

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB

DEVELOPMENTS

ddletb 
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

NEWSLETTER EDITION 14 - May 2024



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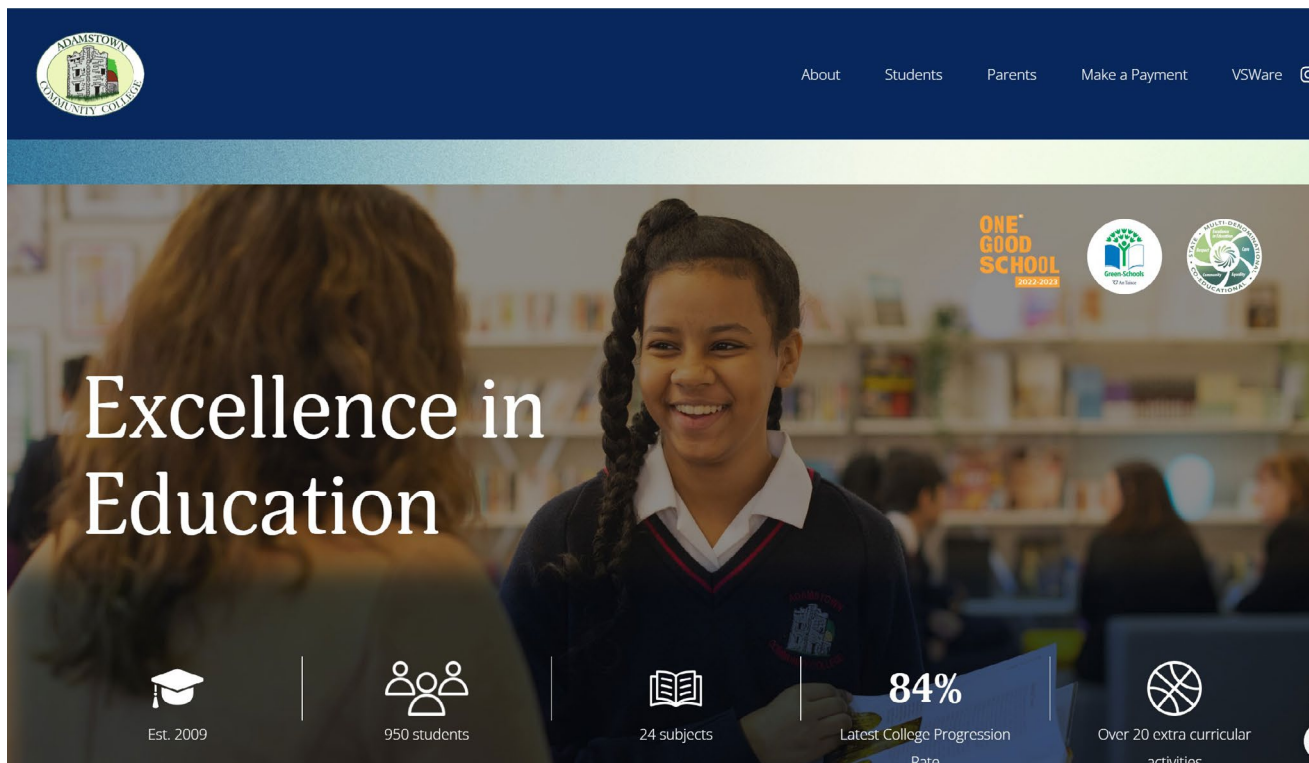
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Adamstown CC Launches New Website



On March 20, 2024, ACC unveiled its revamped website, a project led by the talented staff member Simon Walsh. This newly designed platform aims to strengthen the bond between the school and its community. The launch marked an important milestone for the school's online presence. <https://www.adamstowncc.ie>

The event was attended by all members of the community, including the Head Boy & Head Girl, Student Council, Principal Adrian Flynn, Deputy Principals, Teaching staff, Parents Council, BOM, DDLETB CE Caitriona Murphy, Director of School Mark McDonald, DDLETB staff and our beloved ACC mascot, Quattro* the Dog.

Opening the ceremony, Head Girl Blessing extended a warm welcome to all attendees. Principal Adrian Flynn reflected on the success of the original website, which served the school well for 14 years, and expressed his enthusiasm for the new PR and Communications strategy embodied in the redesigned site.

DDLETB CE Caitriona Murphy had the privilege of hosting the official virtual launch, thereby inaugurating www.adamstowncc.ie.

*Just in case you have not been properly introduced to our newest member of staff at Adamstown CC, please meet Quattro, our beautiful community companion. Quattro joined ACC this academic year and has quickly become a very popular and much-loved member of our community.



Ardgillan Student Council Cluster Event

Ardgillan College facilitated our annual Student Council cluster event on the 11th of April for neighbouring schools in Balbriggan and DDLETB schools from across Fingal.

This was an opportunity for student representatives from schools across Fingal to build connections with one another, discuss the challenges facing young people and to put questions towards elected representatives.

The day began with the Ardgillan Student Council greeting student representatives and giving them tour of Ardgillan as they arrived. Following on from this, a series of ice breaker and team building exercises were facilitated by Ardgillan students.

Students worked in groups during a range of activities, from constructing the tallest tower made from pasta and marshmallows to racing to make the tallest pyramid from cups. In groups, students then discussed the challenges facing young people and what they would like to see in Ireland by 2030. Students then worked together to formulate a series of questions to put to our panel of politicians later in the day. The topics ranged from housing policies, health concerns over vaping and education reform.

We were then delighted to welcome the Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Adrian Henchy, Deputy Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Gráinne Maguire and Senator Lorraine Clifford-Lee to Ardgillan College. It was a fantastic opportunity for students to raise issues directly facing them and issues of concern. Our Head Boy and Head Girl facilitated the asking of questions to the politicians, a true example of student voice in action.

Thank you to the Student Council and their link teachers for organising and facilitating this event.



Exploring Europe: Blackrock Further Education Institute's Erasmus+ Adventures

Here, in Blackrock Further Education Institute we understand that learning extends far beyond the classroom. We embrace this philosophy by offering dynamic Erasmus+ opportunities to both students and teaching staff.

Between February and April this year over 50 students embarked on transformative journeys funded through the Erasmus+ programme. BFEI's commitment to holistic learning was demonstrated as students ventured into workplaces across Europe and enjoyed exploring new cultural experiences to enrich their educational experience.



Teaching staff from BFEI participating in a wellbeing and stress management staff mobility with Tenerife Job Training

For makeup students, a unique opportunity awaited in the vibrant streets of Santa Cruz de Tenerife. Ten makeup students honed their skills in preparation for the Mardi Gras festivities in February, immersing themselves in the artistry and cultural vibrancy of the occasion.



Students from the Business and Community Health Services Department preparing for their first day at work in Malaga, Spain.

Also in February, the bustling city of Malaga, Spain, became a classroom for sixteen Business and Psychology students. Through various work placements, Business students explored local business practices while Psychology students delivered community services in schools and local community enterprises. In Braga, Portugal, fifteen IT and Design students found themselves in a variety of industry settings where they applied their knowledge and technical skills to real-world scenarios, bridging the gap between theory and practice.



A cohort of eleven Beauty Therapy students worked in the spas of luxury hotels and in nail bars on the south coast of Tenerife in April. During their placements, they integrated theory with practice, gaining valuable insights into the operations and management of the beauty industry while understanding how to serve a discerning clientele.

There is little doubt from participants' feedback that Erasmus+ mobility opportunities provide a great vehicle to support the rapid development of transversal skills including self-awareness, self-confidence, adaptability, creativity, communication and collaboration.

Erasmus+ opportunities weren't limited to students alone. Continuous professional development is a key priority in BFEI where emphasis is placed on professional growth and learning. Four Beauty Therapy teachers embarked on a job shadowing mobility in January to Toulouse, France, exchanging best practices and refining their teaching methodologies.

Additionally, twelve enthusiastic teachers undertook a CPD mobility in Braga, Portugal, focusing on multiculturalism in the classroom and strategies to support learners with additional needs. These experiences not only enriched their pedagogical approaches but also reaffirmed their commitment to lifelong learning and fostered a culture of collaboration and innovation within the Institute.

