Inside...
Celebrate 50th anniversaries
Meet some new staff
Say goodbye to retiring staff
And learn about everything from Apprenticeships, Apiaries, Animation and Awards.

and that’s only the A’s!
A word from Carol

I hope you all enjoy reading this summer 2018 edition of CDETB news. You will see from the contents that we have had an extremely busy year. We have welcomed new people to the organisation and said goodbye to some old friends. Our FET Colleges and Centres are flourishing and we are developing a new Second Level Strategy. Students and teachers have continued to make us all proud.

Our FET City EXPO last November was one of the highlights of the year when our FE Colleges and Training centres exhibited in the Media Studios at Ballyfermot College of Further Education. The goal was to provide a one-stop-shop to show the range of courses available at QQI levels 5 and 6 across the city of Dublin.

Almost 1400 visiting second level students experienced fun, food, fashion, music, drama, science, sport, horticulture and much more.

Our FET staff and students presented a spectacular event. Their creativity and enthusiasm inspired our second level visitors and opened up a wide range of positive future options for them.

We are planning another EXPO for November 2018. This time Coláiste Dhúlaigh in Coolock will be putting their impressive facilities at our disposal.
The spirit of CDETB is very much in evidence on a day like this and I very much look forward to meeting you there.

This newsletter bears witness to the fact that the past year was an extraordinary one for all students in our schools, colleges and centres. I want to pay tribute to all our dedicated, hardworking staff for making such a memorable year possible.

We can only capture some of the stories across the city and give a flavour of what went on. All are equally deserving of mention - but let me draw particular attention to Pearse, Plunket and Coláiste Íde who each turned 50. These colleges have been at the heart of education in our city for five decades and their anniversary events showed what an impact they have had. We wish them all very happy birthdays.

Let me conclude by wishing you all a good summer. I very much look forward to what 2018/19 will bring.
We put a few questions to our new Director of Schools, Denise Kelly, about her experience since she joined the organisation last June.

Q: What has it been like being out and about getting to know our staff and projects?

A: My favourite part of the work has been visiting the schools and centres. Unfortunately I don’t get nearly enough time to do that. Everyone has been really welcoming and friendly. I very much enjoy talking to students and I got a lot of time to do that on the day we introduced them to the concept of Student Voice, something I’m looking forward to enhancing across CDETB.

Q: What has impressed you most?

A: What has impressed me most is the sheer range of education provision that CDETB has. There really is something for everyone. We take pride in being ahead of the curve in relation to keeping our provision current.

Q: What do you see in your area as your/our biggest priority?

A: Our biggest priority is to raise our numbers in our Second Level schools and already there are signs that this is happening.

Q: What do you see as your/our biggest challenge?

A: Our biggest challenge is to successfully convey the message to people in the City of Dublin that we are progressive- we were among the first schools in the country to get going with the new Junior Cycle for instance - and we cater for all children from the very academic to the young person who has barriers to learning and who needs support.

Q: What are you looking forward to most?

A: Implementing the new Second Level Strategy! I consider myself lucky in having such dedicated principals and teachers to work with.

Q: What’s your key message for the reader?

A: Don’t underestimate us! We’ve moved a long way from the days of ‘the tech’.

We put the same questions to our new Director of FET, Ann Gilton, about her experiences over the last year.

Q: What has it been like being out and about getting to know our staff and projects?

A: I went “on tour” in my first few months with the intention of meeting everyone and I can’t believe that I’m nearly a year in CDETB and I still haven’t visited every location let alone meet people at the coal face! I really enjoy meeting people as it helps me understand the purpose of CDETB and how our staff are responding to support every one of our individual learners.

Q: What has impressed you most?

A: The range of education provision for every age and stage of learner in the community. The open welcoming environment that we provide for students.

Q: What do you see in your area as your/our biggest priority?

A: To ensure that our programmes and services remain relevant and serve the needs of all stakeholders including Learners of all ages and abilities who are looking to get a job or progress their education, employers, young people, low skilled. And to deliver this in such a way that makes our ETB a first choice option for all.

Q: What do you see as your/our biggest challenge?

A: The competition!! And the volume and pace of change in which we are operating to achieve Solas, DES and QQI targets.

Q: What are you looking forward to most?

A: Continuing my “tour”.

Q: What’s your key message for the reader?

A: We’ve helped so many people achieve so much, it’s an organisation to be proud of. An organisation of people.
There was a very memorable farewell reception on December 4th in Fallon and Byrne for four departing Principals who will be sadly missed by CDETB.

Aoife Kelly Gibson, who joined the Coláiste Dhúlaigh staff in 1999 and became Principal of Larkin Community College from 2013-2017, served our organisation for 18 years.

Jacqui O’Sullivan, who began her career in Crumlin College in 1989 before being appointed Principal from 2005-2017, served CDETB for 28 years.

Orla Kehily, who joined Plunket College in 1980 and was appointed Principal from 2010-2017, spent 37 years with CDETB.

Ancilla O’Reilly, who joined the Cabra Community College staff in 1987 and was appointed Principal in 2016, served CDETB for 29 years. Unfortunately Ancilla was unable to attend the party but was spoken of very fondly in her absence.

A big group of serving Principals and staff gathered for the celebration. They were joined by a large number of retired dignitaries including former CEO Jacinta Stewart, former Education Officers Evan Buckley and Stephen McCarthy, Malachy Buckeridge, former Principal Coláiste Íde, Michael Ring, former Principal Liberties College, Marie Oxx, former Principal Pearse College, Bernie Hand former Principal Coláiste Eoin, Shay Kelly former Principal Coláiste Dhúlaigh, Phil McHugh former Principal Coláiste Dhúlaigh, Tom Raleigh former Principal North Strand and Phil Galvin former Principal Crumlin College.

Our CE Carol Hanney made formal presentations to Aoife, Jacqui and Orla and there were many speeches, formal and informal, paying tribute to the four women who between them gave over 100 years of service to the city as excellent educators. A great night was had as the organisation, in true VEC/ETB style, wished them well in their future careers or retirement.
**The last lock-up**

So many venerable staff have retired this year it is not possible to mention everyone. But because everyone knows Paul we cannot let this opportunity pass without wishing health, happiness and a long and fruitful retirement to Paul Curtis, our faithful gatekeeper for so many years. Paul is pictured here receiving a presentation from our CE Carol before doing his final historic lock-up of Head Office.

**A word about David**

At the time of going to press many of you were saying your goodbyes and celebrating the career of David Treacy who retired as Director of FET at the end of April 2018. You will hear all about how David was honoured in the next edition and hopefully we’ll have a word from David too.

---

**Research – Research - Then follow your heart.**

CDETB Guidance Counsellors, Teachers and Instructors met thousands of second level students at Higher Options in September. We asked them for their top tips for students.

John Madden from Ballsbridge College and Miriam Lillis from Rathmines College said, ‘Keep calm. Do your research. Don’t take something for the sake of it. Keep an open mind. Visit Open Days’.

Maeve Clegg, Head of Department in Fitness and Sport at Crumlin College said, ‘Research before committing. Then go with your heart’.

Ger Flanagan, Head of Kylemore Music School, said, ‘Choose something you will enjoy. Fionnula Drury from Pearse CFE said ‘You owe it to yourself to do the research. You will be less stressed and make better choices’.

Guidance Counsellor at Ballyfermot CFE Orla Ní Bhriain said, ‘Come in and meet us and get a feel for the subject’. Aideen Lyster, Guidance Counsellor at Inchicore CFE said, ‘Come in and meet the team, visit our Open Days’.

Paul Noctor from Ballyfermot Training Centre and Joe Curtin from Finglas Training Centre said, ‘Explore alternatives to college. Get some real-life work experience before you commit. Try it out – you can always continue to college’.

Darragh Collins from Colaiste Dhulaigh and Eilish O’Connor from Marino College said, ‘Follow what you are most interested in. If you know what it is – go for it. If you are not clear – do research – visit – come and see if you will like it’.
The Minister talked about the growth in the new “quality food” sector providing opportunities for apprentices to earn and learn on a programme that includes career paths in a sector that is nurturing and growing its talent. He spoke about a tourism industry that supports 230k jobs and the importance of passionate, qualified chefs supporting budding new chefs.

Tim Fenn, CEO of the Irish Hotels Federation talked about the apprenticeship giving employers the opportunity to nurture new apprentices who are eager to learn.

Pat Delaney, Chair of the Apprenticeship Council stated that the success of a company depends on the capability of its people.

The lead industry partner for the apprenticeship are the Irish Hotels Federation and the Restaurants Association of Ireland. This apprenticeship is coordinated by Kerry Education and Training Board and is being delivered by City of Dublin ETB, Cavan and Monaghan ETB, Cork ETB, Galway and Roscommon ETB, Kerry ETB and Limerick and Clare ETB. This apprenticeship is also supported by Fáilte Ireland.

