

LECALE TRINITY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEW LASALLIAN CATHOLIC 11-19 CO-EDUCATIONAL
VOLUNTARY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, DOWNPATRICK

NOVEMBER 2023

PROGRESS UPDATE

from the Interim Board of Governors

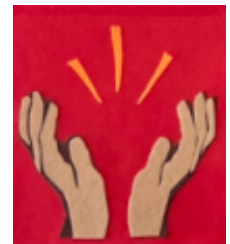
Introduction

In September, you received a Progress Update from the Interim Board of Governors of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. It is now our privilege to send you the November issue detailing recent developments.

The most significant piece of news is the fact that Dr Moore has taken up post as Principal Designate of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. On 6th November, she and the Chair met the staff in the three schools at pre-arranged times during the day. In all three schools she received a warm welcome. Both the Chair and Dr Moore thanked the three current Principals for their support and guidance as we work collaboratively to prepare for the opening of Lecale Trinity Grammar School in September 2024. Dr Moore has an office in each of the schools and is looking forward to spending time meeting pupils and staff in the three schools.

Both the Chair and Dr Moore acknowledged the terrible devastation caused by the floods of the previous week. It was recognised that many businesses and families in the three schools have been adversely impacted by the floods. It was against this backdrop that the Chair and Dr Moore expressed their shared determination to empower all the young people, who will come together in Lecale Trinity Grammar School, to achieve their dreams through not only excellence in learning and teaching but also nurturing, child-centred pastoral care.

Before presenting a brief synopsis of recent developments, there is a brief address from Dr Moore.



Faith in the Presence
of God



Respect for All Persons



Inclusive Community



Concern for the Poor and
Social & Ecological Justice



Quality Education

1. Dr. Moore's Address

Dear Parent/Carer/Partner,

I am delighted to have officially taken up the position of Principal Designate of Lecale Trinity Grammar School from 1st November 2023. Together, with our school community, we have been given the opportunity to create a unique learning environment for the young people of Downpatrick, and I am looking forward to working with parents, pupils, staff, Governors, and all stakeholders on this exciting journey.

I am committed to the pursuit of educational excellence and to the promotion of an evidence, inquiry-based approach to learning and teaching, where teaching is reflective, and learning is relevant and enjoyable. Lecale Trinity Grammar School, as a Lasallian Catholic school, will promote excellence within all areas, providing a safe, nurturing, child-centred pastoral care system and environment, where the student voice is vibrant, and where each child is encouraged and supported to achieve their full potential and holistic development.

Since my appointment, I have had the pleasure of meeting the Interim Board of Governors and the Chairs of each Committee. I have also attended Committee and Governor meetings, and from this I can see at first-hand the commitment of Governors and the excellent work already undertaken. Prior to taking up position officially, I have been working with the Interim Board of Governors on several key priorities such as the Admissions Criteria, Specialist Provision, the Leadership Structure, and now currently, the important issues of wellbeing, transition and the curricular pathways and options for students. I have also had the privilege of meeting primary principals and look forward to many more opportunities to engage collaboratively with them in the years ahead.

I have received a warm welcome from the staff of all three schools and have been working closely with the three Principals, Mr Maguire, Mrs McLaughlin, and Mr McCann, on key priorities. I thank them for the excellent support they have offered me. I also value opportunities to meet staff informally in all three schools in the months ahead.

You will also be aware from previous correspondence that the student voice will be central in the decision-making process of Lecale Trinity Grammar School. Within a child-centred, inclusive ethos, we will recognise and actively promote the views of our pupils, providing opportunities at all levels to ensure that the student voice is listened to, and heard. Pupils have therefore been invited to become involved in our exciting journey as a new school by being a member of one of our Lead Learner Focus Groups. These groups will work closely with staff and Governors to help inform and monitor the implementation of planning and strategies around key areas directly affecting them, such as Transition, Wellbeing, the School Curriculum, Community Links, Ethos and Uniform. Already, I have been overwhelmed by the number of students who have come forward to work on crest and uniform. Their creativity and motivation are very impressive.

Finally, I would like to reassure you of my commitment to the pupils of Lecale Trinity Grammar School and to the young people of Downpatrick. It will be my privilege to lead Lecale Trinity Grammar School as Principal and to strive for excellence in every aspect of school life.

