

### Year 8 Coffee morning (24th October 2019)

Vice Principal, Head of Junior Phase Jenny Hodson hosted parents at the Year 8 ISPTA Coffee Morning. Principal Stephen Loggie opened the session with an update on the Borrett Road site and the groundbreaking ceremony that took place the previous day. He also briefly touched on the new Year 9 options of AI & STEM learning.

Head of Languages Martyn Najman explained the purpose of the assessment tests taken recently and the 3 streams of Chinese IGCSE language. He answered parent questions and encouraged students to try new things and explore the options available.

Mrs Hodson ended by discussing the issue of screen time. The school, along with some Year 8 students were assessing various ways to discourage students using their devices during mornings, breaks & lunchtime. Some of the options were placing board games in classrooms and promoting outside games like Foursquare.

### Year 9 Coffee Morning (24th October 2019)

Vice Principal, Head of Middle Phase Mr Nicholas Lee hosted parents at the Year 8 ISPTA Coffee Morning. He sought parent input on the coffee morning format, and shared news about the redevelopment at the Borrett Road site. The ground breaking ceremony happened on 23rd October, and everything looks to be on track for a move back to the redeveloped campus in August 2022.

Various school matters such as options, homework, elements, ECA and wellbeing were discussed. Mr Lee discussed the Elements selection process, hoping that before the next term, students would know in advance the elements courses they have been allotted. Language options were discussed. Presently students choose two languages in Y7 and 8 and then concentrate on one language in Y9 which they then continue in their GCSE. Two different boards GCSE boards - Cambridge CIE and EDEXCEL were discussed. The grading system still remains letter based in the former while the latter has moved to number based.

Mr Lee explained to the parents about the six global competencies for deep learning (character, citizenship, collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking) and how it was being embedded into the current Middle school curriculum. This will later on blend into the IB philosophy. In the future, students may have access to a digital passport that will have a record of all the various attributes that they have developed over their time at Island School. This could help students with university applications. More info about deep learning competencies will be shared with all parents in due course.

There was a parent question concerning student feedback on teachers in a fair manner. Mr Lee said he will think more on this subject.