



**Jim Moore, CEO**

## Welcome to NPCpp

Embracing change requires us all to become informed of the rationale and aims for what we aim to achieve. In the midst of our busy post primary schools we are regularly confronted with greater demands to understand and engage with on-going developments that are impacting on the education of our children. Each school community is presented these challenges and as parents we have an important role in engaging and participating in activities which will improve the quality of teaching and learning.

NPCpp is striving to support you the parent, through your school Parent Association, and inform and offer you the opportunity to assist your child and indeed your school through the many changes that are taking place in the classroom. NPCpp is organising an event shortly, a Spring Seminar, which will address some of the very important current issues.

It is important that these developments have a positive impact on all of our children and NPCpp continues to engage with policy makers on your behalf to ensure that the voice of all parents is heard. In 2014 we will see the further delivery of training to parents dealing with anti-bullying, on-going consultation in special needs education provision, to highlight just some of our important work.

NPCpp looks to you as a parent to support this work. Be involved with your school parents association.

Every good wish.

**Jim Moore, CEO**

## The New Junior Cycle (JCSA)

The New Junior Cycle (JCSA) is due to be implemented next September with the introduction of English. Much consultation and debate has taken place around this new initiative and is ongoing.

The JCSA will form a newly revised and more interactive learning platform to help students become better learners, to develop skills for learning and for life, to provide a solid foundation for senior cycle, to give students a trial run for the Leaving Cert and to encourage young people to develop a love of learning.

We have an education system in this country which has served our students well at both primary and post – primary level. The Junior Cert has served its purpose to great effect for the last 25 years but moving on and keeping in line with an everyday modernising world, it is time for change. The JCSA will be set out on a more interactive format.

### *Is this the right way to go?*

We believe in this new concept and look forward to working with all partners in education with the interest of the student at the core. We understand there are many concerns around assessment and rightly so. Both Parents and students have a right to feel reassured that this will be administered fairly.

Teachers also have concerns surrounding assessment but we have confidence that with the co-operation of all partners in the education system, this can be resolved. You the parents are the primary educators of your children and as parents, we entrust our children's education to the professionalism of teachers who

continue to deliver the highest standard of education while also preparing our children for the open world.

### *Is the time right for change?*

We live in an ever modernising world and we grow accustomed to what is familiar and at times change may appear challenging. However, all parents seek the best education for their child's future and over the last 30 years we moved from black and white to colour text books, interactive learning tools are used wildly by teachers and we are currently progressing from textbooks to e-books and electronic devices.

You, as parents of the future generation of Ireland ultimately seek the best education system available to our young adults. The new JCSA will deliver this objective. To quote Ruairí Quinn, Minister for Education and Skills "Our children deserve nothing less."

### **Don Myers, President NPCpp**

*If you would like to learn more about the new JCSA please go to [www.juniorycycle.ie](http://www.juniorycycle.ie) for more information.*

### **Date for your Diary**

To **ALL** Parent Associations, Parents and Guardians of Pupils attending Post Primary Schools, NPCpp invites you to

### **Spring Education Seminar 2014**

**"The Challenge of Change"  
29<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014  
Killeshin Hotel  
Portlaoise, Co Laois**

Please contact  
[npcpp@eircom.net](mailto:npcpp@eircom.net)  
01 8302740  
or go to  
[www.npcpp.ie](http://www.npcpp.ie)  
for further information

## The National Parents' Council Post Primary Conference 2013

The NPCpp Conference 2012 took place in the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th of November and our theme this year was "Parents; Your role in these changing times"

We were joined by members of parent associations, parents and guardians from around the country as well as our partners in education i.e. Dept. of Education & Skills (DES), the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD), the State Examination Commission (SEC), the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) the school management bodies - Joint Managerial Body (JMB), the Association of Community & Comprehensive Schools (ACCS) and Education and Training Board Ireland (ETBI)



### New Junior Cycle

Noel Malone, Principal, Coláiste Chiaráin, on the New Junior Cycle

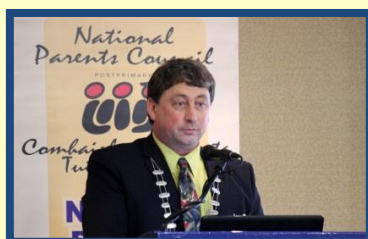
Friday Night started off with a presentation from **Noel Malone, Principal, Coláiste Chiaráin, Co Limerick** on the New Junior Cycle Student Award (JCSA). Coláiste Chiaráin is one of the 48 pilot schools leading the way in pioneering the changes that will occur in the Junior Cycle programme over time. The new junior cycle will feature newly developed subjects and short courses, a focus on literacy, numeracy and key skills, and new approaches of assessment and reporting. Schools will have more freedom to design programmes that meet the learning needs of all students. Among the many subjects introduced in Coláiste Chiaráin, are Experimental Science Investigation, Animal Care and Equine Studies, Television & Radio Broadcasting, Digital Media Creation, Italian Cultural & Communication Studies, Sustainable Energy & Living and Innovative Creative

Entrepreneurship.