Finally, five lucky teachers embarked on a wellbeing and stress management staff mobility to Tenerife in March where they completed a range of workshops including a "body & brain" session, movement meditation and mindful walking, and a "wellness through visual expression" workshop.

The Erasmus+ mobilities at Blackrock Further Education Institute demonstrate the Institute's commitment to providing a truly immersive and transformative educational experience. Through travel and exploring new cultures, both students and staff emerge with newfound knowledge and with a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Comhghairdeas le Coláiste na Tulchann!

Fágfaimid slán ag deireadh na míosa leis an gcéad bhliainghrúpa riamh a thosaigh amach i gColáiste na Tulchann sé bliana ó shin. Mar thoradh ar obair mhór an choiste bhunaidh, le comhoibriú BOOACDL agus ceannródaíocht fhoireann LCC, thosaigh Aonad lán-Ghaeilge amach ar champas LCC i 2018.



Ag dul ó neart go neart cuirtear oideachas iarbhunscoile ar ardchaighdeán ar fáil trí Ghaeilge agus a luíonn le luachanna lasracha BOOACDL.

Fillfidh iar-phríomhoide LCC, Fionnuala Ní Chaisil, ar ócáid bhronnta an ghrúpa seo, áit a dtabharfaidh príomhoide reatha na scoile, Siobhán Moran, suntas don éacht seo a baineadh amach faoi stiúir Evelyn Ní Raghail, múinteoir i bhfeighil Choláiste na Tulchann i gcomhar leis an gcroífhoireann oidí.



Leanfaimid orainn ag soláthar timpeallacht foghlama trí Ghaeilge agus cuirfear fáilte Uí Cheallaigh roimh an ngrúpa a thiocfaidh isteach chugainn an fóimhar seo chugainn. Casann an roth - Coláiste na Tulchann abú!

We will say goodbye at the end of the month to the first ever year group that started out in Coláiste na Tulchann six years ago.

As a result of the extensive groundwork of the founding committee, with the co-operation of DDLETB and the leadership of Luttrellstown CC staff, Coláiste na Tulchann opened on the LCC campus in 2018. Post-primary education is provided to a high standard through Irish and in line with the DDLETB ethos and core values.

Former LCC principal Fionnuala Ní Chaisil will return to the graduation ceremony of this group, where the school's current Principal, Siobhán

Moran, will lead the celebration of this milestone with the students, their families, special guests from DDLETB, Stiúrthóir Evelyn Ní Raghail and the core team of teachers.

We will continue to provide a learning environment through Irish and we look forward to meeting and welcoming the incoming group of first years next autumn.

Onwards and upwards – Coláiste na Tulchann abú!

For more information, visit <https://www.colaistenatulchann.ie/>



Checkmate: Inter-School Chess Competition Draws Competitors to DDLETB Head Office

In a thrilling display of strategy and intellect, ten teams of five battled it out on a sunny Friday in April at the DDLETB Head Office, competing in the annual Inter-School Chess Competition. The event brought together some of the most skilled young chess players from across our Community Colleges, eager to test their mettle on the checkered battlefield.

The competition was fierce from the outset, with each team bringing their A-game to the table. Every move was calculated, every decision was weighed with precision as players sought to outmanoeuvre their rivals and claim victory. As the day wore on, cheers and groans filled the room as players celebrated hard-fought victories or lamented missed opportunities, and as the final rounds approached, the competition reached its climax, with teams vying for the top spots on the leader board.

In the end, as the last pieces were moved and the results tallied, there was a sense of achievement in the room. While only one team could emerge victorious, every participant left with a newfound appreciation for the game and the bonds forged through competition.



This was the first year of our DDLETB Inter-School Chess Competition, and we were thrilled with the level of interest and participation. Thank you to Ronan Ward, Teacher at Griffeen Community College for coordinating the tournament and without whom the competition would not have been possible.

We have no doubt that the Inter-Schools Chess Competition will be a highlight of the academic calendar for years to come and will be a great opportunity for showcasing the strategic prowess and intellectual prowess of Team DDLETB's young chess enthusiasts.

Congratulations to the winning teams from Colàiste Pobail Setanta and Griffeen Community College and well done to all the teams who participated.

Here's to many more battles on the board!



Showdown of Minds: Inter-School Debating Competition Finals

In a celebration of eloquence, wit, and intellectual prowess, the much-anticipated finals of the Inter-School Debating Competition were recently held at the DDLETB Head Office.

The event saw a gathering of talented, confident, and capable participants from Donabate CC, CP Fola at senior level and Ardgillan CC and Skerries CC schools at junior level, all ready to battle it out for the coveted winning spot.

The atmosphere was charged with anticipation and excitement as students, teachers, and supporters filled the venue.

Junior Motion:

“This House supports mandatory voting in Ireland.”

Senior Motion:

“This House would ban fee paying schools in Ireland.”



The competition was fierce, with debaters engaged in thought-provoking discourse on their given topic, showcasing their ability to articulate compelling arguments and rebuttals. The audience was treated to a display of critical thinking and persuasive communication skills, as the debater's captivated attention with their impassioned speeches.

At the junior level, young minds demonstrated remarkable maturity and insight, impressing judges and spectators alike with their ability to articulate their thoughts with clarity and conviction. Meanwhile, at the senior level, seasoned debaters engaged in spirited exchanges, demonstrating a depth of knowledge.

As the competition drew to a close, it was evident that every participant had given their all, leaving nothing on the table. Each debate had been a testament to the hard work, dedication, and talent of all involved.

In the end, while there could only be one winner in each category, every participant emerged as a victor. Congratulations to the winning teams from Ardgillan CC (Senior Level) and Coláiste Poibal Fóla (Junior Level).

A special commendation is due to Hannah O'Connor, teacher at Ardgillan Community College, for her outstanding coordination of the tournament this year. Her dedication ensured the smooth running of the competition, allowing students to showcase their talents on a platform that celebrates excellence in education.



Congratulations to all involved, and here's to many more spirited debates in the years to come. We look forward to next year's competition. Keep an eye out for further details and registration in September.



Buzzing - Rooftop Garden for Urban Sustainability

A Project by DCFE and Dundrum Town Centre

Celebrating the Launch of Dundrum's new "Rooftop Bee Garden"

Dundrum had an important day as Dundrum Town Centre, together with Dundrum College of Further Education and DDLETB, revealed an innovative collaborative project that changes urban space into a green oasis for pollinating bees. This collaboration aims to improve the biodiversity of our urban environment and strengthen our community involvement around the theme of sustainability.

A group of enthusiastic students and DCFE teachers met with the Centre staff on the rooftop of Dundrum Town Centre on a mildly cloudy morning in May to celebrate the result of months of planning and effort. The new rooftop garden, with local plants and native flowers, is made to sustain six successful bee hives, making an essential habitat for pollinators in the centre of Dundrum. The launch was also joined by Don Nugent (Director of Dundrum Town Centre) and Siobhan Lynch (DDLETB Director of FET) who expressed a common vision that prioritises environmental awareness in the community.



A big thank you to Monica Alvarez and the horticulture students for their commitment and skills essential for advancing this project. Thanks also to Brian Burke and his ecology students for their participation.

Monica, Gerry Cahalin (Town Centre buildings manager) and Asheena Wilde (project beekeeper) helped our students to create this pollinating haven. They worked together to make sure that the garden was both beautiful and ecological.



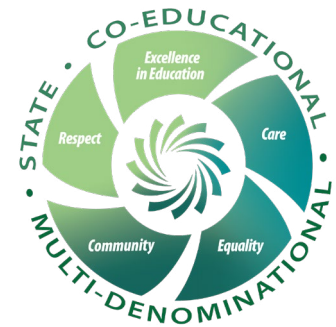
The rooftop garden is not only a space for bees; it is also an interactive learning resource. **Through a live-streamed feed (click here)**, available on the shopping centre's ground floor, this project shows the world of pollinators, teaching visitors and creating a stronger bond with our natural environment. This creative method lets everyone see the beauty and significance of biodiversity close up.



