MAYO, SLIGO AND LEITRIM EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING HELD ONLINE VIA M.S. TEAMS ON THURSDAY 14TH MAY, 2020 AT 4.00 P.M.

Cllr M. Bohan presided at the Meeting and the following members were present:

Mmes

D. Sheridan, M.C.C

M. Casserly, S.C.C

N. Mc Gowan

S. Finan

J. V. Aswegen

P. N. Thaidhg

R. O'Grady, S.C.C

Messrs

S. Carey, M.C.C

J. Caulfield, M.C.C.

T. Connolly, M.C.C

C. Hyland, M.C.C

R. Finn, M.C.C.

P. O. Rourke, L.C.C

E. Stenson, L.C.C

P. Coffey

G. Murphy

P. Forde

M. Molloy

S. Kilgannon

The following were also in attendance:

Mr. T. Grady, Chief Executive, Ms. Mary Madden, Director of Schools, Mr. Peter Egan, Director of Further Education and Training, Mr. Pat Howley, Director of Organisation Support and Development, Ms. C. Leonard.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interests declared.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of:

 MSLETB Board Meeting, held on 24th March 2020, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. T. Connolly and seconded by Mr. G. Murphy.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no further matters arising.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

The Chief Executive (CE) welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for connecting online. The CE acknowledged the excellent work carried out by both MSLETB's ICT team and Tara 365 over the past two months. The CE advised members that MSLETB's investment in ICT has paid dividends and since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, MSLETB staff have been able to work from home and services have continued to operate successfully. Teaching and learning have continued online very successfully. The CE acknowledged the tremendous efforts by all staff throughout the organisation.

The CE advised members that the past few weeks have been a particularly challenging and stressful time for leaving cert students, their parents/guardians, teachers and school staff. Over four hundred individual queries were raised nationally. MSLETB has had two hundred queries from schools, some common and some unique, with regard to the proposed calculated grades system for this year's leaving cert. The CE acknowledged the excellent work and commitment of teachers and school staff over the past few months.

Mr. S. Kilgannon proposed a motion of good wishes to MSLETB staff in acknowledgement of the excellent work they are doing during these very challenging times that COVID 19 presents. The CE committed to communicating this message to staff.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT (cont)

Votes of Sympathy: The Meeting passed Votes of Sympathy to:



Youth & Arts Committee

The CE spoke about the possibility of MSLETB setting up a Youth & Arts Committee, this would be a subcommittee of the Board to oversee Youthwork and Arts functions. The CE advised members that the formation of this committee is at the discretion of the Board. After some discussion it was agreed that members would be provided with a draft Terms of Reference. Expressions of Interest to be forwarded to the Chairperson. Members agreed to re-visit this item at the next board meeting.

2019 Annual Report

The CE advised members that Corporate Services is in the process of completing the 2019 Annual Report which needs to be submitted to DES by 30th June. A draft copy of the Annual Report will be furnished to members in advance of the next board meeting with a view to having the Annual Report approved/ratified at the next board meeting on the 23rd June.

School Bank Account Audit

The CE advised members that MSLETB are currently responding to an internal audit finding of inadequate with regard to the audit of school bank accounts. The Audit Committee have been informed. A detailed action plan has been agreed.

Governing Body Sligo IT

The CE advised members that following the submission of recommendations by MSLETB, Ministerial approval was received for the following ordinary members of the Governing Body of Sligo Institute of Technology. The CE thanked members for their co-operation with this process.

Six appointed under Section 4(1)(a) and (b) - ETB representative
Cllr. Mary Bohan
Mr. Geoffrey Browne
Cllr. Richard Finn
Mr. Seamus Kilgannon
Ms. Mary Madden
Clir. Rosaleen O'Grady
Two appointed under Section 4(1)(c)
Dr. Brian McCann
Ms. Beatrice Flavin
One appointed under Section 4(1)(d)
Ms. Martina Kelly
Two appointed under Section 4(1) (e)
Ms. Laura Muldoon
Mr. Jason Quinn
One appointed under Section 4(1)(f)
Ms. Mary Dolan McLoughlin
Five appointed under Section 4(1) (g) -Business representatives
Mr Pádraic Casey – HSE North West
Mr. Felim McNeela - Sligo Chamber of Commerce
Ms. Averyl Dooher - Arts Council
Mr. Ciarán Hayes – LCDC, Sligo
Mr. Mick Henry - EPA

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The continued secondment of Dr. Katie Sweeney until 31st August 2022

Mr. T Grady left the meeting while this item was being dealt with.