*If you would like to learn more about the new JCSA please go to [www.juniorycycle.ie](http://www.juniorycycle.ie) for more information.*

This was followed by a presentation by **Jim Moore, CEO of NPCpp** on the role and functions of a Parent Association. This was well received and informative and furnished our delegates the opportunity to learn more about how to be an effective parent association working on behalf of their children and their school.

*If you are interested in Parent Association Training for your school please email [admin@npcpp.ie](mailto:admin@npcpp.ie) for more details.*



### Welcome and Address

Don Myers, President NPCpp

### Don Myers, President NPCpp

opened the conference on Saturday morning with the Welcome and Address to parents and guests. Don gave an update on the new NPCpp Affiliation Programme, the launch of the guidelines document to all schools regarding the cost of school uniforms, the new Anti-Bullying Guidelines, and the Review of Enrolment to Schools.



### Chief Inspector's Report 2010-12

L-R Don Myers President NPCpp, Chief Inspectorate Harold Hislop & Jim Moore CEO NPCpp

Saturday morning began with the Conference Address which was made by **Mr Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector at the Department of Education**. Mr Hislop spoke on the **Chief Inspector's Report 2010-12** which was launched earlier that month by the Minister for Education. The Report gave

account of the quality of education in our primary schools, second-level schools and centres for education. The report acknowledges all the good practice that takes place on an everyday basis in our schools in terms of quality leadership, management, teaching and learning. It also reveals some weaknesses, and it points schools firmly in the path of improvement. The Chief Inspector spoke on how *Parents, students, schools and the quality of learning we can achieve the best education for our children and young people if...the educational system listens to and genuinely respects the voices of parents and all actors in the educational endeavour work together in a shared effort for the good of young people and future citizens.*

**Chief Inspector's Report 2010-12 can be downloaded at**

[www.education.ie/en/Publications](http://www.education.ie/en/Publications)



### "School and Home working together" to beat the bully

Ian O'Herlihy of Mason Hayes & Curran,

This was followed by a presentation by **Ian O'Herlihy of Mason Hayes & Curran**, entitled "*School and Home working together*" to beat the bully. Ian spoke on the legal necessity of every school nationwide; to have an Anti-bullying Policy in place and that it must be available to all parents and students. He highlighted the procedures and best practice for dealing with bullying incidents in the school as well as school requirements and role of parents.

*For additional information go to Department of Education Circular M42/93 "Guidelines for Countering Behaviour in Primary and Post Primary Schools"*



### NPCpp Looking Forward

Mr Jim Moore, Chief Executive Officer

Mr Jim Moore, Chief Executive Officer, spoke on “NPCpp Looking Forward”, he presented an outline on what NPCpp does on behalf of parents and guardians; an active role in influencing policy nationally, direct support and information to parents and guardians, supporting Parent Associations on issues affecting their school, training and supporting their work in school, informing parents and guardians of current issues, Support at Leaving Cert exam results and CAO, NPCpp is the parents voice on current issues with Dept. of Education and Skills and working with our partners in education. He also spoke on the current issues that NPCpp is working on and the challenges for us as parents.



### 20-20 Vision for Education

Mr Ferdia Kelly, General Secretary, Joint Managerial Body (JMB)

Mr Ferdia Kelly, General Secretary of the JMB presented the Post Primary Education Forum’s (PPEF) “20-20 Vision for Education” which was launched in 2013. The Post-Primary Education Forum (PPEF) is an umbrella group encompassing representation from parents, students, teachers unions and school management bodies involved in the post-primary education sector. Founded in November 2007, the PPEF seek to address common issues and establish a shared viewpoint on

priorities for the future development of second level education.

Key points of the **20-20 Vision for Education**:

### Educational Vision

- National policymakers with focus on quality and quality assurance from a functional perspective
- Partners look to full participation of all the stakeholders to ensure a quality education for students in learning environments where;
- Students well-being is nurtured
- Values of equality and inclusion
- High expectations
- Nourish students’ potential and capabilities
- Tension between the promotion of education as something important in its own right vs. constraints due to economic issues

### Parents

- Active participation – not just fund-raisers and tea makers
- Research shows the benefits of being involved in our children’s education
- Parents need to have a clear role in the education policy development at national level – NPCpp

A copy of the 20-20 Vision for Education can be downloaded at [www.npcpp.ie](http://www.npcpp.ie)

### Conference Workshops

As always, we had three workshops on offer and our delegates had the opportunity to attend two of the three. We had a varied choice on offer this year:

**Super Generation** – Getting an understanding of how young people learn so you can support your teen in their preparation for the State exams

**Ease the Tease** (formerly Sticks and Stones) Anti-Bullying Programme - bullying information, tips on what to do if your child is

being bullied, has seen or participated in bullying.