This launch is a successful example of how different sectors can work together to achieve a shared goal. When educational institutions, businesses, and the community collaborate, they can create projects that have a positive impact beyond their immediate scope. This garden not only supports local wildlife and offers vital resources for pollinators but also shows how urban areas can develop in an environmentally friendly way. Dundrum Town Centre and Dundrum College of Further Education, with the help of DDLETB, have established an outstanding example of caring for the environment and working together as a community. We hope that this garden will be an encouragement for other communities across the country to follow.



Congratulations to the Winners of the Spirit of DDLETB Award



DDLETB proudly commends the winners of the prestigious Spirit of DDLETB Award. This award recognizes students who embody the core values of excellence in education, respect, community, care, and equality.

Each DDLETB school was invited to nominate one exceptional student who exemplifies these values in their daily lives.

These outstanding individuals have demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence, a deep respect for others, active involvement in their communities, compassion, and a dedication to promoting equality and inclusion.

“We are immensely proud of these students and the positive impact

they have on their schools and communities,” said Marise Carr, Ethos Coordinator in DDLETB. *“Their dedication to our core values is truly inspiring, and they serve as role models for their peers.”*

The Spirit of DDLETB Award not only celebrates the achievements of these exceptional students but also highlights the importance of fostering a culture of excellence, respect, and inclusivity within our schools.

And the winners are ...

Celebrate Our Ethos 2023-2024

Winner - Grange Community College
Core Values Poster by Grace and Maria

Runner Up

Deansrath Community College with the ‘Deansrath Carol’ – movie based on ethos and core values

Spirit of DDLETB Award 2023-2024

- Tracey Ijezie - Collinstown Park Community College
- Abbie Ní Chathail - Coláiste de Híde
- Julia DELL’AGLIO - St Finian’s Community College
- Abbie Hamill - Deansrath Community College
- Emily Ní Thoráin - Coláiste Cois Life
- Bobby Byrne - Grange Community College
- Amber Keenan - St Mac Dara’s Community College

- Daniel Manasayev - Fingal Community College
- Alison Kearney - Castleknock Community College
- Charles Anigala - Luttrellstown Community College
- Natas Rybaciauskas - Eriú Community College
- Weronika Zielinska - Griffeen Community College
- Mihaela Mosneagu - Swords Community College
- Abbi O’Connor - Ardgillan Community College
- Ashraf Siddiqui - CP Setanta
- Vlad Grosu - Lucan Community College
- Ellie Carr - Skerries Community College
- Josh Riddell - Kingswood Community College

Let's Talk Ethos!

DDLETB Participates in National Symposium "Let's Talk Ethos"



Marise Carr and Caroline Daly, Ethos Coordinators from DDLETB, recently attended the prestigious national symposium "Let's Talk Ethos," held in Athlone. The symposium provided a platform for reflection and dialogue on the core values shaping educational environments across Ireland.

Joined by fellow DDLETB ethos leads and school leaders, Marise and Caroline engaged in discussions surrounding the fundamental values of excellence in education, care, equality, community, and respect. The symposium highlighted the findings of research conducted by the Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI), which underscored the commendable presence of these core values in action across the ETB sector.

Of particular note was the acknowledgment that while significant progress has been made in upholding these values, the research identified the core value of equality as presenting unique challenges in implementation.

This recognition serves as a call to action for continued dedication and innovation in fostering inclusive and equitable learning environments within our schools.

The symposium also provided a platform for representatives from DDLETB to showcase their commitment to ethos-driven education. Notably, Cillian Walsh from Ardgillan Community College and Maeve Kavanagh from Scoil Chormaic Community National School (CNS) admirably represented DDLETB during a panel discussion, contributing valuable insights and perspectives.

Marise and Caroline extend their heartfelt congratulations to Cillian Walsh, Maeve Kavanagh, and all DDLETB attendees for their active participation and meaningful contributions to the symposium.

Their dedication to promoting ethos-driven education reflects the unwavering commitment of DDLETB, and its ethos leads in nurturing inclusive and values-driven learning environments across our Community National Schools and Community Colleges.

Teen-turn success at Kingswood CC

Kingswood Community College has a proud association with Teen-turn and Technovation since 2018.

Teen-Turn aims to provide teen girls, many in underrepresented areas, the opportunity to gain hands-on STEM experience so that they can visualise themselves in those kinds of careers and therefore make third level course choices accordingly.

Through after school activities, work placements, mentoring, and career development programming, teen-turn provides invaluable support to many Kingswood Community College students from first year through to Leaving Certificate and beyond.

This year, Teen-Turn saw the potential in third year student Eileen Chen. With their encouragement, she entered a national Technovation competition and won the following prizes at the Nationwide Technovation event on May 5th.

Technovation is a free technology-based program for girls ages 8 - 18, where entrants find a problem in their community and build a mobile app or AI project to help solve it. Along the way, they develop their collaboration, problem-solving, and leadership skills.



Eileen won the following two awards:

Communicator Award **– Fitbit Sense 2**

Eileen Chen - Third Year
Kingswood Community College Dublin
Heart to Heart Connect

Science Selfie Award **– Beats Solo3s**

Eileen Chen - Kingswood Community College Dublin

Pictures attached show Eileen Chen (Third Year student) and past pupil of KCC Amy Carruth (teen turn student ambassador)

For more information on the Teen-turn programme visit <https://teen-turn.com/>

Kingswood Community College make history

First Dublin school to win Girls Leinster Minor Cup and become All-Ireland finalists

Kingswood Community College made history on 18th April when their U15 Girls Soccer Team defeated Our Lady's College Drogheda on a score line of 2-0 in the Leinster Minor Cup. Ella Byrne scoring both goals.

The match took place in Stella Marris FC in front of supporters from both schools. Former FAI President Donal Conway was on hand to present the trophy and medals to Kingswood Community College Captain Abigail Quinn and praised the players of both teams for their wonderful displays.

He acknowledged that the future of Girls' Soccer is in a good place and thanked the work of the teachers involved with both teams.

Since the beginning of the FAI Schools Girls Leinster Minor Cup in 2016, only two teams in Leinster have won the trophy, these being Presentation Secondary School, Kilkenny and Loreto Secondary School, Kilkenny. Kingswood Community College Students, although playing with different club teams, are an example of how success can be achieved and history can be made when a school and community work together.

The team went on to reach the All-Ireland final but were defeated by Presentation College Athenry.



Kingswood Community College U15 Minor Cup Leinster Champions



Kingswood Community College U15 Minor Cup Leinster Champions with coaches Mary Flora Scott, Chloe Crean and Stephen Lawless

DDLETB Positively Supporting Government Apprenticeship Action Plan to increase Apprenticeship Participation

On Tuesday 23rd April, 2024, the Apprenticeship Services Team at Loughlinstown Training Centre hosted an “Apprenticeship Open Evening”. This event was months in planning and as part of the planning process we considered the key objectives of the Government Apprenticeship Action Plan, which is a five-year strategy to deliver on the Programme for Government commitment to reach 10,000 new Apprenticeship registrations by 2025.

The plan sets out several key objectives to increase participation in Apprenticeship. For the purposes of our event, we focused on the following relevant and key objectives:

Objective 3

Apprenticeship for All - The profile of the apprenticeship population will more closely reflect the profile of the general population.

Objective 4

A Valued Option - Apprenticeships will be available and recognised as a work based learning opportunity, providing sought after qualifications across the tertiary education and training sector.

In keeping with these objectives, it was agreed that the target audience for this event would be 4th to 6th year Students and their Parents/ Guardians. One of the key messages we wanted to get out to Students and Parents/ Guardians is that Apprenticeship is a real pathway for all. An opportunity to “Earn and Learn,” and to achieve a valuable qualification.

The Apprenticeship Services Team aimed to ensure that Students and Parents/ Guardians were made aware of the vast range of Apprenticeships available ranging from, Electrical, Carpentry, Insurance, Sales, Accountancy, Cyber Security and Software Development. In fact, over 80 Apprenticeships are now available with more in development.

