Dear Parents, staff members, B.O.M. members and friends of Castlehackett N.S.,

Following a very productive B.O.M. meeting last week with our project consultant (Mr Paddy Joe Newell has been appointed project consultant to ensure value for money and quality of all works completed ) the following decisions were taken re the development of our outdoor project. Many thanks also to a number of parents with engineering and construction experience who were instrumental in shaping the vision and rational for this exciting new plan.

The most recently circulated plan for the development of our grounds is the one we are going to go with (another copy of this plan is enclosed). There are many factors that influenced this decision and I’m happy to discuss these in person with anybody should they so wish. A coloured plan of this amazing proposal is now posted on the front door of the school. This will also be posted on our school website for you to share with family and friends. Due to the size and cost of the proposed development it has been decided to break it up into 4 specific phases:

**Phase 1**: A 4 metre wide walking/jogging track is to be completed over the Summer Holidays at a cost of c.€20,000. This is to be completed in tarmac and will act as the sub-layer finish for the more expensive soft coloured running track that will be laid on top of it in phase 4! Phase 4 is what will make our completed project unique and we are very eager to see out our development right through to this point. While grant aid has been applied for (no indication yet as to whether our application has been successful or not) funds are limited for now but we are confident that with everybody’s support we will see this whole project over the line. Rome wasn’t built in a day!

**Phase 2:** The astro turf facility will be phase 2. This will cost c.€40,000.

**Phase 3:** Upgrade and reorientation of our grass g.a.a. pitch. This will cost c.€10,000 and will include ball stops behind both goals.

**Phase 4:** The laying of a soft running track on top of the tarmac in phase 1. Depending on what finances are available to us and what option is decided upon this will cost a minimum of c.€30,000 (for the basic option). The most expensive option costs over €100,000!

We have no time lines for phases 2, 3 and 4 of the development at this stage as they are very much reliant on available funding. I can assure you that the B.O.M. is doing all in it’s power to secure funding through a number of different channels. As parents, staff and friends of the school I’d encourage you all to do all you can also. For now ensuring our Castlehackett 8k 2018 is the biggest and best one to date must be our immediate fundraising priority. Our 3 Castlehackett 8ks to date have secured c.€24,000 towards the project! Once again this year please sell as many pre-registrations as you can (pre registration forms are available to download on [www.castlehackett8k.com](http://www.castlehackett8k.com)) and please help to secure as much sponsorship as possible. Sponsorship request letters along with 3 pre-registration forms are some of the 8k materials enclosed in this envelope. There are also some more sponsorship letters and pre-registration forms printed off and left inside the front door of the school. The organising committee has already contacted all of last year’s sponsors –available to read also on [www.castlehackett8k.com](http://www.castlehackett8k.com). It’s all for the children at the end of the day and as we are a small school every fundraiser we have must be maximised to it’s full potential. We all want our outdoor project to be completed a.s.a.p.

Míle Buíochas, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Fergal Ó Neachtain, príomhoide