



1 February 2021

**To Boards of Management, Parents, Staff, Students of Caritas College, St Dominic's College and St. John's College, Ballyfermot**

The Department of Education and Skills has informed the Trustees, CEIST and Le Chéile, that it has approved a substantial grant to enable the progression of the amalgamation of the three schools Caritas College, St Dominic's College and St. John's College, Ballyfermot. These facilities will enable the new school to accommodate 800 students. This is a very exciting development for Ballyfermot enabling the provision of the broadest educational curriculum to the boys and girls of the area in an inclusive Catholic secondary school incorporating the ethos and traditions of the three constituent schools.

The new school will open on the St. John's College site, incorporating the existing facilities at St. John's and the provision of additional classrooms and specialist subject facilities.

These additional facilities include:

- 6 general Classrooms
- 3 Special Education Tuition
- 2 Special Needs Classrooms
- 2 Science Laboratories (incl preparation area)
- 1 Home Economics Room
- 1 Textiles Room
- 1 Art Room
- 1 Technology Room (incl prep area)
- 1 Design & Communications Graphics Room

The site on Le Fanu Road also provides significant space for the development of outdoor extra-curricular facilities. The process to secure a full-size sports hall/ gymnasium for indoor activities on the site continues apace. The process of appointing a Design Team has begun, with assistance from the Buildings Advisory Officer of the Joint Managerial Body. When appointed, the Design team will work on the preparation of a preliminary design, a programme of works and a timeline for the project. To monitor this process, the Trustees have appointed a Buildings Advisory Group comprising of the Trustees themselves, the Principals and Chairpersons of the three schools, and the Chairperson of the New School Committee.

Dr Éilis Humphreys,  
Executive Director Le Chéile.

Clare Ryan,  
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