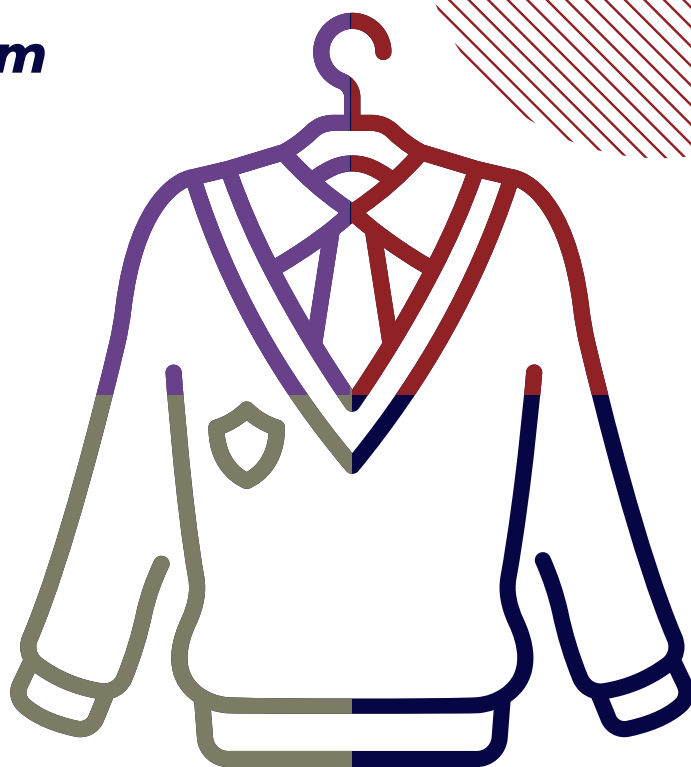
Kindest regards
Fionnuala Moore



2. Consultation Process on School Crest and Uniform

On Friday 10th November 2023, Dr Moore, along with the Teacher Governors, had the pleasure of working collaboratively with over one hundred students in exploring the values underpinning Lecale Trinity Grammar School, and in engaging with the students in the consultation process on the design of the school crest and uniform. This consultation builds on the excellent work already undertaken by the Ethos, Communications and Policy Committee. An exciting result of the work carried out in May 2023, has been the agreement regarding the school motto of **'Faith in Every Child'**.

The views of staff and parents on the uniform and crest have also been sought. The main findings coming forward from all stakeholders will be considered by the Ethos, Communications and Policy Committee before final recommendations are tabled at the IBoG meeting



3. Admissions Criteria



The Interim Board of Governors approved the Year 8 admissions criteria at their meeting on 19th October 2023. The criteria for 180 places for pupils from Category A schools and 70 places for pupils from Category B schools will be published in line with Education Authority procedures. The criteria will reflect both the selective and non-selective routes as detailed within the 'Case for Change'. Work is now beginning on admissions criteria for Years 9 to 12 and Post 16.

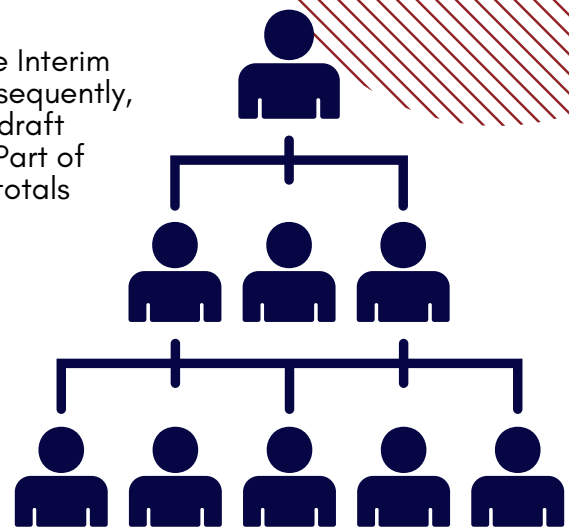
4. Special and Additional Needs

We are delighted to report that Lecale Trinity Grammar School's proposal to extend specialist provision to five classes in a phased and managed way is included in the current Education Authority consultation schedule running until 7th December 2023. All stakeholders are urged to respond to this consultation process. Details of how to respond can be found on the Education Authority's website.




5. Leadership Structure

Dr Moore presented an innovative, draft Leadership Model to the Interim Board of Governors at their meeting on 19th October 2023. Subsequently, the Staffing Committee has had several meetings to review the draft Leadership Structure based on feedback from key stakeholders. Part of the review process also includes a detailed overview of subject totals and departmental staff numbers across the three schools. The Committee has also considered essential criteria for key posts. The updated model will be presented to the Interim Board of Governors for approval at their next meeting on 23rd November 2023. It will then be sent, on Monday 27th November, to trade unions and staff as part of the two-week consultation process. A staff development session on the competency based application and interview process is scheduled for Friday 24th November 2023. It is hoped that the application process for Vice Principal posts will begin in December 2023.



The new Appointment Scheme and Procedure for Awarding Teaching Allowances have been compiled and will be tabled at the next Interim Board of Governors meeting.

6. Curriculum



An audit of subject choices across all three schools has taken place. A timeline has been compiled in relation to Year 10 and Year 12 option choices in line with existing good practice in the three schools. The first step in the process before Christmas is to offer pupils 'an open choice' in order to ascertain pupil preferences. Options Booklets will be available in line with established practice in the three schools. At the heart of the process is the core aim of creating parallel, interlocking pathways which will allow every pupil to achieve their full potential in Lecale Trinity Grammar School. It is to be expected that the full range of academic and vocational subjects currently offered in the three schools will be offered in Lecale Trinity Grammar School. Dr Moore and the Interim Board of Governors are determined to ensure that the academic pathways offering up to 10 GCSEs and 4 A levels are available in Lecale Trinity Grammar School.

7. Finance

The posts of Bursar Designate and Senior Executive Officer are currently being trawled. The Interim Board of Governors was delighted on the 19th October to receive approval from the Education Authority for the expenditure requested in the Business Case submitted in August.



Concluding Remarks

This update only provides a brief synopsis of the hard work being carried out by Dr Moore, the Committees of the Interim Board of Governors and the Independent Advisors to ensure that Lecale Trinity Grammar School opens successfully on 1st September 2024. In light of the challenges facing our community after the terrible floods, it is even more incumbent on all partners to work positively and collaboratively together to create an inclusive school in which every pupil's aptitudes and career aspirations are nurtured. It is a wonderful opportunity to instil hope in our pupils by being true to our core Lasallian values in a faith-based community.

Thank you for your positive support and tangible witness to our shared values.



Saul Church, Downpatrick, County Down

Photo Credit: <https://www.visitmournemountains.co.uk/>

Interim Board of Governors

Thank You