

# LUCAN ETNS

## 2023-24 END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



It is incredible to think that we have reached the end of our school year and it is these moments on the calendar that we tend to reflect and are reminded that time passes all so quickly, moments can melt into years. This year has been one of transition which not only saw a change in school leadership but the election of a new Board of Management. It has been a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how far we have come as a school and how we can continue the great work which has gone before, growing together and learning together.

As with all years that have gone before it, this year has been particularly busy and productive. I am deeply indebted to our remarkable in school management team of Séamus, Sharon, Therese, Catriona, Amanda & Muireann for assuming additional responsibilities and for leading our school. The school had an opportunity to establish a wellbeing committee and engage collaboratively with the Wellbeing Framework. The wellbeing committee skilfully led by Catriona gathered and analysed evidence, identified a focus area, set targets and created an action plan/timeline to help us achieve our goals over the coming years. Wellbeing is a priority in our school and promoting positive mental health is something which we want to embed in our daily practice. The Amber Flag Award issued to the school at the end of the year was wonderful recognition for the efforts of all in our school to create a healthy, inclusive environment that supports mental well-being.

A working group headed by Amanda was established to develop and communicate a whole school curriculum map for the delivery of the new Ethical Education curriculum. The curriculum map lays out the content and coverage of the Ethical Education Curriculum across the whole school. A second working group ably led by Sharon was also established to review and develop the whole school music plan.

The working group produced a detailed year by year overview of the curriculum content. I would like to sincerely thank all those who contributed and formed part of these working groups.

The school was awarded yet another Gold Award in 2023/24 as part of the STEM Curious Minds Awards. This award is testament to the wonderful teaching and learning which is taking place across the whole school in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. I would especially like to thank Muireann for promoting STEM projects across the school and for collating and presenting our successful application. I would like to thank Therese who has been an invaluable support throughout the year particularly in terms of identifying and supporting children who need it the most. Therese has helped to develop a school wide register of support which will be a vital tool for our school moving forward and support efficient and targeted support for all our students. I would also like to sincerely thank our Deputy Principal Séamus for his counsel throughout the year. Séamus' energy and commitment to his role, as well as his commitment to contributing to the whole school community is a fantastic example to all.

Our Green Schools Team led by Aishling & Sarah have worked incredibly hard this year to promote biodiversity across the school. The Green Team surveyed all classes on their understanding of biodiversity and raised awareness by creating a wonderful video that we shared during our assemblies. The Green Team have linked in with our caretaker John to create designated nature areas to support wildlife. The Green Team have also identified future projects that we can look forward to seeing them develop.

Our Student Council, led by Karen, Amanda & Therese is a wonderful example of our democratic basis. The Student Council once elected had the opportunity to visit our national parliament and see Dáil Éireann and the Seanad. The Student Council formed part of our wellbeing committee, they conducted surveys across the whole school, sought feedback on our wonderful new class names, organised a 'Buddy Day' in aid of Pieta House and they also organised a fun day. The student council also researched motivators for attendance and offered suggestions for our new attendance policy. The final involvement of our student council in the raising of the Pride Flag was a wonderful moment that demonstrated our commitment to creating an inclusive community and reflects our equality based ethos. Well done to every member of the student council and I hope you are proud of what you achieved and brought to our school this year.

This year as part of our school assemblies we focused on Human Values. The values are based around the five universal human values of, Truth, Love, Peace, Right Action and Non-Violence. Establishing a whole school focus each month on a particular value provides opportunities for students to consider their own values and put those values into practice. We hope to continue to grow our values next year and witness its influence on our whole school community.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of our teachers and additional needs assistants who had so many additional considerations placed upon them this year. Amongst all the focus weeks, curriculum evaluations, school tours, book fairs, parent meetings, assemblies, school performances, yard duties, green flag, amber flag, science award and end of year reports to name but a few, there is a full curriculum to be taught at each class level. There is a mountain of unseen planning and preparation that takes place throughout the year to help deliver high quality teaching and learning. This year our school has achieved so much, what is even more remarkable is that this has been achieved in the shadow of a staffing crisis in our capital. In Lucan ETNS we have experienced significant difficulty in terms of staffing this year. While this situation is not unique to our school it has undoubtedly impacted on our ability to provide consistent support to our students who need it the most. I would like to thank all our staff for going above and beyond their duties to minimise this deficit and we remain hopeful that the situation will improve in the coming years. I witness and appreciate how much thought and care all of our staff invests in each and every child, so when I say thank you for everything, I mean it wholeheartedly.

Lucan ETNS demonstrated that we are a very active and healthy school with so much taking place this year. The school established its first soccer teams, both of whom made impressive starts and represented the school with distinction throughout the year. The school also put forward Gaelic football and hurling teams, as well as, an athletics squad who represented the school brilliantly in Santry this Term. We are very fortunate to have had tag rugby lessons facilitated by Leinster Rugby, as well as, GAA lessons provided by Lucan Sarsfields GAA.

We welcomed the Sports in Schools programme also this year providing students with the opportunity to develop their gymnastics skills in a fun and engaging environment. In addition to all of this we had an impressive and varied ECA programme on offer throughout the year, as well as, numerous classes taking part in projects such as Marathon Kids & Food Dudes. We hope to continue to promote the benefits of sport, increase our engagement with local sporting organisations and develop the values of respect and resilience.