Over three thousand flyers advertising the event were posted to Guidance Counsellors in over 35 schools in our catchment area. We also partnered with the Department of Social Protection who wrote out to over 700 Jobseekers in the 18–25-year-old category to invite them to our Open evening.



We wanted as many exhibitors as possible in attendance to promote as many Apprenticeships as possible.

The list of exhibitors included the Apprenticeship Services Team of Training Advisors who were there to advise on and explain the wide range of Apprenticeships available. The Loughlinstown Phase 2 Electrical Team had a stand promoting Electrical Apprenticeships and had displays exhibiting domestic control panels and various exhibits on how electricity works.

In addition, the Consortia who now deliver New Apprenticeships attended to promote their own unique offerings, for example:

- Aboriculture Apprenticeship
- Advanced Healthcare Assistant Practitioner Apprenticeship
- Bar Manager Apprenticeship
- Civil Engineering Apprenticeship
- Craft Butchery Apprenticeship
- Freight Transport Association of Ireland Apprenticeship
- Hairdressing Apprenticeship
- Land Based Apprenticeships
- National Commis Chef Apprenticeship
- OEM Apprenticeship

A number of employers currently recruiting Apprentices also attended, e.g Frank Keane Motors, Spirit Motors, Renewables Ireland, Roadstone, Shelbourne Engineering and Viatch Security Systems.

At 6pm that evening, the cars started to fill the car park, and before long the Training Centre was thronged with what we estimate was between 350-400 people.

The number of Students from our target audience, in attendance with their Parents/ Guardians was overwhelming. The Apprenticeship Services Team were energised, and the atmosphere throughout the evening was fantastic.

“For me it was definitely the number of parents/ guardians attending with their children, not looking as apprenticeship as a second option but as the preferred route”, Nadine Vernor, Senior Training Advisor.

In addition to all of the stands in the Centre, we held three rolling presentations outlining all things Apprenticeship.

“I never knew that there were so many Apprenticeships available for my son and daughter and they don’t cost anything”, Parent of 6th year student

“My son wants to become an Electrician as college is not an option for him, now he knows exactly what to do, thank you so much”, Guardian of 4th year transition student

Our Apprenticeship Open Evening was a resounding success, and we look forward to doing it all again in September 2024.

“The buzz and atmosphere at the Apprenticeship Open evening for the two hours was phenomenal and Students engaging with employers, gaining greater insight and focus on their career goal and increased confidence levels in dealing with employers. What also stood out was the number of students and parents/ guardians that returned to the Apprenticeship Stand before leaving the Training Centre to thank us for an informative and successful evening” Fiona Burke, Senior Training Advisor

For more information on Apprenticeship, please contact cathyenglish@ddletb.ie.



Empowering Tomorrow's Legal Minds: Lucan Community College Law Society

Six Lucan CC TY Law students made it to the final of The Law Society of Ireland essay competition 2024.

The Grainne O'Neill essay prize is held every year in honour of Judge Grainne O'Neill who was the youngest judge ever appointed and who unfortunately passed away.

The competition, which is run by the Law Society and Grainne's family encourages Transition Year students to engage in legal thinking and write an essay based on a different title each year. This year's title related to The Role of the Law in Climate Change. 30 students were selected to attend the final from all over the country, with 6 being from Lucan Community College.

We are very proud of them and all of their hard work and achievements.

Well done!



Lusk CC Show Racism the Red Card!

On Thursday, March 21st Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien, along with the Immigrant Council of Ireland, joined us in Lusk Community College to "Show Racism the Red Card"!



The day kicked off with a panel Q&A, moderated by our student leadership team, where Minister O'Brien, Brian Killoran, and Valeria Aquino from the ICI took centre stage. Students posed sharp and incisive questions about racism in Irish society, initiating thoughtful discussions on promoting inclusivity within our school community. Following this, our 1st and 2nd-year students participated in an anti-racism workshop delving into discussions about racism and a football training session led by coaches from Shelbourne FC. In addition, we organized a "Wear Red" non-uniform day, and a fifth-year student council representative gathered recipes from various cultures within our school community to compile our Lusk CC Multicultural Recipe Book, celebrating the diverse nationalities and cultures in our school community.



Show Racism the Red Card Day coincides with the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. In these discussions with our school community, Minister Joe O'Brien emphasised Ireland's rich tradition of diversity and understanding, stressing the importance of ongoing efforts to promote equality and fostering discussions on unity and acceptance.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to Minister Joe O'Brien, the Immigrant Council of Ireland, and Shelbourne FC for their invaluable participation and support on this momentous day. #Teamddletb

BBC'S Wildlife Kate shows Mount Seskin students 'who's whooooo' in the world of owls

Art teacher, Claire Timmons, has ignited an interest and enthusiasm for wildlife by tuning into the live nesting action of tawny owls in Worcestershire U.K since March. The live feed has sparked a real interest in students who have been inspired to produce some great artwork of the three owlets, Bayer, Bailly and Bliss, all named after craters on the moon.

Claire Timmons contacted Kate Macrae, the wildlife enthusiast who has been filming the parents of these owlets, Strix and Aluca, over the last five years. Ms MacRae, who has appeared on BBC's Spring Watch and 6 O'Clock News, has been thrilled by the response of these Irish students. Kate and Claire have planned a Zoom call with students and Kate wants to feature their artwork on her X page.

Claire Timmons said: "Our students are having a hoot of a time seeing the owlets hatch, grow and fledge. Bayer, Bailly and Bliss have inspired some lovely drawings. I was thrilled when Kate MacRae responded to my email. Watching these owlets has been really interesting and ignited a passion for nature among our urban students. We are really looking forward to talking to Kate in person. "

The students of Mount Seskin are already looking forward to next Spring's episodes of Nestenders as they continue to explore the world of these nocturnal predators.



Year in Review: Professional Development in SPHE and RSE

As the academic year draws to a close, we reflect on the comprehensive professional development initiatives undertaken to support teachers in delivering Social Personal Health Education (SPHE) and Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE). Our commitment to fostering a robust educational environment has been evident through a series of targeted workshops, expert-led sessions, and collaborative engagements, all designed to enhance the teaching of these vital subjects.

Professional Learning Day: November Highlights

In November, we hosted a significant Professional Learning Day dedicated to the topics of Self Esteem, Online Safety and RSE. This event brought together educators from various schools to share best practices and insights. Teachers contributed valuable strategies that have proven effective in their classrooms, creating a rich tapestry of shared knowledge and experience. The collaborative spirit of the day underscored the importance of community and peer learning in professional development.



January Session: Teaching Sensitive Topics

Our January session focused on the complexities of teaching sensitive topics within the RSE curriculum. Angela Milliken from Chameleon PDE led this session, providing invaluable resources and practical advice for educators. Her expertise helped demystify the challenges associated with these topics, equipping teachers with the tools necessary to approach them with confidence and sensitivity. The resources shared during this session have since become integral parts of our teaching strategies, enhancing our ability to address these crucial subjects effectively.



Engaging with Experts: NUIG's Consent Ed Program

We were privileged to engage with Dr. Siobhan O Higgins from the National University of Ireland, Galway (NUIG), who delivered an enlightening workshop on their Consent Ed program tailored for post-primary schools. Dr. O Higgins' session was a cornerstone of our professional development calendar, offering deep insights into the nuances of teaching consent and fostering a culture of respect and understanding among students. The impact of this workshop was further amplified later in the year through the production of a play, hosted by Skerries Community College and Firhouse Community College, which brought the themes of consent and respectful relationships to life in a powerful and engaging manner.



A Year of Collaboration and Growth

The success of these professional development initiatives would not have been possible without the unwavering support and active participation of our schools and teachers. Your dedication to continuous improvement and your commitment to providing the best possible education for our students is truly commendable. As we look ahead, we remain dedicated to supporting our educators with ongoing professional development opportunities, ensuring that we continue to provide high-quality SPHE and RSE education in our schools. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of our students, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need to navigate their personal and social lives with confidence and respect.

Thank you to all the schools and teachers who have participated and contributed to these efforts throughout the year. Your hard work and enthusiasm are the driving forces behind our collective success.