Further details of the apprenticeship can be found at apprenticeship.ie

A new Commis Chef Apprenticeship Programme has been launched

An exciting new Commis Chef Apprenticeship Programme was launched on the 10th January in the Merrion Hotel in Dublin by the Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton TD. The programme is two years duration and training takes place both on and off the job each week. At the end of the two year programme, apprentices will be awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Culinary Arts.

Apprentices on the programme will be employed by hotels, restaurants and catering companies throughout the country and will be paid industry-standard rates of pay while undertaking both on-the-job and off-the-job training.

The City of Dublin ETB will be delivering the Commis Chef Apprenticeship in Crumlin College of Further Education and Coláiste Íde in Finglas.

Anyone interested in participating on the apprenticeship as either an apprentice or an employer should contact info@cdetb.ie.

CPD Calendar for CDETB staff

All staff should keep an eye on our Curriculum Development Units annual Calendar of Continuing Professional Development Courses.

There are courses to target all CDETB staff; Teachers at Second Level and FET, Administrators, General Operatives, Guidance Counsellors and Psychologists, Home School Liaison Teachers, Prison Teachers, Youthreach Teachers, Learning Support Teachers, Principals, Deputy Principals, Management – in short absolutely everyone.

So if you want to enhance your professional skills, your fitness, or your resilience, bouncibility, mindfulness, leadership, chairperson skills and much more – waste no more time – visit the CDU website at cdetbcdu.ie

A new Commis Chef Apprenticeship Programme has been launched

An exciting new Commis Chef Apprenticeship Programme was launched on the 10th January in the Merrion Hotel in Dublin by the Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton TD. The programme is two years duration and training takes place both on and off the job each week. At the end of the two year programme, apprentices will be awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Culinary Arts.

Apprentices on the programme will be employed by hotels, restaurants and catering companies throughout the country and will be paid industry-standard rates of pay while undertaking both on-the-job and off-the-job training.

The City of Dublin ETB will be delivering the Commis Chef Apprenticeship in Crumlin College of Further Education and Coláiste Íde in Finglas.

Anyone interested in participating on the apprenticeship as either an apprentice or an employer should contact info@cdetb.ie.

The Minister talked about the growth in the new “quality food” sector providing opportunities for apprentices to earn and learn on a programme that includes career paths in a sector that is nurturing and growing its talent. He spoke about a tourism industry that supports 230k jobs and the importance of passionate, qualified chefs supporting budding new chefs.

Tim Fenn, CEO of the Irish Hotels Federation talked about the apprenticeship giving employers the opportunity to nurture new apprentices who are eager to learn.

Pat Delaney, Chair of the Apprenticeship Council stated that the success of a company depends on the capability of its people.

The lead industry partner for the apprenticeship are the Irish Hotels Federation and the Restaurants Association of Ireland. This apprenticeship is coordinated by Kerry Education and Training Board and is being delivered by City of Dublin ETB, Cavan and Monaghan ETB, Cork ETB, Galway and Roscommon ETB, Kerry ETB and Limerick and Clare ETB. This apprenticeship is also supported by Fáilte Ireland.

Further details of the apprenticeship can be found at apprenticeship.ie
With good collaboration with SMEs the sky is the limit

Minister for Education and Skills, Richard Bruton TD was keynote speaker at an event in Wood Quay Venue on 26th October 2017 organised by Dublin Regional Skills Forum (DRSF) in collaboration with the Local Enterprise Offices.

In his address to over 70 SME businesses and education providers Minister Bruton said: ‘I have set the ambition to make Ireland’s education and training service the best in Europe within a decade.’

At the event, employers told their story of how they work in partnership with the education and training providers in Dublin and how these partnerships benefit their business. Brendan Murphy of Dublin Aerospace told of his company’s relationship with CDETB’s Training Centre in Finglas.

Brendan described how the centre has responded to the training and recruitment needs of his company by delivering apprenticeships and traineeships in the area of Aircraft maintenance. Over the years, the majority of the graduates from these programmes took up employment with Dublin Aerospace or with other similar companies and many are now employed in companies around the world.

Dublin Aerospace is benefiting from having a steady flow of trained staff who meet the exact requirements of the job and the industry. A win/win for all concerned.

A Brooch in Finglas or a mini-skirt in Bagdad?

Brian Fleming, a Project Manager with The National Neighbourhood, a Dublin’s Culture Connects programme, writes about a visit to the National Museum of Ireland - Archaeology on Kildare St with the women of the CDETB Forever Young Chorus from Finglas on International Women’s Day, March 8, 2018.

Joe Lynch, a chatty middle-aged man in a Dublin jersey, is passing around photographs, shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries with a queue of women in the middle the Kildare Room, at the museum of archaeology, on Kildare St, while Maeve Sikora, Director of Antiquities with the National Museum of Ireland is taking questions from a small crowd of her own. Gradually she makes her way towards Joe. They have a lot to talk about.

Maeve has just delivered a lecture to a full house of mostly women, as part of International Women’s Day 2018, about the Viking woman’s remains found in Finglas in 2004. Joe’s father was, and his brother is now, the keeper of St Canice’s graveyard in Finglas where the Viking woman’s remains were discovered. Now surrounded by a busy bypass and apartment blocks (‘eyesores’ according to Joe), St Canice’s graveyard and Dublin’s only standing medieval high cross remain incongruously wedged between apartment blocks and a pedestrian bridge, separated from Finglas Village by the dual carriageway. However, they can still be accessed any day by knocking on Joe’s brother’s cottage door and borrowing the key.

Like all good archaeologists, Maeve appreciates the value of reliable local knowledge and is delighted to meet Joe again, 14 years after the original dig.

Siobhan Pierce, Education and Outreach Officer at NMI Archaeology and Natural History asks singer-songwriter Susan McKeown if it’s ok to invite Joe to join our special private tour, arranged for the women of the Forever Young Chorus from Finglas in an hour’s time. The Forever Young Chorus is a singing group for the over 65s, which favours punk rock classics over more ‘age appropriate’ repertoire. It is run by the City of Dublin Education and Training Board Adult Education Service Finglas, led by Kevin Smullen and directed by musician Brendan Creagh. The women of the chorus have been telling Susan all about women’s lives in the old days in Finglas, as part of a song-writing process with the National Neighbourhood. Now, with the help of the museum staff they are about to discover what the really old days were really like.

Thanks to Maeve’s lecture, the public has just enjoyed a fantastic insight into the context of the first intact female Viking burial to be found in 100 years in Ireland. As part of the National Neighbourhood, the women from the Forever Young Chorus are about to have a private viewing of the
Susan Kelly was a seamstress and she’s not impressed with the quality of the workmanship on the dress: “We’ve come a long way in 1000 years’.

Meanwhile Joe never leaves the table with the brooch. “It’s 14 years since I seen her.”

He has brought his own picture of the woman’s remains at the graveyard in Finglas that has been kept in his family since 2004 and it is even better than the one in Maeve’s slide show. You can see exactly how she was lying.

He’d give anything to be able to hold the brooch but that’s out of the question. Eventually Maeve offers him the box of fragments of the second brooch to hold and his international women’s day is complete.

Some of us had been hoping to hear stories of Viking women warriors, buried with their swords, but that’s not this woman’s story. Clearly the woman was of very high status, to have been buried on sacred ground with these precious belongings to accompany her to Valhalla.

Maeve explains that this brooch, imported from Scandinavia, and this style of dress would have seemed extremely unusual to the native population. She must have been making a bold statement about her cultural identity by wearing them here.

Maeve tells us that Dr Pat Wallace, the former director of the National Museum of Ireland would say that for a woman to wear those brooches in Finglas at that time was akin to a woman now wearing a mini-skirt in Bagdad. The Finglas women give her her dues. She was a kind of a warrior after all.

amazing brooch and other objects that were buried with this woman, who walked their streets 1000 years ago.

Fran Crosbie’s coach from Finglas arrives at the museum café with Hannah Pinckheard from Dublin’s Culture Connects and the women of the Forever Young Chorus, direct from their rehearsal in Finglas. Tea and coffee has been arranged, but like seasoned touring artists, they have also brought their own sandwiches, and they tuck in, unfazed by the attentions of photographer Enda O’Brien and videographer Johnny White. I ask who is going to wear the Viking dress and there’s a chorus of ‘Me!’

Joe Lynch arrives into the cafe to a tirade of slagging from the women. They’re all old friends and the banter is unrelenting. There isn’t even a break in the conversation when I rattle my pen on a cup to try and announce the arrival of Siobhan and Annie from the museum to take us upstairs to the education room. They just rise from their seats and carry on the conversation up the stairs.