The continued secondment of Dr. Katie Sweeny to the Department of Education's Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit until 31st August 2022 was approved by the board on the proposal of Mr. S. Kilgannon and seconded by Cllr. R. Finn.

Continuation of Mr. Tom Grady as Acting Chief Executive of MSLETB until 31st August 2022.

Mr. T Grady left the meeting while this item was being dealt with.

The continuation of Mr. T. Grady as Acting Chief Executive of MSLETB until 31st August 2022 was approved by the board on the proposal of Cllr. D. Sheridan and seconded by Cllr. T. Connolly.

Minutes of Audit & Risk Committee and Minutes of Finance Committee

Mr. P. Howley, Director of OSD presented the following committee minutes.

- MSLETB Audit Committee Meeting held on 4th December 2019.
- MSLETB Finance Committee Meeting held on 22nd November 2019.
- MSLETB Finance Committee Meeting held on 9th December 2019.

The minutes were approved by the board on the proposal of Cllr. P. Rourke and seconded by Mr. Seamus Kilgannon.

FURTHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING REPORT.

Mr. Peter Egan, Director of FET, presented the Further Education and Training Report for Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board. (Appendix 1)

A number of members complimented FET on the excellent work they are doing. There was also some discussion on the likely high demand for FET services in the near further as a result of the current high unemployment levels. The lack of adequate broadband in some areas was cited as an obstacle to some potential learners availing of FET services.

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ORGANISATIONAL SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. P. Howley, Director of OSD presented the Organisational Support and Development Report which also incorporated the Building Report and ICT Report for Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board. (Appendix 2).

SCHOOLS REPORT.

Ms. M. Madden, Director of Schools presented the Schools Report for Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board. (Appendix 3).

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

This concluded the business of the meeting.

The next board meeting is due to take place on Tuesday 23rd June, 2020.

Signed:

May Bohe School Chairperson 23/06/2020



MAYO, SLIGO & LEITRIM ETB Monthly Receipts & Payments - Combined Report

Apr-20

	OPERATING ACCOUNT							CAPITAL ACCOUNT				
	Pay	Non-Pay	Sundry Other	Training Centre Expend	Total Monthly Expenditure 2020	Total Monthly Expenditure 2019	Total Receipts 2020	Total Receipts 2019	Receipts 2020	Receipts 2019	Payments 2020	Payments 2019
	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000	€,000
January	2,841	310	2,088	1,483	6,722	7,924	13,297	12,571	18	48	46	116
February	2,847	256	1,963	1,509	6,575	7,199	433	1,027	544	0	287	41
March	2,946	764	2,041	2,095	7,846	7,817	9,693	6,674	4	65	303	201
April	4,381	188	2,287	1,540	8,396	6,738	3,612	6,231	58	50	24	272
May	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	13,015	1,518	8,379	6,627	29,539	29,678	27,035	26,503	624	163	660	630



Total Bank Account (current & capital monies) 2020

ETB Mayo Sligo & Leitrim

MONTH	Balance in Favour (against) Committee per last monthly Statement	Receipts	Payments	Balance in Favour (against) Committee at end of month
January	5,883,145	13,315,195	6,646,802	12,551,538
February	12,551,538	976,813	6,750,445	6,777,906
March	6,777,906	9,697,195	8,365,399	8,109,701
April	8,109,701	3,670,078	8,271,960	3,507,819
May	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0
July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0
October	0	0	0	0
November	0	0	0	0
December	0	0	0	0
	5,883,145	27,659,281	30,034,607	3,507,819

Signed	Chief Executive
Date	

Organisation, Support & Development Report Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim Education & Training Board 14th May 2020 via Teams.