For further information contact suzannegraham@ddletb.ie, DDLETB
Development Officer

Professional Development in Child Protection and Safeguarding: A Year in Review

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud to share DDLETBs ongoing commitment to the area of Child Protection and Safeguarding. Our dedication to creating a safe and nurturing environment for all children under our care has been steadfast, and the professional development initiatives we have implemented are a testament to this dedication. Below is an overview of the key training and support provided throughout the year.

Training for Newly Appointed DLPs and DDLPs

In early September, we conducted comprehensive training sessions for newly appointed Designated Liaison Persons (DLPs) and Deputy Designated Liaison Persons (DDLPs). These sessions were designed to equip our new appointees with the knowledge and skills necessary to fulfil their crucial roles effectively. The training covered the latest guidelines, reporting procedures, and best practices in child protection, ensuring that our DLPs and DDLPs are well-prepared to respond to any safeguarding concerns.

Refresher Training for Established DLPs

Throughout the year, we provided regular refresher training for our established DLPs. These sessions served to update and reinforce their knowledge, keeping them informed of any changes in legislation, policy updates, and emerging issues in child protection. Continuous professional development is essential for maintaining high standards in safeguarding practices, and we are committed to supporting our DLPs in this ongoing process.

Reviewing School Child Safeguarding Statements (CSS)

DDLETB offers ongoing support in reviewing and enhancing schools' Child Safeguarding Statements. This process involved an examination of each CSS to ensure compliance with current regulations and the inclusion of robust safeguarding measures.

Advisory Support to School Leaders

In addition to training, we provided personalised advisory support to school leaders on various aspects of child protection. This included guidance on implementing safeguarding policies, handling specific incidents, and creating a culture of vigilance and care within their schools. Our goal is to empower school leaders with the confidence and expertise needed to safeguard the children in

their care and ensure the full implementation of the Child Protection Procedures for Schools.

Training for Boards of Management

Recognising the critical role that Boards of Management play in overseeing school operations, we delivered specialised training sessions tailored to their responsibilities in child protection. These sessions ensured that board members are well versed in their safeguarding obligations, enabling them to provide informed oversight and support to school staff.

Bespoke Training for Schools, Youthreach, and Training Center Staff

We also developed and delivered bespoke training programs tailored to the unique needs of individual schools, Youthreach programs, and our Training Center staff. These customised sessions addressed specific challenges and scenarios relevant to each setting, providing practical strategies and tools for safeguarding children.

Gratitude and Commitment to Child Protection and Safeguarding

The importance of safeguarding children in our care cannot be overstated. It is a collective responsibility that requires vigilance, commitment, and ongoing education. By continuing to invest in professional development and fostering a culture of safety, we are ensuring that every child can learn and grow in a secure and supportive environment.

We would like to extend our thanks to everyone who has participated in and supported these professional development initiatives. Your dedication to safeguarding children is invaluable, and together, we have strengthened our community's capacity to protect its most vulnerable members.

For further information contact suzannegraham@ddletb.ie, DDLETB Development Officer

'...the sheer normality, routine and safety of school may be powerfully therapeutic for a vulnerable child.'

*'School can be a refuge from neglectful or abusive home environments.....the alertness of a school can protect a child from bullying and mistreatment...
Teachers can act as listeners, confidants and role models for children.....'*

Gilligan, R., Child & Family Social Work,1998

Hearing Students' Voices – Loud and Clear.

DDLETB Launches innovative Student Voice and Participation Workshops

DDLETB proudly announces the successful pilot of six transformative student voice and participation workshops, aimed at empowering students across its community colleges. Spearheaded by Marise Carr, Development Officer in DDLETB, the initiative witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 29 schools, with nearly 300 students benefitting from comprehensive training in communication skills.

Kindly hosted by Skerries Community College, Swords Community College, Collinstown Park Community College, Firhouse Community College, Luttrellstown Community College, and Coláiste de Híde, these workshops received a resoundingly positive response from school leaders, teachers, and students.

“The engagement and enthusiasm displayed by both students and student voice coordinators throughout these workshops, exemplify the power of collaboration in nurturing empowered and articulate young leaders in our schools,” remarked Marise Carr, Development Officer.

The workshops, characterised by their interactive and student-centric approach, provided participants with a platform to hone their communication skills, foster meaningful dialogue, and cultivate essential interpersonal competencies.

“We are thrilled with the overwhelming response to these workshops,” remarked Marise Carr. *“By prioritizing student voice and participation, DDLETB remains committed to fostering inclusive and student-centered educational environments where every voice is valued.”*

The success of the student voice and participation pilot workshops underscores DDLETB's dedication to empowering students to actively contribute to their learning communities and beyond.



Swords AES - Ireland's First Age Friendly Education Service



Making the adult literacy service accessible and welcoming to older people is a very important part of our work. We are always asking ourselves how we can encourage older people, who may often have had a negative experience of schooling, to return to education.

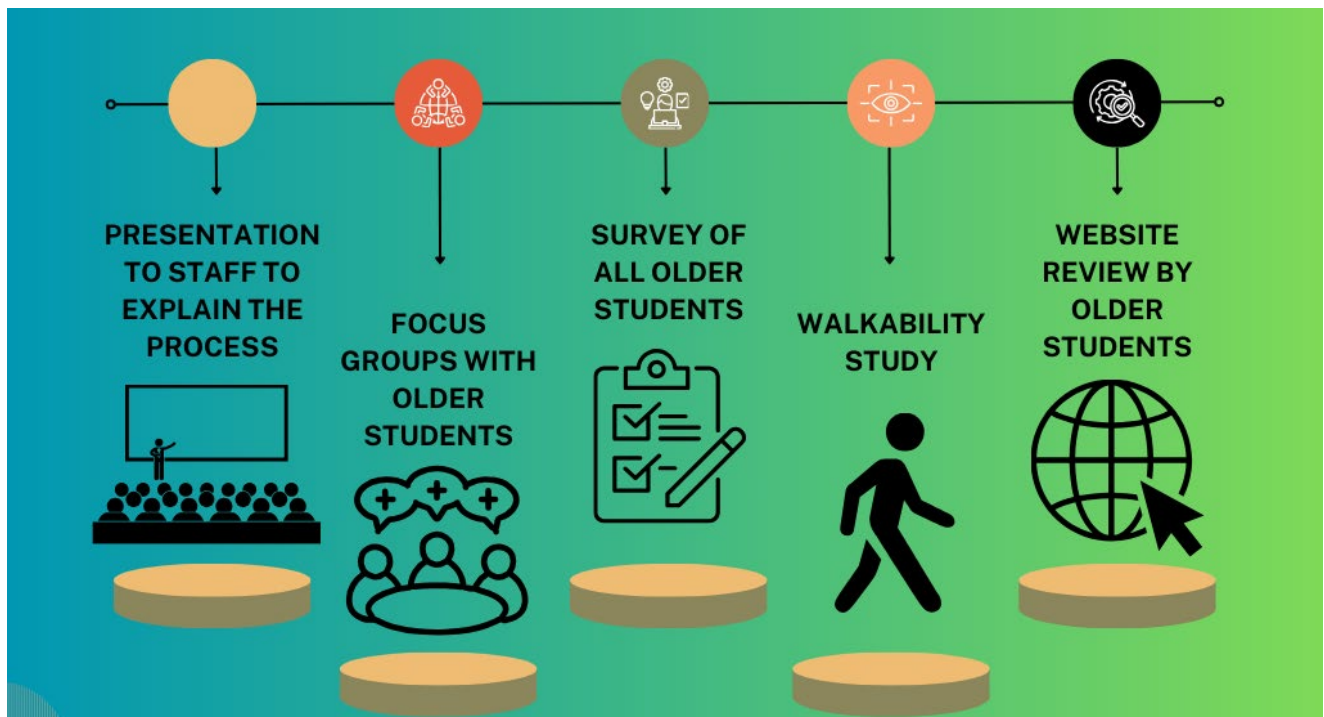
How can we make our centres more welcoming to older learners?