To my surprise, when we reach the education room, the actual brooch itself is laid out on the table, along with fragments of the antler comb that was buried with the woman.

Having seen slides of the brooch at Maeve’s lecture and pictures of it online, I’m slightly star-struck to see it in the flesh. It’s an amazing piece of work for 1000 years ago: an oval dome, like a baby tortoise, decorated with little bronze, gold and silver glass-eyed bears.

On a nearby table, there are museum quality replicas of the objects buried with the woman: Viking brooches, a dress, an antler comb and kind of a Viking glass iron.
An Ghaeilge: Beo agus Ar Fónamh i bhFionnghlas

Photography by Keith Dixon

Celebration of Seachtain na Gaeilge in CDETB Adult Education Services Finglas

‘Cúpla Focail’, an Irish booklet created by CDETB Adult Education Service in Finglas, was launched as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge and of the wider celebration of Bliain na Gaeilge.

Kevin Smullen, CDETB Adult Education Officer, welcomed the local Irish-speaking community. Although relatively small, the Irish speaking community in Finglas is very vibrant and their commitment was evident by their presence.

Wonderful contributions ‘as Gaelige’ were made by students Bernie McGarry, Joan Doherty and Thomas Bermingham. Traditional music from Mary Murphy and Mick Cantwell added to the atmosphere.

Nicola, CDETB tutor, together with the Irish class in CDETB Adult Education Service, Barry Rd created the booklet as a result of a class project to encourage friends, family and fellow students to use their cúpla focail.

A further aim of the booklet is to create a positive attitude towards Irish and act as an educational resource to primary and secondary schools and local organisations. It is a basic Irish book designed to help people who are starting or restarting with Irish.

The Irish class is made up of mature students who have been together for a few years and share a passion for the Irish language. They head to the Gaeltacht every year and go on outings to places such as the theatre.

Nicola is the driving force behind the class and this group project. She is rightly very proud of the students and everything they have achieved with this publication.

If you would like to get copies of the booklet (free of charge) please contact cora.rafter@aes.cdetb.ie.

For more information visit www.cdetbadulteducationfinglas.ie
Adult Education Service Learner Forum

The CDETB Adult Education Service was represented by more than eighty students at the Aontas Adult Learners Forum at Wynns Hotel on Thursday 8th March. Aontas is Ireland’s national adult learning organisation and they promote the value and benefits of adult learning, and advocate on behalf of the sector.

The event provided CDETB students the opportunity to share their experiences of returning to education and the wider benefits of learning. Word of mouth is the most common means by which students come into our service and the students are therefore our greatest ambassadors. Our students often come into the service a bit nervous about what to expect but gradually become more comfortable and discover the benefits of learning. Students at the event remarked, “These courses are an excellent facility to help a person in their personal development” and “Lifelong involves learning throughout all stages. There is an old saying ‘it’s a bad day when you don’t learn something new’.

A guiding principle in the philosophy of adult education is that students are active participants in their own learning. The voice of the learner is central to the organisation, management and delivery of the various programmes at local level. The Adult Learner Forum provides an opportunity to capture the learner voice at a national level and harness that wealth of experience to influence strategic and policy developments into the future. The event provided a great opportunity for students to meet people from other parts of the city and one of them reported “I enjoyed meeting different and other groups of people and hearing about their achievements and getting to speak about mine.” Another remarked “I enjoyed hearing the stories of the people in my group of how they started doing adult education.”

The event in Wynns hotel was a huge success. Following a presentation by Aontas the participants were broken into facilitated groups and they were given the opportunity to talk about their learning experiences in the CDETB Adult Education Service. The students came from all parts of the city representing the 15,000 Adult Education Service students in the CDETB on a range of courses. Participants remarked that “This event is an excellent way of meeting students and finding out about the range of courses students are doing” and “I enjoyed meeting people who are in the same boat as myself.” The learner representatives came from Adult Literacy and Community Education funded accredited and non-accredited courses. The subject areas range from reading, writing, numeracy, history, art, yoga, computers and many more.

The event finished up with lunch and the student representatives were also presented with a book token in thanks for their contributions to the day. The feedback from the students has been that they really enjoyed the day and they have brought the excitement of that experience back to the various centres that they attend.
Late last August the CDETB Adult Literacy Organisers were invited to accompany their learners to meet President Higgins at Áras an Uachtaráin. NALA had organised the event to recognise the contribution of the students of the Adult Literacy Services in promoting the work we do.

The reception took place as part of the Literacy Awareness campaign in September. Many of the learners had acted as local learner ambassadors, promoting the services, sharing their stories and encouraging others to enquire about and attend classes.

Joe Higgins from Crumlin and Anne Quinn from Ballyfermot both talked to Sean O’Rourke on his RTE radio show. They spoke eloquently about their experiences of returning to education as adults, not having had the opportunity to complete their education as teenagers. Donna Murray from Parnell Adult Learning Centre was involved in one of the advertisements NALA created for television and radio campaigns. As anyone who has ever spoken publicly knows, performing for the camera, or speaking on live radio, can be quite a daunting experience. All three however spoke with confidence and their love of learning shone through.

There was great excitement when the day arrived. Dressed in our best, we lined up for a security check at the gates of the Áras before being welcomed inside to meet the President. President Higgins took time to meet and speak with all learners and ALOs, and commented on his particular grá for literacy education as patron of NALA. After the formal introductions, we were free to enjoy a beautiful reception and learners had the opportunity for photographs with the President. Before we left, an aide to the President gave us a tour of some of the rooms. He spoke about some of the paintings and furniture in the rooms and recounted stories of other guests and former presidents. It will certainly be a day to remember for some time to come.
Ballymun Adult Read and Write Scheme (BARWS) launch - The Long and Winding Road

In June 2017, BARW launched its latest book of students’ writing. Over a period of four months, an editing committee of students, tutors and administrative staff took the project from initiation through to the launch of the book on 8th June 2017.

The theme for the 2017 book, ‘A Journey’, encompassed journeys of all sorts including personal journeys e.g. returning to education, quitting smoking or losing weight. One hundred and fourteen pieces of creative writing, in the form of short story or verse, were submitted by students for publication in the aptly titled ‘The Long and Winding Road.’

In keeping with the theme and title of the book, the official launch required a guest speaker who would speak of his or her own journey while entertaining the attendees. The editing committee was very pleased when local comedian and actor Eric Lalor accepted the invitation to launch the publication.

The book launch was held in Ballymun Adult Education Centre and in excess of 150 people from all sectors of the community, including political representatives attended the event. As well as celebrating the work of the Scheme participants, the launch contributed towards raising awareness locally about the availability of support for adults who wish to improve their literacy skills. The audience was greatly entertained by the guest speaker as he spoke of his own journey moving from a solid, permanent job into the world of acting and comedy.

We were so proud of the three students who read their stories from the book to an attentive audience. The launch concluded with refreshments for attendees and book signing by the guest speaker. We appreciate Eric Lalor’s generosity in giving of his time to launch ‘The Long and Winding Road’ and also extend thanks to our CDETB colleagues in Ballymun Adult Education Centre for their support in organising the event.

Copies of the book have been distributed throughout the community, to Ballymun Library and to the Prison Service.
found that the window was so warm that plants tended to grow too fast and became too long. We purchased a special light unit from Ikea to augment the natural light. We also chitted early potatoes and planted them out in builders’ buckets. We received a donation of clumps of chives and mint which we divided up and re-potted.

One of the learners made planting boxes from recycled timber. We painted these and used them to plant out our courgettes and tomatoes. Finally, we bought a number of hanging baskets. We filled them with the tomatoes and nasturtiums and by the end of term we had lovely salads decorated with nasturtium flowers.

We were able to buy good quality compost so all of our plants were very healthy and fast growing. Delivery of the Horticulture module allowed for a more hands on approach to learning and we all enjoyed the fruits of our labour by term end. This made the course very rewarding for all involved.

When the course ended, on Friday 16th June, we celebrated our gardening term with a delicious lunch from our own container garden: new potatoes garnished with mint, broad beans, mangetout peas, salad with nasturtium leaves, chives and parsley, cherry tomatoes and baby courgettes! Well done BARWS ITABE Group!
The real experience of visiting places such as the museum in Kilkenny or other trips to the Mansion House, the Dáil or Kilmainham Gaol makes learning more memorable and makes it easier to retain information. It’s easy to learn from the information when it’s explained by well-informed and friendly tour guides. Their interest in the place makes you interested.

Once we entered the Kilkenny museum we got a feeling of the past from the old tombs. It was like being transported back in time. Looking at underground graves was surreal. You also had to appreciate the craftsmanship that has lasted down through the centuries. We also had to use different learning skills in the museum, from listening, visual and touch to the interactive technology used to relay information. There was so much information that you could tap into about the museum and the surrounding area.