**Pieta House** – a therapeutic approach to young adults who are in suicidal distress and those who engage in self-harm)

### Understanding the Well-Being of Teenagers (How to manage and let go of your 13-18)

Such was his success at last year’s conference workshops that we invited **Dr Fergus Heffernan** to address our entire delegates this year. Dr Heffernan provided an entertaining way of looking at your teenager’s wellbeing in the environment of the family’s wellbeing. He offered very practical advice on how families can thrive during the sometimes difficult teenage times.

Dr Heffernan also covered the Developmental stages of Teenagers

- Teenagers and Alcohol
- Teenagers and Substance Abuse
- Peer Pressure and Teenagers
- Teenagers and their Mental Health
- The Teenagers role in the family



### Open Forum

L-R Gerry Craughwell President TUI, Aidan Farrell CEO State Examination Commission, Tom Deegan Principal Officer DES, Diarmuid de Paor (Dep. Gen. Secretary ASTI and Ferdia Kelly Gen. Secretary JMB

The final session of the conference was the **Open Forum**. This was a great opportunity for parent’s, guardian’s and parent association’s representatives to put their views, questions and concerns to the panel which comprised of the School Management Body the JMB, the State Examination Commission, Dept. of Education and Skills, the TUI and the ASTI. The questions put forward were wide ranging, from the impending reform of the Junior Certificate to the vast reduction in guidance counselling provision in our schools.



## Important 2014 Dates for Parents/Guardians and Examination Students

### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Feb

Deadline for CAO applications

### 1<sup>st</sup> March:

- Closing date for amending course choices
- Closing date for final completion of online HEAR/DARE forms

### 31<sup>st</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> April:

Leaving & Junior Certificate oral examinations

### 1<sup>st</sup> May

CAO: Closing date for late applications

### 5<sup>th</sup> May (12:00)

CAO Online Change of Mind facility becomes available (Free)

### Before 15<sup>th</sup> May

Late Paper Applicants will be sent a Statement of Course Choices (Contact CAO if you do not receive it)

### Before End of May:

Statement of Application Record sent to all applicants (Contact CAO if you do not receive it)

### 4<sup>th</sup> June:

Leaving and Junior Certificate examinations begin

### 14<sup>th</sup> June:

Leaving Certificate examinations end

### 19<sup>th</sup> June

Junior Certificate examinations end

### July 1<sup>st</sup>:

Final date for receipt of change of mind CAO applications

### 13<sup>th</sup> August:

Leaving Certificate examination results are released by State Examinations Commission

### 13<sup>th</sup> August:

Launch of the NPCpp Leaving Certificate Helpline (Telephone No: 1800 265165)

### 18<sup>th</sup> August:

CAO round one University/College offers released

### August 19<sup>th</sup>:

LC candidates must return completed application forms regarding viewing of scripts directly to schools

### 25<sup>th</sup> August:

Closing date for acceptance of CAO round one University/College

course offers

### 27<sup>th</sup> August:

CAO round 2 offers posted

### 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> August:

LC viewing of scripts in schools

### 3<sup>rd</sup> September:

Closing date for acceptance of round two University/College course offers

### 3<sup>rd</sup> September:

Closing date for receipt by SEC of LC appeals applications

### Mid-September:

JC & LCA Year 1 delivery of results to schools - *date to be decided.*

### October:

Closing date for receipt of 2014 Junior Certificate Examination appeals (subject/grade) by State Examinations Commission - *date to be decided.*

## NPCpp Spring Education Seminar

### “The Challenge of Change”

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March

Killeshin Hotel, Portlaoise,

From 10.15am to 1.30pm

You are invited to attend presentations and discussions on:

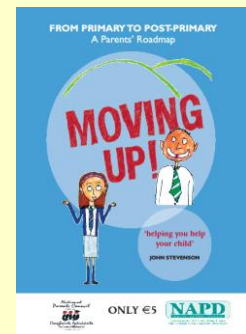
- Junior Cycle – Implementation 2014
- Digital Learning In Our Schools

These are important issues for our children's education.

Tea/Coffee from 09.30am and Refreshments served at 1.30pm

Please register in advance at [npcpp@eircom.net](http://npcpp@eircom.net)

This event is sponsored by NPCpp



## Moving Up!

### TRANSITION after TRANSFER

This essential guide provides the relevant information to help parents help their children during their transition from Primary to Secondary education. It will also enable them to communicate effectively with the school's staff and will constitute a useful supplementary tool for induction courses in Post-Primary schools.

- Facilitates Parent-Child discussion in the home
- Helps Parent-School communication and Cooperation
- How Children feel in their own words and images
- The level of parental involvement a school expects and a child needs
- Supported by the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and the National Parents' Council Post-Primary (NPCpp)
- €5 only, p&p included in packs of 10 and can be ordered from NPCpp.

## National Parents Council Post Primary

Unit 5 Glasnevin Business Centre, Ballyboggan Road, Dublin 11

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Fax: (01) 8302752

Locall: 1890 672770

e-mail: [npcpp@eircom.net](mailto:npcpp@eircom.net)

Website: [www.npcpp.ie](http://www.npcpp.ie)

Charitable Status No:

CHY 12800

Open: Monday – Friday,  
10.00 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.