Through the Fingal Age Friendly Alliance, we learned about the Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme. This supports businesses wishing to make older people more welcome. It is very well-regarded in the business sector in Ireland, with companies such as Bank of Ireland, Vodafone, FBD having taken part.

Customers are surveyed, and their feedback is used to make three low-cost or no-cost changes which will make your premises more accessible to older people. Even though this scheme is designed for businesses, we felt it would be a great fit for us in Swords AES. Our then Adult Education Officer (AEO), Siobhan Lynch (current DDLETB Director of FET), saw the potential and was incredibly supportive right from the start. So, the process kicked off.
...and then Covid came.

When we emerged from lockdown, it became even more clear that older people were not returning to crowded settings in their expected numbers. Strategies to include older people were even more relevant than ever and our new AEO, Joanne Russell, was similarly committed to the idea and so, we began again.

What was involved?



What did we learn?

Our older students are overwhelmingly happy with our centres. For example, how bright and airy they are, that we have lifts and that the acoustics in our classrooms are very good. They complimented the teaching and reception staff for their kindness and helpfulness. They like the informality in our classrooms. They like learning at their own pace and how they are not put on the spot or humiliated when they make mistakes. They enjoy the variety of teaching methods and especially group and peer work in their classes.



What did we change?

We have currently made twelve changes out of a total of 22 that fell within the scope of the Age Friendly scheme, and the remainder are in progress. The three low-cost or no-cost changes we submitted were

- Improved reception signage.
- Improved sensor lighting in our stairs and corridors.
- New seating in our reception area.



What did we gain?

First and foremost, our understanding of the needs of older learners has taken a giant leap forward. Secondly, we have gained a useful promotional tool when we go out to promote our service. We put older learners at ease when we explain what we have done to support them better. Finally, we've gained a tremendous sense that our older learners are happy and feel they are being treated with respect. We now know that what we are doing works and that our older learners are our most enthusiastic ambassadors. Having taken the step into education and found it rewarding, they want all their friends and family to have the same positive experience.

The programme has been an incredibly valuable process to engage in and I am pleased and proud to say the Adult Education Service in Swords is Ireland's first Age Friendly education service. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this programme. It was wonderful to see how committed everyone was to ensure the voice of older learners was heard.

Most of all, thanks to everyone in Swords AES who works so hard to give our older learners a rich and rewarding experience in their journey to lifelong learning.

Castleknock Community College are All Ireland Irish Debating Champions

Castleknock Community College were crowned All Ireland Champions in the Gael Linn National Debating Championships on 20th March. The Castleknock Debators saw off stiff competition from St Anne's Secondary School, Tipperary, Scoil Mhuire Trim and Rosemont Secondary School before being presented with the Gael Linn Perputal Cup.



The team are pictured here along with Irish teacher and mentor Sarah Bartley and college principal John Cronin.



The Castleknock Community College Debating Team



Castleknock Community College's Dublin Maths Champions.

International Competition for Young Debators

Two Third Year Students students from Castleknock Community College had the opportunity to compete at the famed Oxford Union in the International Competition for Young Debators which was held at Oxford University in April. Their journey to Oxford was marked by outstanding performances in this years Irish National Junior Mace Debating Competitions. All at Castleknock CC were proud of our young debators who represented their College, DDLETB and Ireland with such skill at the Oxford Union.

More News From Castleknock CC

All Ireland Olympic Handball Champions

Castleknock Community College P.E teacher Andrius Gerve introduced Olympic Handball to the College this year. The College's first Olympic Handball Team, went from strength to strength this year, culminating in victory in the All Ireland Olympic Handball Finals.

Irish Maths Teachers Association Pi Quiz

Mathletes from Castleknock Community College beat stiff competition from opposing schools to be placed first at the Irish Maths Teachers Association Pi Quiz in March. The students went on to represent their College in the National Finals in April.

Lá Mór na nGaelcholáistí i gColáiste Cois Life

Coláiste Cois Life hosted their neighbouring Gaelcholáistí from DDLETB and other schools for Lá Mór na nGaelcholáistí during Seachtain na Gaeilge.

Over a hundred fifth year students from Coláiste de hÍde, Coláiste Chilllain, Coláiste na Tulchann, Gaelcholáiste Reachrann and Coláiste Pobail Ráth Chairn (Co na Mí) came together for a day of caint & comhrá, cluichí agus rince!

The highlight of the event was the Céilí with music provided by the well known traditional band Polcá 4. Students chatted, danced, laughed enjoyed the day especially the ice cream van.

A reporter from Raidió na Life was also in attendance to report on the students' day.

Bhí lá den chéad scoth ag chuile dhuine agus rinneadh ceiliúradh ceart ar theanga agus cultúr na hÉireann. Ár mbuíochas leis na scoláirí agus na múinteoirí ó na scoileanna eile a tháinig chugainn agus a ghlac páirt san ócáid. Buíochas freisin le COGG agus le Gaelbhratach a thug tacaíocht don ócáid.





Unveiling the Majestic Mural Mosaic: Donabate Community College's Tree of Life

In the heart of Donabate, Ireland, an extraordinary masterpiece adorns the exterior of Donabate Community College, captivating passers-by with its intricate beauty and profound symbolism.

This remarkable creation, known as the Ireland Connects Mural Mosaic is represented with a Tree of Life. This stands not only as a stunning piece of art but also as a testament to the unity and creativity within the local community.

The unveiling was revealed by Donabate Community College Wellbeing Committee students, led by the school Principal Mr. John Doyle. Donabate Community College have been working alongside Eggheadz Youth Mental Health organisation to get this project up and running. This was such a wonderful morning filled with so much hope, positivity, and laughter.

None of this would have been possible without the extremely talented artist Lewis, along with Paul and the team Global Roots Project who worked tirelessly on producing a piece of art from everybody's tile submission. We hope this beautiful mosaic lifts people's hearts and encourages young people to engage in art and creativity for therapeutic benefit.

This beautiful mosaic has certainly lifted people's hearts and encourages young people to engage in art and creativity for therapeutic benefit. A special word of thanks to Fingal Community Department for funding the Mural.

Check and Connect Programme – Become part of the community!

In Ériu Community College, we initiated a Check and Connect Programme this year that now runs before school for 20 minutes.

Initially the programme was designed to assist students in the transition period from primary into secondary school. For some students this can be a difficult time.

It began on a Wednesday afternoon for one hour to help 1st Year students to work on their timetables, to get familiar with the new subjects, their lockers and I-Pads. We help with organisational skills, navigating the classrooms and making friends. For some of our students these tasks may be daunting.



This was such a huge success that the AEN Team decided to expand the idea further and started the programme at 8.30am to 8.50am every morning. The Special Needs Assistants, Susan and Caroline mainly have developed the programme and work with children who visit them each morning. Initially we targeted students we wanted to be part of the programme. Now it is open to anyone to drop in.

We chat about the day ahead, catch up with homework, make sure iPads are fully charged and help students relax before the start of the day.

We took the idea a step further after midterm and introduced themed days such as Treats Thursday, Fruity Friday, as you can imagine these are the favourite mornings! Now there is a theme for each day - Mates on Monday, Chill on Tuesday, Wacky Wednesday (Board games), Treat Thursday and Fruity Friday!



“Check and Connect is a great opportunity to get to know the students on a more casual basis. It’s a fun way to socialise before the day begins.”

Susan Murtagh

As a treat to the staff, the students and SNAs ran a coffee morning. Here the students greeted the teachers and invited them to take a table and served tea/coffee and some homemade pastries and scones and jam. These events are a good way for students to socialise with the teachers in a casual setting. It was a delight to see students who would otherwise be shy conversing with the staff.

“My favourite part about the Check and Connect is meeting new people and helping out,” stated Niamh, 3rd Year.

Ríona, 2nd Year smiling says **“Having a small community to go and chat and hang around with in the mornings and having fun playing games and getting to know other people around the school.”**

Thinking about the space we use is important for setting the atmosphere of the place. The room is laid out in such a way as to help with students sitting together to chat with nice music playing in the background.

There is a huge response from the students who find the space a safe place to be each morning and because of the treats, fruit and friendship they go back each day for more.