A trip is also something to look forward to rather than the normal classwork. It’s a day to focus on yourself rather than the daily responsibilities of family. It’s good to take time out for yourself. We all felt great after a brilliant day out full of laughter and fun. The trip was a wonderful, positive, interesting experience and we look forward to more educational excursions and wonderful memories.

Well done BARWS QQI Level 4 Communications Group!

BARWS Communications Group Kilkenny Trip

We had a brilliant day out on the 11th May 2017 with Ballymun Adult Read and Write Scheme on a trip to Kilkenny. It was a great social occasion where we got to know our classmates, tutors and other students from the scheme. We got to see a different side of people’s personalities and deeper friendships were made.

The trip was great for getting us to use teamwork skills. We had to meet at Heuston station and had to look up bus timetables and maps and then agree a time to get on the same bus at different stops to get us there on time. We had to practice our time management skills as we knew other people were depending on us to be there at a certain time. We also had to organise childcare, dinners and school pickups which took some planning. The train trip passed quickly with us chatting and playing cards, learning how to play new games and finding out who the “card sharks” were!

Scheme trips mean that you get to go to places that you might not visit on your own because of cost or interest. A good trip encourages you to do the excursion again with family and friends. A great tour gives you a more positive attitude to learning and an appreciation of where you’re from, and of your history and culture, that you wouldn’t normally be aware of.
Artistic, Performance and Cultural Industries begin in Ballyfermot College of Further Education

by Dr Denis Murray BA, MBS, PhD

Photograph of Nora Twomey is by Stephen Murray

For almost 40 years Ballyfermot College of Further Education has been teaching and training media students who then go on to have successful careers in Media Industries. At the recent annual conference of Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) Aisling Bastable remarked on how whenever she was asked the question “why did you go to Ballyfermot College?”, her response would automatically be to ask another question - “Why would anybody who wants a career in media want to study anywhere else?”
Aisling graduated from Ballyfermot College in 1997 after achieving an honours bachelor of arts degree in Media Production Management. She previously studied Radio Production in the College. Today, Aisling is Deputy Programme Editor for RTE News.

Ballyfermot College has excelled in the preparation of students who work within the radio and television industry. Examples include Damien O’Meara, Pairic Lodge and Justin Treacy of RTE Sports, and Aisling’s RTE News colleague Sharon Tobin. This is only a small list as there are hundreds of students also working in the commercial media sector in Ireland and abroad. In fact, Ballyfermot College continues to serve the Performing, Artistic and Cultural industries exceptionally well. The College has graduates now working in Radio and Television Broadcasting, Print Journalism, Film, Commercial Advertising, Music Production, Music Performance and last but not least Animation.

Nora Twomey is another past student of Ballyfermot College. She is the Co-founder and Creative Director of Cartoon Saloon an internationally renowned independent animation studio. As a Creative Director at Cartoon Saloon, Nora oversees the development of the company’s slate of productions such as ‘Puffin Rock’, the pre-school series narrated by Chris O’Dowd and acquired by Netflix. Nora directed the multi-award winning short films ‘From Darkness’ and ‘Cúilín Dualach [Backwards Boy]’. Nora was Co-Director of Cartoon Saloon’s Oscar® nominated animated feature ‘The Secret of Kells’ and Head of Story on their Oscar® nominated ‘Song of the Sea’.

Therefore, to paraphrase Aisling’s comment, if you want to work in the Performing, Artistic and Cultural industries why would you want to go anywhere other than Ballyfermot College of Further Education?
There was an extremely high level of interest in the Youthreach model and much admiration for its nationwide approach and the support network this nationwide set-up allowed. Other aspects of Youthreach that attracted much interest was its success in focusing on education attainment within its centres rather than pushing students back into a mainstream education system that hasn’t previously worked for them. The high levels of progression from Youthreach to PLCs and employment, as well as the variance of subjects offered were also features that compared very favourably with the other international models presenting. Other areas discussed in regards to Youthreach included the transition to Trauma–sensitive centres with onsite psychological support, a unique emphasis on both practical and academic disciplines, and the very personal experience for students allowed by the reduced class sizes in comparison to mainstream schools. Lastly, the implementation of soft skills learning, in many cases hugely lacking among students entering Youthreach, was another aspect that garnered a great deal of interest.

Ballymun Youthreach took part in the UNICEF Second Chance Education Seminar in Tunis on the 28th and 29th of December 2017. The centre was invited as one of ten international education centres to present their models as a directive for new implementations in second chance education in Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria under the guidance of UNICEF.

The seminar took place over two days and heard from the international experiences of each model as well as hosting individual workshops with each representative. Lionel Duffy, the co-ordinator of Ballymun Youthreach, hosted five workshops discussing the practicalities of implementing second chance education structures in North Africa. This proved an extremely interesting experience with many of the issues in North Africa mirroring the Irish situation when Youthreach was first set up in 1989. The three countries attending from North Africa had large numbers of students quitting secondary schools and technical colleges because of a range of issues, stemming from increasing levels of anxiety to perceived lack of structure in the mainstream system. Many of the issues prompting early school leaving were leading to disengagement from large sections of young people in both rural and urban communities in North Africa, hence the desire to listen to the experiences of second chance systems from around the world.

The seminar was also attended by three government ministers from Tunisia and a host of education experts from Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria. UNICEF intends to focus intently on education in North Africa in 2018.
Animation excellence – CDCFE launches Murakami Exhibition at Annual KeyFrame Seminar

Coláiste Dhúlaigh College of Further Education (CDCFE) has been very fortunate to have been gifted a number of works from famous Irish Animator Jimmy Murakami including ‘The Snowman’, ‘A Christmas Carol’ and ‘The Egg’. Among the works donated are notebooks and drawings which have been mounted as a permanent exhibition at Coláiste Dhúlaigh.

In March 2018 Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton TD joined with Jimmy’s widow Ethna to formally launch the exhibition and to open KeyFrame 5, Coláiste Dhúlaigh’s annual animation seminar. At the event Ethna Murakami presented the Jimmy Murakami bursary to Alexandra McDonagh, a current student in the B.A. (Hons) Animation.

Speaking at the event animator Steve Woods said “Jimmy would be delighted to have his work surrounded by enthusiastic students, Jimmy would be proud to have his work displayed on the northside of Dublin in Coláiste Dhúlaigh College of Further Education”.

Keyframe, now in its fifth year, is an animation seminar where industry and education collaborate. Key industry practitioners present workshops and lectures to showcase current industry practices and experience. This year the studios presenting at this 3 day workshop running from 5-7th February included Brown Bag, Boulder Media, Jam Media, Gingerbread Animation and Irish Comics. Keyframe is run in partnership with Coláiste Dhúlaigh College of Further Education and Dublin City Public Libraries, Coolock branch.

Speaking at the event Minister Bruton acknowledged the college’s engagement with industry and highlighted the importance of creativity in education.
Clonturk Community College News

Swim When You’re Winning

For the second consecutive year, we have run a very successful weekly sports and cultural extra-curricular taster program at Clonturk. Although we are very proud of all of our many sporting achievements, we were particularly thrilled when our swim team brought home two gold, two silver and three bronze medals from the SCC Swimming Gala!

Student Enrichment Art Gallery

Through our Student Enrichment module, our students had the honour of viewing art created by the children of asylum seekers living in Direct Provision accommodation. They then used the children’s work as artistic inspiration for their own research projects in this area. They produced a multitude of creative responses ranging from poetry to further Direct Provision research and a statistical report comparing their own economic spending to that of the children’s.

Neat Streets’ Green Campaign

Our Second Year students, through their CSPE studies and involvement with Green Schools, were selected to participate in the Neat Streets anti-litter and waste programme. Through this, they are developing leadership and project management skills, as well as having decided to create a Clonturk ‘Junkyard.’ This will be an ‘urban haven’, created using recycled goods which will be sourced from the Clonturk community. Our dedicated students attended the Green Schools Expo in the RDS to seek inspiration and have held a very successful bake sale to fund any additional items. They also won one of the Neat Streets ‘Instabin’ film making competitions.

Fashion Revolution #whomademyclothes

The Fashion Revolution module is currently being run as part of our Ethical Education programme. The aim of the module is to promote long-term action for social & environmental change in the fashion industry. The module explores the moral, ethical and environmental consequences of the current ‘fast fashion’ industry and the goal is to encourage students to further understand their role in the consumption of fashion.
Little Dress for Africa

Students in Clonturk Community College have been busy working on a project for the ‘Little Dress for Africa’ charity. A group of 15 students made dresses out of pillowcases that will be brought to Africa and distributed to young girls who may not have access to clean and comfortable clothing. Along the way, students got to further look at some of the topics they’ve been learning about in our Ethical Education program and see up-cycling and sustainability in action!

