thanked the staff and Parents' Association for their support.
- This was followed by an Enrolment Night two weeks later on the 25th November. The school has had a good positive response this year with an increase in enrolment.
- The school brought in specialist providers to facilitate a Study Skills seminar for 1st, 3rd & 5th Years on 30th November and 1st December respectively.
- The Careers Department has had a series of Careers talks and Open Day visits for senior students
 - NUIM
 - NUIG
 - Sligo IT and FE College
 - LYIT
- The school held a Whole Staff Training Day for the new Junior Cycle on 11th December. The training focused on three areas:
 - Overall framework
 - Assessment
 - Teaching & Learning Strategies
- The Careers Dept. organised a CAO and progression talk and information session for parents 16th December. The talk was well attended by students and parents. The principal thanked the Guidance teachers and Ms Kathleen Browne for their support.
- The school's Christmas Variety Concert took place on the 21st & 22nd December. The shows were a great success. There were approximately 25 acts in the show. The principal thanked all of the staff and students who contributed to the success of the show.
- Finn Valley College held its 75th Anniversary Winter Ball on the 27th December. It proved to be a wonderful evening with approximately 300 former staff and pupils in attendance. Gratitude was extended to the organising committee, local businesses, the Parents' Association and a particular thank you to Ms Ashlean Mc Geehan for her help.
- In the context of the impending new Junior Cycle the school staff is currently examining possible new timetable structures for the new Junior Cycle. The principal is surveying staff on their preferences at the moment.
- In the context of the new Junior Cycle the school has been invited to register for a new Pilot Project for the assessment of Key Skills in the Junior Cycle. The Business Department has

welcomed the opportunity to get involved. The school has registered and is awaiting information from the programme organiser.

- 1916 Centenary Commemorations – The school is exploring ways of marking the 1916 centenary. The principal is talking to a few different subject departments to develop some fitting tribute.
- Business in the Community Initiative with SITA. The school's involvement with SITA and the Business in the Community Initiative continues this year. The principal thanked SITA, Elaine Mc Fadden and Sadie Kelly for their involvement. It is a very worthwhile enterprise. Some of our students will also be visiting Highland Radio as part of the project.
- The school is again running the Dragons' Den Initiative for 5th & 6th class National School children. 10 schools are taking part and the initiative promises to be a huge success again this year.
- On the 27th April the Cycle Against Suicide charity will be visiting the town. The school is exploring ways of becoming involved with St Columba's College.
- A school calendar for important events was distributed to all Board members