Recently the students invited staff to a coffee morning session to let staff know what was happening in the Programme.

The aim of the programme at the beginning was to help students integrate more into the college and feel part of it. Now we are seeing that the programme also facilitates time for social and organisational skills to develop in each student and in turn supports a positive mental attitude to school, work and relationships with each other’s.

The benefits of the programme can visibly be seen in the growth in students’ confidence.

We are currently working on lots of new ideas for our incoming 1st years this Sept. We think every school should run a similar programme if not already doing it.



“Summer Nights to Remember: Fingal CC brings Rydell High to Life!”



After a hiatus of almost twenty years, musical theatre returned to Fingal CC with a showstopping performance of ‘Grease the Musical!’. Over three sold-out nights, our students from first to sixth year rocked and rolled to all the classics such as *Grease Lightnin’* and *Summer Nights*.

Fingal CC has always been a hub of talent, as showcased in our Christmas talent show *F-Factor* and our annual TY Play, but there has been a great buzz around the school for our first musical in almost two decades! Kudos must go to our musical director Molly Brady for bringing together such a talented cast and cultivating a performance that has truly been the highlight of our school year. This production reminded us all that “*Grease*” is the word!

Preparations

As a treat for all their hard work, and to get them in the spirit of their characters, our cast went to see the Bord Gais Theatre production of *Grease the Musical* just a few short weeks before our own opening night. Our students left on a high after a thrilling performance and even bumped into ‘Kenickie’ outside the theatre! It was truly electrifying!

Community

As with any large-scale production, the school and local community have played a vital role in bringing the show to life. Director Ms Brady was supported by Ms Quinn for choreography. Yvonne Mahony, mother of one of our teachers, hand-made most of our costumes from the chorus’ skirts to Cha Cha DiGregorio’s beautiful green, polka-dot halter dress. Our woodwork teacher Mr Weir and caretaker Colin Costello built our very own *Grease Lightnin’* car and set design, while a medley of teachers and students helped with hair, make-up, props, and backstage support. Teacher Ms Broaders produced our beautiful programmes which were printed and compiled by our fabulous office secretaries Valentina and Sharon. And finally, you can see all the support from our local sponsors for our nightly raffle in our programme here: [Musical Programme.pdf](#)

Overall, it was an exhilarating thrill ride, one that left everyone feeling hopelessly devoted to bringing more musical magic to Fingal CC in the future!

Busy Times at Greenhills CC!

End of Year Art Exhibition

The Art with Portfolio Preparation learners at Greenhills Community College marked the end of the academic year with a showcase titled "Emerging Perspectives". The work on display forms part of the learners' portfolios for entry to Higher Education courses next September. Among the colleges where the learners aspire to progress to further studies are NCAD, IADT and TU Dublin. The showcase was attended by friends, family and people from the local community who are interested in art. It was fascinating to see each learner's unique interpretation of the brief. Artistic talent truly is to be celebrated!



Austrian Student Visit

Greenhills Community College hosted a group of 20 students from Austria for two days as part of the Erasmus+ programme. The visit was a unique opportunity for staff and learners to acquire knowledge about the education system in another EU country.

The Further Education learners in our college know firsthand the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme, as they have recently completed a two week work experience placement in Malaga, Spain. Our learners gave presentations on their experience of living and working abroad through the Erasmus+ programme. In turn the Austrian visitors gave presentations on fascinating topics including AI.

Course Launch Event for Guidance Counsellors

Greenhills Community College is launching five new Further Education courses starting this September. To mark the launch of the courses, Guidance Counsellors from local second-level schools attended a briefing session to find out more about the new courses.

They also met with the following learners from the last academic year who talked about their experiences completing a Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) course: Liam who graduated from Pre-University Science course and is now studying

Biotechnology in DCU, Kian who completed Pre-University Sports Science and is now studying Sports Science in TU Dublin and Carol who completed European Studies and is now studying Community Studies in Maynooth University. There really are such excellent pathways to further studies at Higher Education through PLC courses!



Celebrating Diversity

Luttrellstown CC

Culture Day

On 18th of April 2024, Luttrellstown CC hosted its very own Culture Day.



Culture Day is a highly anticipated event each year within our school where our school community takes the time to truly learn of and appreciate the many different cultural backgrounds of our students. Culture day 2024 was an incredibly enjoyable event for all! The occasion began with students of all year groups given the chance to explore the bazaar of beautiful stalls of all the represented cultures arranged throughout the school gymnasium.

“I believe culture day is an important day in school because I think it’s imperative to celebrate and appreciate the many different cultures in our school. I think it connects everyone and everyone can learn something new and find out more about each other.”

“I think it showcases the beauty and diversity in LCC and allows us to express ourselves”

Oide NicThomais, Teacher and Organiser

With food tasting, learning more about traditional customs, and, of course, admiring the magnificent clothing worn by many participants, each prospective customer, food critic, and even an anthropologist had everything they could want at their fingertips.

This part of Culture Day was greatly loved by all who attended, especially the Oidí who “forgot” their packed lunches. The food which was plentiful and delicious (a favourite was the Jollof from the Nigerian stall), many naming the flavoursome food they gorged as their favourite part of the day. Which of course our merchants were happy to provide.

“Me, personally, I enjoyed the food the most as each country had their own unique taste and also it was free which made it even better!”
LCC Student.

The second half of the day was dominated by our Culture Day fashion show. Proudful students strutted their stuff individually or as groups allowing our school to behold the intricate design and creative beauty of traditional dress of our cultural ambassadors. To some up, the clothes were breath-taking! Each country took it in turns to walk the stage, many using traditional dance to make their way down. It was fascinating to see the traditional clothing of each country, the audience certainly had sore palms from all the applause given!

“The outfits just kept getting better!”
LCC Student

“It was incredible to watch, with some of them I was actually, like, mesmerised, everyone was so beautiful” LCC Student

This year’s culture day was an overwhelming success which was only possible thanks to the hard work of Oide NicThomais who was the chief organiser of the event.

“The effort needed to put together a celebration like today comes very easy when you see how happy our students are. Our staff have been very supportive of Culture Day in LCC as they are as eager to share and experience the culture of our participants as the rest of the school community.”

Oide NicThomais, Teacher and Organiser.

Over one hundred students participated in Culture Day this year and its lively atmosphere has convinced even more to take part next year! Culture day was an extremely energetic and entertaining event and students cannot wait until the next one!

By Students Catherine Okusun, Arnav Naik and Oide Smith



**“When’s the next culture day?
I loved it!”**

A first year student



Exploring Innovation: DDLETB Schools and Sallynoggin Youthreach at Microsoft Dream Space

In an exciting collaboration between DDLETB and Microsoft, students from 10 of our Community Colleges and a group from Sallynoggin Youthreach, recently embarked on a thrilling journey to Microsoft's cutting-edge office in Leopardstown.

This remarkable opportunity was part of the renowned Dream Space program, offering participants a firsthand experience of innovation and technology. Workshops took place over a 4-day period in May and each group attended a half day workshop.

Upon arrival, students were greeted with many STEM activities awaiting them. From Sherpo Balls to Minecraft and Coding challenges, there was no shortage of engaging opportunities to explore and experiment with. It was an immersive dive into the world of technology, sparking curiosity and igniting creativity among the attendees.



In addition to the thrilling activities, students were treated to a comprehensive tour of Microsoft's sustainable and awe-inspiring offices. The sleek design and eco-friendly initiatives left a lasting impression on everyone, further enhancing the overall experience.



The day was not just about fun and games; it was also a platform for new experiences and valuable learning opportunities. The positive feedback received speaks volumes about the success of the event and the impact it had on the participants.

DDLETB takes immense pride in fostering a positive relationship with the Microsoft education team. This partnership reflects our shared commitment to promoting STEM education in our schools and centers. We are passionate about providing our students with access to innovative experiences that inspire and empower them to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

As we reflect on this memorable week, we eagerly anticipate future collaborations with Microsoft and look forward to participating in the Dream Space program again next year.

Let's keep the spirit of STEM alive and thriving in DDLETB schools and centers, paving the way for a brighter future for our students.