European Money Quiz

On Wednesday, 14th March Second Year Business Studies students took part in the European Money Quiz. This is a joint initiative of the European Banking Federation and Banking & Payments Federation Ireland and aims to improve students’ financial knowledge and literacy. Students competed in a live Kahoot! quiz against schools all over Ireland, with the first place winners winning a trip to Brussels to compete against 29 other teams from across Europe. Congratulations to Joanna and Emma who came 9th overall in the national competition.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhain Coláiste Pobail Chluain Torc taitneamh as Seachtain naGaeilge. Rinne anchéad bhliain toraíocht ag baintúsaíde as cóid QR. Bhi comórtas póstaeir ar siúl don darabliain. D’fhoghlaímiomar na rincí Gaelacha agus bhi cèilíagainn. Bhi crannchur scoile againn, fuair na daltaí ticéid as an nGaeilge a úsáid timpeall na scoile.

WhistleBlast Quartet Composition Programme

A group of 1st and 2nd year students took part in the wonderful musical adventure that was the WhistleBlast Quartet Composition Programme. Students worked closely with their friends in Coláiste Eoin and composed a series of original musical pieces (entitled iContact) with a central theme of communication. It has inspired our students to take up instruments and compose their own music. It taught them that musicianship and composition are accessible, achievable, rewarding and most of all – so much fun! Our final performances took place in the Ballina Arts Centre, Co. Mayo and the beautiful Freemason’s Hall in Dublin. Participants got a taste of the excitement of being a professional musician on tour and took with them memories to last a lifetime.

On 20th of April 2013, 1133 people were killed in the Rana Plaza factory collapse in Dhaka, Bangladesh. A further 2500 were injured. These people were killed while making garments for our high street shops. The #whomademyclothes campaign was launched shortly after in an attempt to make fashion brands take responsibility for their part played in this terrible disaster and show transparency as to where their clothes are being made.

It is important we educate our students about these injustices and give them the opportunity to become more ethically aware. Our choices affect many others.
Coláiste Dhúlaigh National Tour Guiding Class graduation

To mark an innovative development in tour guide training the Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr Micheál Mac Donncha presented Coláiste Dhúlaigh’s National Tour Guiding Class of 2018 with their Level 6 QQI awards in National Tour Guiding on Thursday 22 March in the Mansion House. Coláiste Dhúlaigh is delighted to be the first ETB College in Dublin to deliver this Special Purpose award, the new professional qualification for tour guides which replaces the former badge certification by Fáilte Ireland.

Sixteen students commenced the course in September 2017 and all sixteen have successfully completed with outstanding results. Employment opportunities are immense and already all students have secured a position within the industry.

This award is delivered through an integrated mix of on campus lectures, off site visits to key tourist attractions and self-directed learning over three days a week. Strong links with industry experts have been established and their insights have greatly prepared the students for work as tour guides in this ever-expanding sector. Coláiste Dhúlaigh looks forward to continuing to be a market leader in the delivery of QQI courses which allow students to gain employment on completion of their studies.

The students photographed are Derek Allen, Edwina Bracken, Alan Bradley, Roy Carolan, Gerard Cooley, Jim Dempsey, Aveen Evers, Sam Ford, Sandy Hoiret, Gabrielle McKeown, Augustine Moffatt, Margaret Molony, Mary Nugent and Mathilde Robert.

Coláiste Eoin wins Future Vision Award

Congratulations to Coláiste Eoin who were presented with a Trinity Access Programme Future Vision Award on 6th October 2017.

Of the 70 participating schools there were nine School of Distinction awards and 10 Future Vision awards presented. A Future Vision is awarded as a precursor to the school of distinction award so if Coláiste Eoin meets its targets this year, the school will be in the running for School of Distinction Award in 2018.

We are very proud of this great school, well done to everyone at Coláiste Eoin!
Coláiste Íde Soccer students exhibit their skills in Florida

Coláiste Íde Soccer students returned from a very successful soccer trip to St Augustine, Florida, to focus all their energy on graduating in May with a QQI Level 5 Award in Sport Recreation & Exercise.

Twenty students travelled to Florida to play some exhibition games against some of the top colleges from around the region. The games included Rollins College, Daytona State College, Webber International University and Flagler College where the team was based. The Flagler Head Coach John Lynch was part of the first ever soccer course to be held in Finglas and his Assistant Kevin Keenan is also a former Coláiste Íde soccer student.

The game schedule was very tough for the lads as they had to play 5 games in 10 days against some really good opposition. “The players deserve great credit for their attitude, work ethic and commitment during the trip” said Head Coach Danny Crowley. “We were competitive in all games and managed to dig really deep in our last game against a St Augustine selection team to record a comprehensive win with some excellent goals including lovely strikes from Sean Cummins (St Kevin Boys FC) and Eoin Broughan (Drogheda Utd)”.

The trip was a fantastic experience for the Coláiste Íde soccer students as they got to see first-hand the standard of play at the collegiate level in the United States but also to see exactly what it means to be a student athlete at an American College. Flagler College is one of the most beautiful colleges in the country and it was an absolute pleasure to spend time at such an amazing school.

The students also got to enjoy some fun activities such as beach football, beach volleyball, surfing and a visit to an Alligator Farm. All in all the entire trip was a huge success and some of our students are now following up with college coaches in the hope of obtaining soccer scholarships. “Hopefully a few of our lads will get the opportunity to attend college in the States but what’s most important is that they all leave us with a full QQI Award and a better academic profile than when they started with us in September”.
Ms. Sue Yeon Kim is one of those teachers and she was on placement with the CDETB from October 2017 until February 2018. Sue spent the majority of her time at Crumlin College of Further Education.

During her time at the college, Sue spent time shadowing teachers in various departments and this gave her a valuable insight into the work carried out in the further education sector. In turn, Sue shared information in class with staff and students in areas such as Tourism, Fashion and Cookery. She also had the opportunity to accompany students and staff on field trips to The National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks and on an overnight trip with Tourism students to Co. Wexford. Sue gave a very interesting presentation to staff at their Christmas meeting on the educational structure in South Korea.

Sue’s time in Crumlin College culminated with a visit from key personnel from Jeju: Ms Yeonshim Kang (Supervisor of International Educational Cooperation Division) and Mr. Siyoung Kang (Director of Policy Planning Bureau). The guests, along with Mr. John Hogan, CDETB Manager for Partnership, were welcomed by management and staff at Crumlin College. The ceremony involved a presentation about the college and the courses on offer here followed by a brunch served in the college restaurant. The brunch was prepared in the restaurant kitchen and served by culinary arts students.

Sue was very vocal in her appreciation to all the staff in the college for the warm reception she had received at the college and the vast amount of knowledge that had been imparted to her during her time at the college.

CDETB and Jeju Partnership

CDETB is in its second year of an educational exchange partnership with Jeju Island in South Korea. This partnership has allowed for a number of teachers working in the secondary vocational sector in Jeju to come to Ireland and gain an insight into teaching practices within the CDETB. Ms. Sue Yeon Kim is one of those teachers and she was on placement with the CDETB from October 2017 until February 2018. Sue spent the majority of her time at Crumlin College of Further Education.

During her time at the college, Sue spent time shadowing teachers in various departments and this gave her a valuable insight into the work carried out in the further education sector. In turn, Sue shared information in class with staff and students in areas such as Tourism, Fashion and Cookery. She also had the opportunity to accompany students and staff on field trips to The National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks and on an overnight trip with Tourism students to Co. Wexford. Sue gave a very interesting presentation to staff at their Christmas meeting on the educational structure in South Korea.

Sue’s time in Crumlin College culminated with a visit from key personnel from Jeju: Ms Yeonshim Kang (Supervisor of International Educational Cooperation Division) and Mr. Siyoung Kang (Director of Policy Planning Bureau). The guests, along with Mr. John Hogan, CDETB Manager for Partnership, were welcomed by management and staff at Crumlin College. The ceremony involved a presentation about the college and the courses on offer here followed by a brunch served in the college restaurant. The brunch was prepared in the restaurant kitchen and served by culinary arts students.

Sue was very vocal in her appreciation to all the staff in the college for the warm reception she had received at the college and the vast amount of knowledge that had been imparted to her during her time at the college.

Reflexology and Pamper evening at Crumlin College

The ITEC Diploma in Reflexology forms parts of the Evening class schedule at Crumlin College of Further Education. We are very proud of the high standard of teaching here in the College. Students in this class study working on the feet, as the feet have various touch points that relate to systems and organs in the body and when worked on in a specific way, encourage those organs and systems to work
more efficiently. It induces deep relaxation, reduces stress, improves circulation and digestion and eliminates toxins.