Corporate Services (ICT & Building Report listed separately below):

- Corporate Services staff have shown a great deal of goodwill and enthusiasm to continue to work from home during the pandemic and all services have continued to function despite staff juggling home life including responsibilities of childcare, homeschooling and taking care of the loved ones.
- Procurement ICT procurement continues to be extremely busy, whilst we continue to carry out general procurement for organisation's needs. Procurement continues for buildings although all buildings works have ceased for the moment.
- Corporate Governance The Service Plan has been submitted to the Department and work is ongoing on the preparation of the Annual Report.
- Freedom of Information and Data Protection we are processing several Freedom of Information and Data Protection requests. The Data Protection Officer has also carried out several Data Protection Impact Assessments considering the current climate and the impact of remote working/assessments.
- Organisation website work is ongoing on the website and should be finalised in the coming weeks.
- Property Register Property Register continues to be updated, ongoing project to regularise title of MSLETB properties & Leases.
- Insurance administration of general insurance queries, as well as insurance claims.

Finance:

- Finance Staff have been working remotely since mid-March and only attending the
 office to carry out essential functions that cannot be completed off-site and to
 collect and distribute mail.
- All main payment processes across the 3 admin offices and the Training Centre –
 payroll, learner payments, supplier payments and travel and subsistence have
 continued to operate to a consistently high standard with all deadlines achieved
 through the adaptability, dedication, commitment and collaboration of all finance
 staff during this very challenging period.
- The new Apprenticeship payroll system for all Training Centres commenced its 1st payment to apprenticeships on 20th March following an intense project roll out period during Feb & early March. The high level of support from the Finance and Admin colleagues in the Training Centre ensured that this was successfully delivered on time in MSL.
- The transition from paper-based Supplier Remittances to Electronic Supplier Remittances took place for the payment run of 29th April and will provide both efficiency and cost savings to MSL. This was achieved through the commitment,

- collaboration and hard work of a small team of dedicated Finance and IT colleagues in a short period of time.
- The Draft Financial Statements for 2019 were prepared and submitted to the C&AG by the deadline of 1st April. An interim audit of 2019 was conducted in the Training Centre in Feb with further audit fieldwork scheduled for July in the Head Office. This will likely be subject to change.
- The transfer of payroll to Payroll Shared Services has commenced. MSL was originally scheduled to go live in mid Feb 2021. This has now been moved to June 2021 due to some changes within the ESBS project plan. Significant internal "readiness" work has yet to take place in advance of this date.

Human Resources:

- MSL ETB currently have a number of vacancies advertised on its website.
- BTEI conversion for the years 15/16 is now completed and MSL ETB is currently working on subsequent years under BTEI conversion scheme.
- Work is ongoing in the Pension Department including work on a number of specific projects.
- HR Department is about to commence advertising for Teaching positions in the scheme for the 2020/2021 academic year.
- All HR staff have been working from home since 16th March 2020 and have made a huge effort to maintain the services of the HR Department.
- As a result of the current situation surrounding COVID 19, HR are currently reviewing interview procedures for future interviews.
- The HR Department will be shortly arranging interview training for Board members who have express an interest in sitting on interview board. A member of the HR team will be contacting individual Board Members shortly to make the necessary arrangements.

ICT:

On-going ICT Project works includes-

- The deployment of over 120 Laptops & Surfaces to support staff working from home.
- The provision of over 70 remote access connections to critical staff through VPNs.
- Network upgrades at Ballina and Kiltimagh FET sites; completed.
- The clustering of existing VoIP phone systems in Sligo TC to increase capacity.
- The upgrade of firewalls to all FET sites; commenced.

The Covid-19 virus has greatly affected the way in which ICT support is being provided in MSLETB. The transition to remote working was completed efficiently and staff have been supported throughout the transition. We are now in a phase of on-going support to staff working remotely regarding communication/devices/technology/training.

