



20.12.2022

RE: Changes to timetable in Technology subjects

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s),

We trust this letter finds you well.

We are writing to you today to let you know that Mr Martin Horan, our Sixth Year Moltóir, will be leaving the school at the end of the current term following his appointment to a senior leadership role at the State Examinations Commission.

Mr Horan's service to our school over the past decade and a half has been exemplary, whether in his role as teacher, subject leader or Moltóir and we know you will join us in thanking him most sincerely for all he has done for our school and our students during his time with us and in wishing him well for this next phase of his career.

We are acutely conscious of the importance of consistency for our Sixth Year students as they approach the final few months of their time with us, and it is our hope that Mr Horan's departure will cause them as little disruption as possible. As such, we are fortunate to be in a position to assign the role of Sixth Year Moltóir to Ms Aisling O'Toole.

Mr Horan's departure does, however, create a number of challenges for us as a school that may affect your son/daughter.

You will be aware of the ongoing crisis in teacher recruitment nationally, particularly in specialist subjects like Construction, Engineering and DCG. As a result, it is only prudent for us to plan for the likelihood that we will be unable to appoint a replacement for Mr Horan during the current academic year. Following on from the departure of Mr Sexton earlier this year, this reduces to three (from a full strength of five) the number of teachers in our Technology department.

We have taken steps to reach out to the community of retired teachers, to the colleges of teacher education and to our fellow schools, both in LMETB and elsewhere in the hope of securing alternatives and we remain hopeful that some of these measures will be at least partly successful. Already, we have secured the services of a qualified Wood and Construction substitute teacher for a number of days each week.

As we continue to work to find a replacement, we need to put in place contingency measures at this point to ensure that all students in the affected subjects continue to receive tuition from subject specialist teachers. In order to put these measures in place, we have had to make fundamental changes to the school timetable, including withdrawing all teachers qualified in the affected subjects from all non-Technology teaching and removing the Technology subjects from the Transition Year curriculum altogether in order to prioritise exam year classes.


Some of these contingency measures are already in place and students affected will be informed directly of any changes that affect them by their teacher.


Contingency measures of this nature are not ideal and we will continue to work towards finding a more permanent solution to these challenges.


We are most grateful for the assistance and time of the teachers in our Technology department who will be going very much above and beyond the call of duty in the coming weeks and months in ensuring that all students are catered for as much as possible.

We are grateful too for your understanding and cooperation as we look to manage this challenging situation as best as we can.

Yours faithfully,


Seamus Meehan
Principal


Colm Connolly
Deputy Principal


Donna Kelly
Deputy Principal


John McCarthy
Deputy Principal