As part of the work experience component of the course, we offer a ‘Pamper Evening’. A clinic is open to the public, offering taster treatments, all provided under the supervision of their teacher. The students are assisted in performing the treatment in a supervised clinic environment. This allows them to practice delivering treatments in a professional manner whilst ensuring best client care. The treatments have proven to be very popular with the public and many clients have booked in repeatedly.

We also bring in ‘bodies’ for our students to work on for their case studies. We usually pick a charity and place a donation box on the table. This year the students donated €250.00 to The Homeless in Dublin Friday night soup kitchen.

Fit Flix at Crumlin CFE

As part of their Level 6 Health Promotion module, Fitness and Personal Training Year 2 students (SP2) were required to organize an event to promote health and well-being. The group agreed on the concept of a healthy cinema and the main gym hall at Crumlin College of Further Education was turned into a festive, healthy cinema for the afternoon.

With a small budget to work on, the class managed to produce an incredibly successful and festive atmosphere whilst promoting health awareness. Students planned and prepared all aspects of the event from designing posters, creating mail shots, texts, and emails, selling raffle tickets for donated items and planning the cinema layout, which involved completely transforming the sports hall.

Healthy Recipes were gathered, shopping lists were made and food was prepared. Students came in on their morning off and dedicated themselves fully to the task ahead. They were truly incredible as a group and the professionalism and creativity of the event was commented upon by all in attendance. They succeeded in achieving what they had set out to do: creating a healthy Christmas cinema with recipes cards and posters highlighting the hidden dangers in cinema foods. It was a memorable experience for all.

The Massage Clinic at Crumlin CFE

The ITEC Diploma in Holistic Massage is one of the core subjects offered in the first year of Sports Therapy and allows for entry into Sports Massage and Injury Treatments in second year. The students in Crumlin College of Further Education are taught to the highest standard and work experience plays an integral role in their training. Not only does it improve the professional behaviour of our students, it also builds up their confidence and self-esteem.

Our Sports Therapy Students (classes STA and STB) hosted ‘The Massage Clinic’ a pop up facility treating the public to neck and shoulder massage, back massage and arm, face and scalp massage. All treatments were delivered under the supervision of their teacher. ‘Clients’ were treated to a half hour sample treatment, superb client care and after treatment follow up advice, in a clinic environment where professional conduct was practised. Our students were encouraged to practice the theory taught in the module with attention to detail to assure quality at all stages of the treatment.

The class will be offering similar treatments to members of staff at Snug Counselling Service in the City centre, a service supporting those in addiction recovery. Our students will be working on staff for their ‘Health and Wellbeing day’ offering neck and shoulder massage while staff are seated at their desk. This is our second year to offer this service. Last year’s pilot project was so successful that staff have asked us to return this year.

Both projects have proven to be a great success. Those taking part have requested that the clinics be offered again. It is hoped that we will be able to continue to offer that service to the public while fulfilling our work experience mandatory module.
Student News at Killester College of Further Education

Computer Systems & Networks Course OPW Lecture December 2017

As part of our ongoing engagement with employers and industry experts, we had a 2 hour lecture in the OPW on Stephen’s Green in Dublin City Centre. During the lecture the ICT manager Liam told us all about their Open Source software they use to maintain their computer systems. He also gave us a very informative overview of how and why they use Virtualisation. A Fantastic trip and a great way to bring classroom theory into life!

Cultural & Heritage Studies Course Newgrange Trip December 2017

The cultural and heritage studies students enjoyed a wonderful day in Newgrange and Monasterboice. Having studied ancient monuments in class, they were able to visit them and admire their amazing architecture and beauty.

Cultural & Heritage Studies Course Glasnevin Cemetery tour January 2018

The Cultural and Heritage Studies students completed the “Tour Guiding Workshop” with Glasnevin Cemetery. Each student had to research a person of interest in Irish History who is buried in the cemetery and then present it as part of a guided tour.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable 2-day workshop. Our tour guides Bridget and Michelle were excellent. The students will integrate their research into their Heritage and Local History assessments.

Killester College Maths Week

The main event of our Maths week was our annual maths quiz. There were 26 four-person teams and the winning team (2nd year running!) were from the Computer Systems & Networks course. (Team: Allan Tennent, Zoltan Juhasz, Michael McDonald, Stephen Preston). Also during Maths week we ran a series of daily maths puzzles. Each day the students were invited to solve the puzzles and on the Friday we gave out prizes for the correct answers.
Horticulture Course Native Tree Trail

Our horticulture students were in the local St. Anne’s Park. They completed the Native Tree Trail. It was a fantastic experience and along the way they identified 15 Native Irish trees. Thanks to Dublin City Council for setting it up, it was a great way to bring the classroom material to life.

Horticulture Course Bloom Fringe Festival

The Horticulture students participated in a Bloom Fringe design challenge at the Crown Plaza Hotel in October 2018. Their (awesome!) tutor Éimear Joyce led her students to victory with their design. They got a wonderful prize of a selection of plants for our college garden.

Computer Systems & Networks Course IT Blanchardstown Feb 2018

Killester College has had a long tradition of sending the Computer Systems & Networks students to IT Blanchardstown to complete their degree in computer Science. Each February the second year students visit IT Blanchardstown where they are given a guided tour of the college, the lecture rooms and the computer labs. This year our former student Kevin Riordan gave the current Killester students an overview of the subjects they will be doing next year. Kevin is currently in year 2 of the degree programme in ITB having taken the advanced entry option from Killester College after graduating last May.
A’Tráth na gCeist’ took place for all seniors in the Sports Hall, with spot prizes and Easter Eggs for the winners. It was a great event. There was also a Céili for all Transition Years and Fifth Years in the Sports Hall. This went on for one hour with students learning ‘The Walls of Limerick’, ‘The Siege of Ennis’ and also taking part in a fun dance taught in the Gaeltacht called ‘An Dreolín’. The junior classes took part in the céili in their own classrooms.

There was a Focal Factor for First and Second Years. Every student got involved and there were prizes for first, second and third place on the day. The ‘Toraíocht Taisce’ is a type of treasure hunt that students took part in. They had to ask the teachers questions and fill out the questionnaire before the end of the week. These students also took part in a Seanfhocail competition and a ‘Gaeilge I mo cheantar’ competition, which focused on the use of Irish in Ballyfermot.

Something that both students and teachers got involved in throughout the week was ‘The Ticket System’. Every student or teacher was awarded one ticket for speaking Irish whenever possible. There was a notable increase in the amount of Irish spoken around the school, everyone made a huge effort to get involved. Some students received over 30 tickets over the course of the week.

A trad session took place in the front hall on Thursday, with students, teachers from the day school and the music school all taking part. A few ‘tunes’ were played throughout lunch and a crowd gathered to cheer the staff and student on while singing with them.

On both Tuesday and Thursday there was a ‘Ciorcal Comhrá’. Basically a ‘cupán tae’ and a chat for anyone willing to try speak their few words as gaeilge during lunch.

All in all it was a very busy, but enjoyable week. This year being ‘Bliain na Gaeilge’ it is important to use any few words of Gaeilge that you have. We hope that this Seachtain na Gaeilge has enticed people to use the language more!

Is fear Gaeilge briste, ná Béarla cliste!

Bain triail aisti – Surprise yourself!

Go raibh maith agaibh go léir.

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

The students of Kylemore College presented the musical ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat’ on February 21st and 22nd 2018. The show was a fantastic success and there was a cast of over 45 students involved. The music was provided by an orchestra of our own day school students and teaching staff. Others took on the role of stage crew, while our Gluais students sold raffle tickets and welcomed guests each night. The two lead roles were played by Transition year students, namely Luke Kelly as Joseph and Demi-Leigh Keegan as the Narrator. This was a wonderful production leaving the students with lifelong memories.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018

By Ms Jacob, Ms Bergin agus Ms O’Dwyer.

This year from the 12th of March until the 16th ‘Seachtain na Gaeilge’ was held in Kylemore College. The week consisted of fun activities for both students and teachers. Students from First to Sixth Year took part in activities both inside and outside of the classroom.

Joseph and the amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

The students of Kylemore College presented the musical ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat’ on February 21st and 22nd 2018. The show was a fantastic success and there was a cast of over 45 students involved. The music was provided by an orchestra of our own day school students and teaching staff. Others took on the role of stage crew, while our Gluais students sold raffle tickets and welcomed guests each night. The two lead roles were played by Transition year students, namely Luke Kelly as Joseph and Demi-Leigh Keegan as the Narrator. This was a wonderful production leaving the students with lifelong memories.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018

By Ms Jacob, Ms Bergin agus Ms O’Dwyer.