There is an increased demand from the training sector regarding the provision of devices and software to students to allow them to complete their academic studies. As a result, we are currently in a phase of redeploying devices throughout the organisation to facilitate students and tutors. This is made increasingly difficult due to the restrictions regarding travel and site access for both MSLETB Staff and Students.

We have continued with an extensive programme of project works within our schools and FET centres. Our ICT staff have been working in isolation & in accordance with HSE regulations on social distancing, within these centres to ensure that all necessary ICT works are completed, and sites are ready to commence teaching once the crisis has abated.

Buildings Report:

Additional Accommodation:

- Coola Post Primary School: Roll No: 72310U
 Project is now well underway although works ceased on site due to Health & Safety around Covid 19 regulations.
- Grange Post Primary School: Roll No.: 72330D
 Appointment of a full Design Team and a pre-start meeting completed. Design options being negotiated and Site investigation works ongoing.
- Coláiste lascaigh: Roll No.: 72320A
 Works are proceeding well on-site although works ceased on site due to Health & Safety around Covid 19 regulations.
- St Joseph's Community College, Charlestown: Roll No.: 763341
 Full and complete acquisition of this Property will be completed in the near future.
- Carrigallen Vocational School: Roll No.: 71540J
 3 x 49m2 classrooms, 1 x 15m2 SET room, 2 x WC's & 1 x WC for assisted users –
 sanctioned. Consultant appointed. Costings and ongoing discussion with the DoES around this accommodation as it is not sufficient.
- St. Tiernan's College, Crossmolina: Roll No.: 72100J
 This project is completed with furniture fit out and rooms in use since 22nd January, 2020.
- St Joseph's Community College, Charlestown: Roll No.: 763341
 Provision of New Engineering Room (Temporary) Furniture & Equipment still to be completed snagging to be done.
- St. Tiernan's College, Crossmolina: Roll No.: 72100J
 Application lodged for Additional Accommodation and Refurbishment of existing

accommodation. Further information submitted. DoES confirmed that this will not happen and requested us to submit a new additional accommodation application which is being prepared .

- St. Brendan's College, Belmullet: Roll No.: 72050U
 Application lodged for replacement of 6 prefabricated accommodation classrooms and an additional Engineering / Materials Technology room. Correspondence acknowledged 26/6/2019 and further information requested on 23/08/2019. Discussions are ongoing.
- Ballinode College, Sligo. Roll No.: 72360M
 Application lodged and granted for Consultant is appointed and Design being discussed.
- Coláiste Pobail Acla: Roll No.: 76150V
 Application lodged for the development of a Sports Hall. Not granted.

Temporary Accommodation:

- Grange Post Primary School: Roll No.: 72230D
 Rental of accommodation approved and extended up to 31st December, 2020.
- St. Tiernan's College, Crossmolina: Roll No.: 72100J
 Rental of accommodation approved and extended up to 30th June, 2020.
- Coola Post Primary School: Roll No.: 72310U
 Rental of accommodation approved and extended up to 31st December, 2020.
- Carrigallen Vocational School: Roll No.: 71540J
 Application submitted for 2 Temporary classrooms for August 2019. Initial Approval Granted 25/07/2019. Form R1 to DoES (Full Approval) 20/08/2019. Still waiting.
- Coláiste Iascaigh: Roll No.: 72320A
 Application for 2 temporary classrooms approved and granted. Planning, DAC & Fire Cert. issued. Should be on site after lockdown is over. Rental approved and extended until December 2020.

Emergency Works.

- Moyne College: Roll No.: 72020L
 Application submitted for Universal Access works in and around the school-full approval granted. Consultant appointed. Works are well underway on this project although ceased due to Health & Safety around Covid 19 regulations.
- Drumshanbo Vocational School: Roll No. 71570S
 Application for structural works to approved, granted and Consultant appointed. Ready to go to tender this week.
- Corran College: Roll No.: 72300R
 Application submitted for lighting/security works around the school. Approved.
 Consultant due to be appointed by Mid May.
- Coláiste lascaigh: Roll No.: 72320A
 Application submitted for internal floor works. Awaiting approval.
- St Joseph's Community College, Charlestown: Roll No.: 763341

 Application submitted for sanitary works throughout the school. Awaiting approval.

