



SIP Digital Learning Update 2021/2022

Arising out of research involving students, staff and parents in the 2019/2020 academic year the following targets were agreed upon:

Target 1: Foster a culture of engagement with VShare to increase parental awareness of student development in the CBS Kilkenny.

Target 2: Develop and enhance the self-directed, independent learning of students through the uploading of resources to online sharing platforms.

Target 1

- In order to register for online parent teacher meetings using *PTMOrganiser*, parents had to login to their VShare account to access their son's VShare ID.
- 95% parental attendance at online parent teacher meetings; the same as face-to-face attendance.
- Parents found the online system for parent teacher meetings very efficient, streamlined and more flexible than face-to-face option.
- With the relaxation of restrictions related to Covid-19, incoming 1st year parent information evening was able to happen onsite. During the information evening a demo of VShare was shown to parents with a follow up session planned for early in the next academic year to refresh what was covered.
- Teachers reminded parents of the need to regularly check VShare to monitor their son's academic performance and behaviour during online parent teacher meetings.
- On average, 87% of parents who engaged in the online parent teacher meetings rated their satisfaction with the process above 8/10 (1=very unsatisfied; 10=very satisfied).
- On average, 96% of parents who engaged in the online parent teacher meetings wanted this format to continue in future.
- 84% of the teachers involved in the online parent teacher meeting rated their satisfaction levels above 8/10 (1=very unsatisfied; 10=very satisfied).
- 97% of the teachers involved in the online parent teacher meetings were eager for this format to continue in future.
- There was a 5% increase in school charges being paid through VShare from the 2020 academic year to the 2021 academic year.
- This year alone, 84% of school charges were paid by card through the VShare app, whereas only 16% of school charges were paid manually. The records for the current academic year will not be fully known until this year is complete.

Target 2

- Students in both focus groups acknowledged how beneficial digital technologies were in terms of aiding learning and increasing engagement in class.
- They are encountering the use of digital technologies in all their classes on a regular basis.
- The ability to access notes/resources online (mainly through Google Classroom and OneNote) has made it much easier to catch up on material if absent, revise, and reduced the need to carry all their text books home in the evening for homework.
- Incorporation of online videos and tutorials has made the comprehension of difficult concepts in subjects like Chemistry, Applied Maths, Biology and Physics much easier. Students can also review this material at their own pace and fill in any knowledge gaps that arose in class time.
- Wide variety of apps being used in class for assessment; Kahoot, Quizlet, Mentimeter and Khan Academy were some of the more common ones mentioned by students.
- One senior cycle student noted it would be useful to have greater access to laptops in school, particularly when completing projects with Junior Cycle students completing CBAs getting priority.
- Use of PowerPoints and websites added variety to lessons across the board.
- Senior cycle students were in agreement that they would not like to see the school become fully device based as they had siblings who encountered difficulty in another school when their device malfunctioned and were left without access to educational materials while it was being fixed.
- In-house CPD continued this year with a *Teachmeet* held to upskill staff on the use of Google Gradebook. Further *Teachmeets* are scheduled for the start of the next academic year.
- Departmental Google Classrooms are routinely set up and maintained by staff to increase the ease with which notes and resources can be shared.
- Staff were updated on the progress of the targets and actions of the Digital Learning Plan at the beginning of the current academic year.
- There was a strong emphasis within Junior Cycle Turas on study skills and creation of study plans.
- First and second year students and parents were furnished with a document detailing the topics for upcoming end of year house exams.
- Staff informally share useful websites/videos/apps that may prove useful to their colleagues.
- Digital technology leaders shared relevant CPD with their departments as required. They also operated as a point of contact within their department if any teacher needed assistance with digital technology.