This year from the 12th of March until the 16th ‘Seachtain na Gaeilge’ was held in Kylemore College. The week consisted of fun activities for both students and teachers. Students from First to Sixth Year took part in activities both inside and outside of the classroom.
Prague in Words and Pictures

by Alan Kelly and students

Last November, a group of 19 students and 5 staff from Kylemore College travelled to Prague in the Czech Republic. The purpose of this visit was to participate in the Prague Autumn Choral Meeting. The Kylemore College Choir and Band comprised students from the day school choir and the Music Centre Glee Club who all performed their hearts out. When not on stage, the Kylemore gang could be seen taking in the sights and tastes of Prague. Huge thank you to Alan Kelly, Lisa McGuinness, Jonathan Healy, Davnet Cotter and Principal of Kylemore College Deirdre Nolan for making this trip a reality. A special word of thanks also to Amanda Dunne who dealt with the considerable logistics of organizing this trip.

Now over to the students to tell you their story and give you a flavour of the atmosphere:

Nathan Doyle

My Experience in Prague was the most amazing thing I could have ever had with my friends. We travelled around Prague having fun, seeing new places and just enjoying the views as we did lots of sightseeing and we went on a boat trip.

We went to loads of attractions around Prague during the day and at night we would go out for dinner. Then we would go back to our lovely hotel to go to sleep to do it all again the next day.

All I want to say is that my experience in Prague was so much fun and I would really like to go again with my friends.

Amelia Despet

At first when we were told we were going to the choral meeting in Prague we couldn't believe our ears but after it hit us we were both shocked and overjoyed. We could barely contain our excitement as we eagerly listened to the details. When we came back after the summer holidays Prague was all we could talk about. Every rehearsal we had with the Glee club that came to Prague with us was filled with excitement and impatience as November was slowly getting closer. When the day arrived and we were finally on the plane (in our tour hoodies which were made especially for the trip to represent our school), I realised that this was really happening, the day we have been waiting for so long is today.

Over the next three days we saw the beauty and history of Prague and met wonderful people like our guide Jana. We always came back to the hotel tired and with big smiles on our faces and we could hardly sleep remembering what happened at our concerts. One of the most memorable moments was the friendship concert when we sang in the church with choirs from all over Europe. You could feel the warmth and passion coming from everyone who sang. We laughed and sang our hearts out at every concert and even out on the streets.

If someone were to ask me what was my favourite part of the trip I wouldn’t be able to answer because every second of that trip was special. Unfortunately the day when we were to leave Prague finally came and we all left Prague with so many new amazing memories. I am so grateful and happy for getting to experience something so special. During the trip we met so many amazing new friends and the memories of that trip we will all treasure forever.

Alan Kelly, Music Dept.

I would like to acknowledge the support of the staff of Kylemore College and the parents of the students who travelled. Sincere thanks to the Music Centre Parents Association, the Sports and Cultural Council CDETB, Bank of Ireland Ballyfermot and Cornmarket Insurance. Finally to the members of Kylemore College Choir and Band, you were superb in every way. Congratulations on a fantastic achievement.
Larkin College News

Book Club and Anime Club

Larkin Library have set up a new Student Book Club and an Anime Club. The theme for this term’s book club is Difference. Students have suggested books around this theme and we have borrowed several of these from Dublin City Libraries.

We have also begun an Anime Club and we have some very knowledgeable students attending this. Our plan is to create an Illustrated Guide to Anime which we can share with other schools. We have agreed to communicate on this project through Edmodo.

Last meeting we watched a sample piece of anime and discussed this and several other different types of anime. At our next gathering we will be drawing characters and beginning to design our illustrated guide along with compiling a list of recommended websites.

Both of these clubs are being facilitated by Bernadette Larkin, one of the Readers in Residence from Dublin City Libraries, as part of the UNESCO City of Literature initiative.

JCSP Awards for 1st Years

We held an end of term awards ceremony in the library to celebrate the accomplishments of our 1st years over the first term. Jenny, the Librarian, spoke about the library and the importance of reading regularly and presented several certificates for Accelerated Reader. Ms Neill, the JCSP co-ordinator, introduced JCSP to all of our first year students. Ms O’Higgins spoke about the year so far and several upcoming events. Tutors Ms McKenna and Mr Honohan, presented certificates for homework, journals, behaviour and attendance. Our Principal, Mr Usher, then congratulated all first years before we settled down to watch ‘Granny O’Grimm’s Sleeping Beauty’ with some well-deserved treats.

Larkin Library Bookmarks

Towards the end of last year we held a competition for students to design bookmarks for the Library. We received some amazing entries and got the four winning designs printed up. During October, one of our students suggested making some bookmarks from autumn leaves and some fantastic bookmarks were created. We hope to design some handmade Christmas bookmarks too and will be looking for ideas.

Rights Museum Project

CDETB NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2018
As part of a year long programme of activity marking the 25th Anniversary of Ireland’s Ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), the Ombudsman for Children’s Office (OCO) has developed a broad range of new education resources to celebrate and raise awareness and understanding of Children’s Rights and encourage individual and collective renewal of the promise we made 25 years ago to progress Children’s Rights in Ireland, in innovative and creative ways.

‘The Rights Museum’ is a free online resource designed for 1-4th year Junior Cert students inviting them to explore the UNCRC and to choose and curate objects which represent rights of their choice to exhibit in a pop-up ‘Rights Museum’ in their school or community, developed in collaboration with Collapsing Horse Theatre and The National Museum of Ireland.

The OCO with Larkin Community College attended the opening of the very first Rights Museum at the National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks on Tuesday 20th March at 2.00pm by Dr Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children.

Since September 2017, 1st and 2nd year Art and CSPE students at Larkin had been piloting the resource, exploring their Rights, as enshrined in the UNCRC, through a series of Rights awareness, storytelling and art-making workshops. The exhibition, which runs from 20th March -30 May 2018, is a portrait of this particular group of young people as told by the objects they have chosen but also expresses how they see their ‘Rights in reality’ and questions whether Rights for all children and young people living in Ireland are being fully protected or realised.

Teen-Turn Summer Internships and celebration Lunch

Fifteen JCSP students from Larkin were very lucky to have been chosen to participate in Teen-Turn’s two week Summer Internship programme. Jenny had invited Joanne Dolan from Teen-Turn to visit Larkin Library and speak to interested students in May. This programme provides teen girls with the opportunity to spend two weeks during the summer in a technology career environment through work placements with Irish based companies. After a very encouraging talk from Ms O’Higgins we had a library full of 3rd year girls for the Teen-Turn presentation. With a lot of form filling and help with applications we were lucky enough to secure places for fifteen of our students on this fantastic programme.

After speaking with parents/guardians, successful students were accompanied by Jenny, the Librarian, to the induction day on July 24th in The Science Gallery. Students were given a presentation by Teen-Turn and Hayes Recruitment, given help to set up their blogs, provided with bus tickets/LEAP cards and given pre-loaded Mastercards or canteen cards for their lunches before they each met with their IT mentors from their assigned technology companies.

The girls learned a little about the companies and the projects that would they be working on for their two week placement and were excited to hear about games rooms, gyms, nap pods and unlimited snacks which some of the companies provided. Students were then brought to visit some large technology companies in the Docklands - and loved being shown around AirBnb and Accenture where we were all very impressed to hear all the amazing perks they offer their employees.

The girls wrote a daily blog about their experiences. Most of them were involved in programming / app development and made presentations to their host company before they finished. The girls had meetings with a variety of staff members such as trend forecasters, visual merchandisers, data scientists, developers and project managers who explained their career-paths to the girls. Each of them had a female mentor who tried to help develop their interests in STEM subjects and several have been invited back for Work Experience next year.

On September 15th a lunch was held in the Library to celebrate the successes of the girls who participated in the Teen Turn programme. All staff were invited into the library to chat to the girls informally and to hear about all the wonderful work they had done over the summer. The girls were presented with reference letters and participation certificates over the next month. Some of the companies that they were placed with included: BT, Davy, ebay, HEAnet, Jazz Pharma, Novartis, Pivotal, Primark, Rockall Tech and Zalando. Teen-Turn provides an amazing opportunity for our students to experience life as employees of top technology companies. I know that the Teen-Turnships that the fifteen girls from Larkin completed this summer will have a lasting impact on their lives.
Theatre Trip

Jenny brought a group of 10 students to ‘We Come From Far Far Away’ in The Ark during October. The theatre production was based on stories from young people at a reception centre for young refugees in Oslo. It was performed in a traditional Mongolian Yurt and they used storytelling, comedy, shadow-puppetry and live music to tell incredible and often upsetting stories. We were very fortunate to have had Liam McCarthy, from The Ark, come to our Library the previous week to do a pre-play workshop and any follow up questions were answered by the theatre company after the show.

Here is a short review from one of the students:

‘Today 10 lucky students were chosen to go on a trip to The Ark Theatre for their hard work in their Accelerated Reader. I was one of the lucky few and I thought the play was fantastic. The humorous actors and actresses made it very entertaining for all the audience. I never expected that I would have so much fun on the trip as I was never interested in plays, but today I just proved myself wrong. I loved everything about it. I loved how Bob and John played their guitars for the background music. I would like to see another story of a person’s adventure on a journey. Afterwards we went to McDonalds and got ice-cream’.