Sports Capital Funding. .

- Coola Post Primary School: Roll No.: 72310U
 Works nearing completion on the development of an all-weather surface pitch, associated site works, fencing, lighting & services. Retention due.
- Coláiste Pobail Acla: Roll No.: 76150V
 MSLETB & Community Group received provisional funding for the development of a Sports Hall. Planning granted.

Summer Works Scheme 2020 onwards.

- Moyne College Roll No.: 72020L;
- Coláiste Pobail Acla: Roll No.: 76150V;
- Grange Post Primary School: Roll No.: 72330D
 These 3 schools granted Summer Works for 2020 all received Option I Life Safety
 Systems Consultant due to be appointed by Mid May.

Non-ETB Schools Project.

Additional Accommodation.

Glencastle National School: Roll No.: 13222P
 Support & Assistance associated with this building project (617m2). Full Design Team is appointed. Pre-start meeting held with School, Design Team Board of Management, Parents Association and MSLETB with Site investigations due to commence.

Further Education and Training Report – MSLETB BOM Meeting, April/May 2020

NOTES, ITEMS OF INTEREST

Covid-19

Health, Safety & Welfare is top concern for everyone, we must continue to adhere to all guidelines. All employees follow the specific instructions on accessing buildings (completed for essential business).

FET current 3 key priorities:

Continuity of learning and completing learners on courses - engaging with the learner population, supporting immediate & ongoing continuity of learning and assessment.

Broader economic impact of Covid-19 how we can support citizens in MSL; The unemployed/Jobseekers/ persons needing support is a key focus.

Scenario-planning for return.

FET Survey of all activity at course/programme level has been completed. The survey focused on the status of teaching and level of engagement with learners. It also identified what support is required for staff in technology and professional development.

This is brought great clarity on the actions needed and what MSLETB needs to do to support centres and programmes. One thing for sure is the investment in TEL and PD over the last 3 years has been hugely beneficial and MSLETB is ahead of the curve.

FET Quality Council has met to review alternative assessment arrangements for courses due to complete in April, May, June etc.

The five Principles underpinning Alternative Assessment are:

- 1. **Learning Outcomes-based approaches** the alternative assessment makes an **evidence-based** determination on whether the expected learning outcomes have been achieved.
- 2. *Integrity of assessment* all alternative arrangements should be documented...plan and document how learner identity will be verified.
- 3. **Proportionality** priority and focus should be given to award stage assessments.
- 4. **Support for staff and students** time schedules need to encompass training and practice in new assessment modes
- 5. Confidence and Transparency Alternative assessment methods should be realistic and reliable...plans should be communicated to learners and other stakeholders in a timely manner...digital recordings should be used where possible to verify and evaluate the assessment processes. The Quality Council has approved 99% of applications. Initially a large number were deferred as the approach needed additional clarity and support. All the applications that were deferred included some type of technological approach e.g. an open book assessment completed externally with use of technology.

TEL and PD initiatives are been rolled out to support teachers/instructors/ tutors in equipment and professional development. A new 10-hour online course has been developed to assist teaching staff deliver teaching and learning online.

Support for Jobseekers is now a major focus and currently MSLETB FET is exploring options to support learners in this regard. Please see a regional bulletin on the impacts of Covid-19 from the SOLAS Labour Market Research Group.

Budget & Beneficiaries

Funding Parameters released for 2020, changes including bringing PLC under the direct funding of SOLAS, increase in capital budgets, increases in funding for learner support services.

As at the 27th April initial confirmation has been received from SOLAS that the **budget submission of €42,000,000 has been recommended for approval by the SOLAS BOM**. This is significant increase in funding from starting

position is €32,319,000. This includes funding for PLC which has transferred to SOLAS from DES as at 01.01.2020 of €4,700,000.