In the coming year we will continue to engage in the Primary Maths Curriculum, as well as, engage with the newly announced Bí Cineálta procedures which will replace the 2013 Anti-Bullying procedures from September 2025. We will be engaging with the entire school community in advance of this introduction to review and draw up policies which are in line with this new guidance. We will also await notice from the Department regarding Free Hot School Meals which we expressed an interest in and once notified will consult with all to help us identify a provider that meets all of our requirements. We have also established a curriculum enrichment plan to provide a variety of experiences for all our children during their time at Lucan ETNS. Next year we can look forward to violin lessons, tag rugby, GAA, swimming, Spanish lessons, cricket and gymnastics. We hope to continue to build on this year on year and that these opportunities add to our children's school experience.

We will also be saying goodbye for now to some of our staff at the end of this year. As Martina commences her next chapter we must thank her for the enormous contribution she has made to Lucan ETNS over a long and distinguished career. We also bid a fond farewell to Donal, Yvonne and Anne Marie, all of whom have left a lasting legacy in Lucan ETNS. We would like to wish them the very best on their current paths and who knows it might someday lead them back to us here in Lucan. I know all of our children and staff hold our departing members of staff in high regard and they will be greatly missed.

In terms of our staffing for 24/25, we are delighted to welcome Sarah Quinn & Emma Morris who will be joining Lucan ETNS next year. Further appointments will be made in the coming weeks and once confirmed these will be communicated to you directly. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we finalise our recruitment.

I must thank our parents and carers, your contribution to our school is enormous. Your knowledge, expertise and skill-sets can provide unique learning opportunities for all our children. We were reminded once more this year of the meaningful contributions you make in creating memories and establishing a strong and vibrant community. I also must thank Barbara and Liesel for their professionalism, positivity, work ethic and for how they manage to keep everything operating so smoothly. We are very thankful to have such a wonderful school space and our grounds always look immaculate, this is entirely down to John and we are very grateful for everything that he does in our school, thank you sincerely.

Thank you to our wonderful Parent Teacher Association for your relentless energy and your commitment to creating the best educational experiences for all our children. I would like to especially thank Michael, Marta, Saoirse, Clair, Fiona, Ralph and Alina for your leadership and driving forward events. The PTA remind us all that we are more than a school we are a community and all these events create a thriving inclusive environment for learning. I would also like to thank every parent who contributed across a variety of focus weeks, as parent readers or volunteers for transport to school matches and all other school events over the year, without your involvement many of these events simply would not happen. The ECA programme has been incredible this year and continues to expand, it would be remiss of me not to thank Barbara Sharkey whose leadership and organisational skills appear effortless.

I must also thank our Board of Management for everything that they do for our school and for all the time they give so willingly. Each member makes a remarkable contribution towards the governance of our school. Their guidance and support is invaluable. This year marked the changeover of our Board of Management and each member should be immensely proud of their contribution in leading our school.

Our Executive Committee continue to work incredibly hard to support our school. The Executive oversaw the appointment of our new Board of Management and they continue to oversee and approve our recruitment procedures and appointments. The Executive who are responsible for maintaining our school building, energy usage and enhancing our school environment have oversaw vital repair works required carried out throughout the year. Our Executive also continue to reflect and promote our school ethos. The Executive & Board of Management have worked closely together this year to communicate our interest and campaign for the vacant site beside our school.

The benefits that this site could bring to children and families in the Lucan/Palmerstown area, as well as, to our school as a whole is something that we will continue to pursue together and we appreciate all your support in making it happen. I would particularly like to thank Paula & Claire who demonstrate enormous dedication in creating a safe, inclusive and engaging school environment for our children.

We say farewell to the wonderful children of Sixth Class. As I stated at your Graduation, you have made a significant contribution to Lucan ETNS during your time with us and though I have only met you at the end of your journey you have been exceptional role models to all. We will miss you all tremendously and our school will be a different place without you all and know, you are always welcome to return to update us on your adventures. Oh the places you'll go! We are so very proud of you all and we know that you are ready for whatever comes your way.

Finally, thank you to all the children of Lucan ETNS, you make our school what it is. Thank you for all your hard work, for the kindness and respect you show to each other and to all. You bring so much colour, kindness and laughter into our school and it was a pleasure to learn together this year.

We will start again at our beginnings on the 28th of August 2024, until then have a wonderful summer and enjoy a well-earned break.  
Slán go fóill.

# STAFFING 2024-25

We have created a provisional allocation list below. There is still some recruitment to complete in advance of next year and once this is complete we will be in a position to notify all. Allocation may be subject to change and will only be finalised once recruitment is completed in full. I thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Rang 2024/25	Múinteoir	Rang 2024/25	Múinteoir
JI Eirú	Sarah McMorrow	3rd Fódla (formerly Boann)	Caoimhe Foley (Deirdre/Eimear Sep/Oct)
JI Anú	Aishling McKinney	3rd Oghma (formerly Aengus)	Andrea O'Brien
SI Lugh (formerly Anú)	Fiona Prior	4th Pádraig (formerly Fódla)	Sarah Quinn
SI Danú (formerly Eirú)	Helen Mannion	4th Brigid (formerly Oghma)	Karen Hayes
1st Medb (formerly Lugh)	Sharon Masterson	5th Eostre (formerly Padraig)	Ruth Mullins/Catriona Stokes
1st Fionn (formerly Danú)	Emma Morris	5th Tara (formerly Brigid)	Muireann O'Donovan
2nd Boann (formerly Fionn)	Amanda Manning	6th Cúchulainn (formerly Tara)	Séamus Lynam
2nd Aengus (formerly Medb)	Sarah O'Regan	6th Dagda (formerly Eostre)	to be confirmed
SET	Laura Bergin Derek Mannion Therese Hesse Deirdre/Eimear (Nov-June)	Cosáin	Anna Doran Sheena McCrory