

## **Coláiste Pobail Bheanntaí Parents' Association – School Year 2017/2018**

To: **All Parents, Coláiste Pobail Bheanntaí**

From: **Parents' Association**

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to advise you that the new committee of Coláiste Pobail Bheanntaí Parents' Association (PA) is now in place following the Annual General Meeting on 16th November, 2017. Please see the reverse page of this letter for Committee members' names and the Parents' pages on the school website - <http://www.colaistepobailbheanntai.com/about/pa> ).

The Parents' Association was established in 2013 to enhance the school experience for families and to foster good relations between parents, teachers, students and the school authorities. Its Constitution – available on the school website - sets out its responsibilities. The main activities undertaken in the 2016/17 academic year included helping at various school events including the annual Awards' Evening in April, 2017, the Transition Year and 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Information Night, the Leaving Certificate Graduation Ceremony in May, 2017. We organised a Parents' Forum on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 focusing on supporting our Teenagers through challenging times with guest speaker, Ray Murnane, Youth and Community Worker. We also organised a Mental Health Seminar in November 2016 with presenters from The Samaritans, West Cork Development Partnership and a local Counsellor. We had two Gardaí at our 2016 AGM – Don Davis (Juvenile Liaison) and Jamie Meeney (Internet Safety) and we had a presentation on the SUSI grant scheme delivered by Citizen's Information staff in late March, 2017. The PA committee also undertakes review work on policies etc. for the school management and is regularly asked for views and feedback on a variety of school-related matters. It is an important dimension to our role and school management welcome our input.

For Spring 2018, we are planning a Presentation on Drugs and Alcohol (date to be announced), a SUSI grant talk for parents of senior cycle students and will as always, help at school events mentioned above.

Committee members (there are 16 this year, two of whom are PA representatives on the school's Board of Management) have children in all years and so are very in touch with what is happening. If you're new to the school, please look at the names on reverse page of this letter or on the Parents' pages of the school website and see if there's someone with whom you'd like to talk.

**The Parents' Association does not have a fundraising role and we have some expenses for which we need your help. We would like to ask each family for a voluntary subscription of €10 for expenses to be covered in 2017/18.**

Contributions are needed for: The insurance for the Parents' Association meetings, events and seminars. The annual premium is €220; Costs for speakers and experts who contribute to events, seminars and workshops on matters relevant to young people's education and well-being while in school; Some basic stationery/office/refreshment costs – like paper, stamps, photocopying, envelopes, 'phone texts to parents, tea, biscuits etc. There are no Department of Education & Science funds available to cover these. All excess funds raised by PA are donated to the school. We typically donate to the School Meitheal (Mentoring of 1<sup>st</sup> years by students from senior years) Programme, the School Transport fund and others as requested, and resources allow. In December, 2017, we donated monies towards purchase of Head Set Microphones (used in this year's Transition Year Performance and to be used by other students)

**WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AND THANK YOU IN ADVANCE. PLEASE USE THE SCHOOL WAY TO PAY TOOL ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE OR RESPOND TO THE TEXT FROM THE SCHOOL FOR THIS.**

*If you are interested in finding out more about your Parents' Association or can offer help, please refer to the school website or speak to any committee member. We're also happy to have your ideas & suggestions.*

***Yours sincerely, Rita Kearney, Chairperson 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2018***

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<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Children in Years</u></b>
Rita Kearney	Transition Year
Cáit Murray	6th Year
Martina Doody	1st Year, 3rd Year
Deirdre O Brien	3rd Year
Marguerite Desmond	2nd Year, 3rd Year
Áine Cronin	2nd Year, 5th Year
Anne Galvin	6th Year
Aisling Morris	6th Year
Caroline Barry	2nd Year, 5th Year, 6th Year
John Harrington	1st Year, Transition Year
Mary Coakley	6th Year
Claire Tan	1st Year
Linda McCarthy	1st Year
Maria O Sullivan	6th Year
Ger Geaney	Transition Year
Joanna McCarthy	5th Year, 6th Year

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