The real increase in budget is €4,981,000 from starting position.

We received capital buildings of €350,000 for Sligo College of Further Education and €170,000 for Ballina TC. Capital Equipment is €350,000 and capital buildings yet to be allocated.

- New FET Strategy 2020 -2024 This has been finalised and the final version is in your folder
- New Skills to Advance Programme: Upskilling people in employment, continuing to develop operation plan, information on the programme - http://www.solas.ie/SkillsToAdvance Over 200 employees have participated to date.
- Call for FET Innovation Funding (Skills to Advance) MSLETB successful in 2 proposals:
 - Employer Engagement CRM for the FET Sector €263,000
 - Driving Success with Technology (for Road Haulage sector) €215,000
 - Currently working with SOLAS on a third proposal re: Training Junior Management staff in SME's.
- Training: New Apprenticeships & Traineeships:

Butchery – Commenced – Currently expanding and in discussions with Cork ETB to assist as collaborating provider. Sales Apprenticeship –validated in Sept, currently recruiting Instructing Staff.

- Buildings- all centres currently under review; we estimate that 32 projects commenced, continued or completed in FET in 2020.
- HR matters, New posts filled PD, TEL, FARR/PLSS. Edel Gavan (formerly Hibernia College) in TEL and David Crowley (formerly KETB) in PD. Employer Engagement CEF Aidan Tighe.
 New posts sanctioned in April CEF Evening Courses; Asst Mgr. Employer Engagement for development of employer Customer Relationship Management System (employers0 for the sector.
- **TEL** currently deploying devices to schools and centres. Whole range of supports now available and continuing investment in equipment and PD.
- QA MSLETB is national pilot with 3 other ETB's in the review of Quality Assurance within the sector. In 2020 MSLETB will lead in the integration, harmonisation and development of new QA Policies and Procedures in the Sector. New QA Governance has been established.
- Specialist Training provision currently a review is taking place on the effectiveness of current operations.
- Youth Services –

Youth work functions within Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim ETB (MSLETB) have continued throughout the coronavirus crisis. As well as individual work, collaborative work has continued through email, telephone, Skype / MS Teams and Zoom (with outside agencies). This includes, inter alia, the following activities:

- **ONGOING YOUTH WORK PROJECTS:** Administration of funding, review and processing of financial reports from projects. Liaising with projects in relation to funding payments. Processing of funding drawdowns, working with the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) and with projects themselves re same.
- **UBU YOUR PLACE YOUR SPACE FUNDING SCHEME**: This scheme represents a major reform programme of the DCYA and is being rolled out locally by MSLETB. Work has been intensive and ongoing with all projects throughout this period, with a series of deadlines that have, by and large, been met by projects with close support from MSLETB.

Director of Schools Report-April 2020

- There have been a number of Principals' online meetings since coronavirus school closures. This is proving to be a very effective method of engagement with the CE, Directors and School Principals. All Principals share what their schools are doing and also share the challenges they are facing.
- Currently schools are busy with ensuring continuity of teaching and learning for all students. MSLETB schools are extremely advanced in both ICT facilities/equipment and staff training and were able to engage with students remotely as soon as schools were closed on March 13th. All necessary devices were deployed to schools in order to ensure teaching and learning continued.
- DEIS Schools were also able to continue with the schools meals programme. Schools made alternative arrangements to ensure this service was maintained.
- Sincere sympathy to Colaiste Chomain in Rossport on the sudden death

 . May she Rest In Peace.
- Schools are working on their draft Admissions Policy which needs to be returned to MSLETB by April 30th. This is a statutory requirement following the Admissions ACT 2018. Consultations with BOM, staff and parents are required as part of this process.
- During the current school closures Department of Education inspectors are engaging with schools in a supportive role.
- Schools are currently waiting for further clarification from the Minister of Education and Skills in relation to the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Examinations.
- Department of Education and Science have issued resources and guidance for schools on many areas during Coronavirus school closures e.g.:
 - School Meals Programme
 - Supporting SEN students
 - ICT support
 - Teacher well-being and self-care