Thank you to our IT/Digital Coordinators/Leads in our schools and centres for their support and dedication, and thank you to the Microsoft Education Team for another wonderful experience. #MSDreamSpace

Music Generation Fingal Starts First Tuition Hub in Swords

We are thrilled to announce that our first instrument tuition hub in Swords has been going from strength to strength since opening in January.

Located at **Burgundy House, Forster Way**, this exciting initiative offers affordable music performance education for aspiring musicians in the area, adding to our growing portfolio of programmes across the county.

Weekly Saturday sessions offer 6–18-year-olds a range of affordable music tuition options. Whether you are a beginner, or looking to enhance your skills, these lessons are designed to cater to all levels of expertise.

Instrumental Tuition Currently Available:

- Guitar
- Keyboard
- Voice
- Violin
- Viola
- Ukulele
- Drumkit (beginner)
- Uilleann pipes
- Traditional flute
- Bodhran

We are also planning to introduce wind instruments in the coming months, so stay tuned for updates!

Experienced Instructors: Professional musicians from our musician educator team, facilitate the learning process, ensuring that students receive highest quality instruction, but in a friendly and fun way.

Programme Info: Music Generation Fingal is committed to providing accessible performance music education, which adapts to the unique needs and challenges faced by children and young people, especially those experiencing disadvantage. More information on our programme can be found on [Music Generation Fingal](#)



**Music Generation
Fingal
Fhine Gall**



Shane Latimer (Musician Educator)

Affordable Pricing: The first course started at the end of January and has been a tremendous success! Over **50 students** have attended so far, and the hub is growing stronger each month. The price for parents breaks down to just €7 per week.

Instrument Rental: For those taking lessons, instrument rental options are available at €10 for the year. This ensures that everyone has access to the necessary tools for their musical journey.

Please follow us on social media for regular updates on our activities.

St. Mac Dara's Cultivates a Culture of Reading: Igniting Minds, One Page at a Time!



In an era often dominated by digital distractions, St. Mac Dara's is proving that the love for literature is alive and thriving. This year, our school's engagement in the 'Wellread Award' has not only showcased our commitment to fostering literacy but has also highlighted innovative initiatives that are igniting a passion for reading among our staff, our students and their families.

At the heart of our approach to promoting literacy is the Parent and Guardian Book Club. Recognising the crucial role that parents and guardians play in shaping a child's reading habits, this initiative brings families together to explore and discuss a wide range of literary works.

On Monday nights in our school library, parents and guardians across our entire school community have come together to discuss, debate and share insights on the range of titles read so far.

By creating a supportive environment where reading is celebrated, the Parent and Guardian Book Club not only strengthens bonds within our school community but also reinforces the importance of lifelong learning.

Our book club members even have plans to keep the meetings going over the summer months!

Another cornerstone of our literacy initiatives this year is the **Drop Everything and Read (DEAR)** initiative. This simple yet powerful practice encourages our students and staff alike to pause their regular activities and immerse themselves in the world of books.

Our student librarians ran the event, delivering books to students and staff alike, before the entire school community settled down to a DEAR session.

Such was the success of this initiative; we have incorporated it into our school calendar going forward. A lovely moment of wellbeing whilst promoting and fostering a love of reading.

One of the most exciting aspects of St. Mac Dara's participation in the 'Wellread Award' this year was the 'Countdown' game, which captivated the imaginations of all first-year students.

Designed to spark friendly competition and encourage exploration, our 'Countdown' game challenged students to discover new words while racing against the clock. Through this engaging and interactive activity, an appreciation for words along with a sense of camaraderie and friendly competition among peers was established.

As this school year closes, we reflect on our first year working towards the 'Wellread Award'. Staff email signatures now include our favourite reads, classroom doors are adorned with book titles prompting conversation amongst staff and students, and our student librarians are constantly busy.

We reflect on our success in year one and look forward to the work still to be done as we continue our journey to become a 'Wellread' school.

As the famous poet Robert Frost wrote, **'there's miles to go before I sleep'** and we look forward to continuing our journey, fostering a love of reading in St. Mac Dara's.





Swords Community College - Celebrating our school community as the academic year closes.

Creative Day.

As part of our Creative School's Programme, our school set up a student-lead Creative Committee. The committee then met with the school's art teachers, Oide Niamh Canavan, and Oide Darragh Reynolds, to come up with ways to embrace the creativity present within our school. Our committee devised the idea of running a Creative Day within our school. They brainstormed interesting ideas for workshops and conducted surveys amongst the students to see what the wider school community would like to do.

The committee, their teacher, and our creative associate reached out to artists, musicians, and writers in the area. A creative writing workshop was run by Kevin Curren, whilst Jane Cummins introduced our students to plant printing and photography. Malachy Robinson explored music and song writing, in addition to Harriet who conducted a spray-painting workshop. Finally, Gabby Mc Garth helped the students through the art of felt making, and Mirjim Keene ran a collage creation seminar.

The students also produced ideas for other Creative Day workshops, such as the teacher makeover, baking, ice cream making, art and ecology, print-making, branding, 30-minute short stories and Tik Tok marketing. All these workshops were run by our brilliant teaching staff!

Finally, our music department collaborated with Junk Kouture and put on a fabulous show in our school gym

Creative Day at Swords Community College, featuring our Junk Kouture National Finalist.

Celebrating the Active Youth Challenge

The Active Youth Challenge (AYC), hosted by the [Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB Youth and Sports Department](#), is an annual programme which encourages young people (aged 10-24) to be physically active for an hour each week for a period of twelve weeks.

The programme commences each year in February and culminates in May with a public recognition event. Groups are encouraged to design and select activities of their choice; being as creative and as novel as possible. The uniqueness of their individual group programmes is reflected in their project submissions, which are forwarded for independent adjudication.

The recognition event this year was hosted on Wednesday, May 15th at Collinstown Sport Complex. We saw 244 young people from 29 groups awarded medals, certificates and trophies. They had collectively accumulated approximately 408 hours of activity in total.

Throughout the event, there were games, spot-prizes and live music, and it was a wonderful evening for all involved. Councillor Lynn Hagin Meade and DDLETB Senior Leaders were in attendance, and we also had the opportunity to meet and hear from a panel of professional young athletes on their sporting career.

Thank you to all those who participated and supported our young learners during the programme and thank you to all those who attended our ceremony.

To learn more about the Active Youth Challenge, watch this video

<https://youtu.be/jgUTRuL4ohY>

Watch highlights from the AYC Awards Ceremony - <https://youtu.be/laooAEmmKGw>





DDLETB Development Team Updates

Team DDLETB Professional Development and Supports has experienced another successful year.

Our current and new Professional Development initiatives and Networks/Communities of Practice were very well received and attended in 2023-2024, clearly demonstrating the spirit of collaboration, community and #LifelongLearning in DDLETB.

The Year Head Support and Development programme which piloted this year for our Post-Primary Year Heads was a great success and feedback has been very positive. Thank you to those who took part in our primary research, programme sessions and our post-programme research. Your input and feedback have been invaluable to the planning and development of this new programme.

We look forward to the official launch in September.

Upcoming Important Dates:

- SNA Training and Workshop – June 4th, Coláiste Pobail Setanta, 9am – 3pm.
- Principals Network – June 7th, DDLETB Head Office, 1 Tuansgate, Tallaght.
- Language training/Cambridge certification for staff taking EAL hours Monday, 17th to Friday, June 21st. Only 2 places remain. Contact marykenny@ddletb.ie

Thank you!

The DDLETB Development Team expresses immense gratitude to Team DDLETB for their unwavering support throughout this academic year.

We extend our appreciation to our school, college, and center leaders, as well as our numerous colleagues who actively participated in our Professional Development Programs and new pilot projects. This year has been marked by significant activity and achievements for our organisation as a whole, and we eagerly anticipate collaborating with you all once again in the upcoming academic year.

We would also like to congratulate graduates from across the organisation and wish all those sitting state exams in June the very best of luck.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and relaxing summer break. Bring on the sunshine!

ddletb



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Átha Cliath agus Dhún Laoghaire Education and Training Board

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