



Mount Carmel Secondary School
King's Inns Street, Dublin 1.

24th May 2024

Dear Staff, Parents and Students,

It is with some sadness that I write to you today, to announce my resignation as principal of Mount Carmel Secondary School.

I feel extremely fortunate to have worked in Mount Carmel Secondary School for 23 years as a teacher, Home School Community Liaison Coordinator and principal. I enjoyed every minute of my time here whether teaching students or visiting families as HSCL, but I particularly loved the 14 years I spent in the role of principal.

As some of you will know, in October 2020 I took up a seconded position with Tusla as the Programme Manager of the NEIC City Connects Pilot Project. I have really enjoying this role, working with 1,700 pupils from 10 primary schools in the NEIC, connecting them to services and opportunities, to enable them to succeed and thrive in school. Four years on, this pilot project has proved to be a success and the Department of Education is looking at expanding City Connects to more DEIS schools around the country. I am delighted to have been appointed as the National Implementation Lead Manager for City Connects where I will be managing this worthwhile initiative and possible expansion.

There are many things I am proud of as principal of Mount Carmel. Over 14 years I took great pleasure in seeing the student numbers in the school increase from approximately 250 students to just under 400. I was also fortunate to see the expansion of the school and the building of the five-classroom extension. This continues to fill me with pride every time I pass the school.

I also take great pride in having lead the school through two very positive Whole School Evaluations where the inspectors commented on the positive atmosphere in Mount Carmel, the wonderful teaching and learning that was taking place and where the school was described as a 'happy place'. To know that students were happy in Mount Carmel was amazing for me to hear and to have acknowledged by the inspectors.

I am extremely proud of the entire staff in Mount Carmel, past and present, for their dedication and commitment to the students. In this I include teachers, SNAs, librarians, secretarial staff, caretaking and cleaning staff as well as the canteen staff. I would also like to mention the members of the Middle Management Team who

were a great support to me and shared the responsibility of providing the best teaching and learning environment possible for our students .

I would like to pay particular tribute to the deputy principal, Fiona Cunningham, for her unwavering dedication to the school and the students, and for all the support she offered me during our time working together. I would also like to mention our retired secretary Jane Lynch who was a pleasure to work with and was always so organised and dedicated to the school. I will miss the entire staff for the amazing camaraderie and good humour. I will also miss the parents and families who are such an important part of the school community, and of course the wonderful students who inspired me every day.

I have enjoyed every moment of my time in Mount Carmel, however I feel now is the right time to move on. I have taken great pleasure in seeing the school continue to thrive over the last four years under Deirdre Fitzgerald's leadership and I wish the Board of Management and the entire school community, staff, parents and students, continued success into the future.

Best wishes to you all.

Yours sincerely,

Gerry Cullen