Rod Smith advises Creative Writing Group

Author Rod Smith has agreed to volunteer in Larkin Library again this year. He spoke to a group of first year students about being an author, answered a million and one questions and spoke to them about what makes a good story. They made up a scary story during the session where each student contributed a few sentences. He read them his 140 character scary story and encouraged them to enter our Scary Story Halloween competition. Rod donated some copies of his latest book on Charles Stewart Parnell to our library and some of the students were very excited to get his autograph. Rod has agreed to come to our library every two weeks to advise our Creative Writing Group.
Margaret Alyward
Library News

By Sarah Purcell JCSP Librarian

Our JCSP library is an unpredictable place! Step inside and you might find a book trailer being made, a rap being recorded, a book club in full swing, or stories and poetry being written with CDETB writer-in-residence Kevin McDermott! Events and workshops like these run alongside regular timetabled classes for all juniors on information skills, reading and discussing novels and stories, use of Accelerated Reader, Khan Academy, maths games and more, based on the specific needs of classes.

We also create outreach opportunities with local schools Rosmini and Beneavin, including them in workshops, donating library stock and supporting them in creating a reading culture.

Stem Workshops

There has been a big emphasis on STEM in the library this year with visits before Christmas from both LearnIT.ie and Make Create Innovate. LearnIT held robotics workshops and Make Create Innovate used Makey kits attached to laptops to conduct sound across music instruments created by the students. The workshops enabled students to use digital technology to develop numeracy skills and understanding, work creatively with others and nurture positivity around the STEM subjects. Students from both Rosmini and Beneavin also participated.

Arts in Education

Aligning with the Arts in Education charter is important in all we do, so we ensure students experience visits from artists, authors, filmmakers and musicians throughout the year.

- Author and illustrator Alan Nolan facilitated a pop art Christmas card workshop for 1st-3rd year art students and a group from Rosmini.
- 1st and 2nd years participated in an Inter-schools art competition run by Little Island, to design an alternative book cover for Sheena Wilkinson’s new novel ‘Star by Star’. Winners were announced at the launch in Books Upstairs and Rachael, one of our 2nd years came in first place!
- A group of 1st and 2nd years are participating in this year’s JCSP Make A Book. We decided to make book trailers for student-chosen ‘On the Edge’ by Nigel Hinton, an author who will be visiting us from the UK in April and ‘Perfect’ by Joanna Kenrick. Award-winning filmmaker Claire Dix coached the students in storyboarding, filming and editing.
- As usual, GMC Beats was a massive hit! He led songwriting/rap workshops with both Rosmini and MACC 1st years. Both groups wrote and recorded a song, which the 1st years will perform at JCSP WRaPparound this year.
Parent Paired Reading

This is an active parent group through HSCL and these parents were given a one hour training session to describe the aims and methods of paired reading and to demonstrate it. Parents have been reading for 4 weeks now and it has been enriching for all involved. The initiative will finish with a celebration and certificate ceremony.

World Book Day

World book day was as busy as ever with 3rd years holding a book/bake sale as part of their CSPE action project. We also had nail artist @magneticireland creating beautiful book nail art on 25 students who were being rewarded for their reading achievements and involvement in the library. 12 students also received prizes for guessing the book titles according to cryptic picture clues.

We will finish the year with visits from Nigel Hinton and Sheena Wilkinson, a Children’s Books Ireland shadowing group between our school and Beneavin to review the titles shortlisted for books of the year, celebration of our writing group’s work at the Mansion House with the other participating schools and performance at Wrapparound in Trinity College Dublin!

Junk Kouture at Margaret Aylward Community College

Transition Year students at Margaret Aylward Community College worked like crazy to create these amazing creations for the Junk Kouture Regional Finals at the Helix on the 6th of March 2018. Despite school closures caused by Ophelia and the Beast from the East, our costumes were fit and fab on time for the competition. Over 80 teams took part in the regional finals and we were thrilled when one of our teams was selected to go through to the Grand Final in the O3 Arena on the 19th of April.

Our Doomsday Warrior Princess team members were Rachel Kelly, Laura Byrne and Ellie O’Connell. Getting through to the Grand Finals were Pacific Trash Vortex Bride - Chloe Mc Court, Erica Garland and Aoife Hyland.

This project could not have happened without the amazing support of staff and pupils at Margaret Aylward Community College and also all of the School Completion Programme team.
Pearse College of Further Education News

Allotments Apiary

Finally, after many years of hopeful wishing and research, we have managed to set up the Pearse College Allotments Apiary. This follows huge interest from Pearse College staff and students and among the plot holders.

We ran information sessions and meetings of interested people initially and since last summer we have been running beekeeping classes in the sports hall through the Adult Education Service, which proved to be hugely popular. As a result, we now have appointed 3 teams of 3 beekeepers from among the plot holders, and we recently purchased 3 new Pearse College Allotments hives, along with all of the equipment needed to look after them.

The hope is that all of the plot holders as well as the college will share in the produce - we are in the process of coming up with a fair way of distributing it!!

The Horticulture students are also making a variety of different styles of hives in class, and we hope the results will be useful for potential swarms.

The Food Processing teacher is delighted to get involved and has experience in the area of extraction of honey and wax, so that we can pass on these skills to the Food Science and HE students.

We also hope to offer classes in beekeeping as part of the horticulture courses in the next year or so.
Happy Birthday - 50 years at the heart of education in Crumlin

The academic year 2017/2018 is a special year for Pearse as we celebrate 50 years at the Heart of Education in Crumlin.

As a college, we decided that we wanted our 50th celebrations to involve past students as well as current and, most importantly, the local community and so we concentrated most of our efforts on March 15th, to tie in with our annual Pearse Showcase Day. We invited schools, the local community, past pupils and the many friends of Pearse College to join us for a range of events including tastings, displays and performances throughout the day.

We had horticulture talks on basket making, beekeeping and compost heaps, singing, speeches and poetry readings from our current staff and students, face painting clowns and a bouncy castle for children and demonstrations on Food from the 5 Decades by the Food Science and Home economics students that were well worth tasting – and includes such forgotten (!) joys as angel delight, sherry trifle, cheese cubes & pineapple hedgehogs, chicken supreme, quiche and tiramisu.

We also had a small Farmers market to give a flavour of what might be to come from the Pearse College Allotments and we set up a 1960s classroom where visitors had the chance to be part of a class and see for themselves how times have – or maybe not – changed in 50 years.

We also used this special anniversary year to look at the college and how it might have evolved in the 5 decades since the academic year 1967/1968 with an exhibition of old photographs and college literature that really showed how different some things are, but also how little has changed in many ways since September 1967.

When we first opened our doors as Sundrive Boys Post Primary School, Crumlin was a very different place, and over the years the college staff adapted what we did to meet the needs of our local community. As the first college in the country to run full time day courses for adults, Pearse was a pioneer, and we still hold a unique position among Colleges of Further Education in attracting and catering for slightly older students.

We do this through the types of courses we offer, but most especially through our staff who know what it means to come back to education after a gap and understand the extra demands on their time that our students cope with on a daily basis.

The highlight of the day was when we unveiled our quiet space and water feature, created especially to mark the 50th Anniversary of Pearse College, and we were delighted to have that great ambassador of returning to learning, Senator Lynn Ruane speak to the assembled crowds on the value of education in her life.

Happy Birthday Pearse!
Green Award to Pearse

In recognition of over a decade of sustainable initiatives, Pearse College was awarded the ‘Sustainable Team of the Year’ at the prestigious Green Awards 2018. This award celebrated the work of the Green Committee comprising staff and students, past and present. The ceremony was held at the Carlton Hotel on February 20th where Principal Jacqueline Nunan, Deputy Principal Patricia O’Keeffe and staff members of the Environment Department represented Pearse College Green Committee. There was surprise and excitement when Pearse were announced winners in the running against some high-ranking private companies such as LinkedIn. Pearse College is exceptionally proud of this achievement and intends to continue to stand as a flagship centre for sustainability, within the CDETB. The college is currently on its way to a second green campus flag and would hope this achievement encourages other centres to follow their example.

FAI accredited Soccer Coaching

The Sports Management and Personal Training students undertook their UEFA C licence training from 28th to 30th November this year with the FAI, with the Soccer Coaching & Gym Instruction Students helping out as players.

Being able to offer this course to the students is a great opportunity for them and for us as we are the only PLC provider that offers this FAI accredited course.

It was a major success with 100% pass rate – a fantastic result for the students and their teachers!
Tomorrows Managers Today

“Dream Big. Start small. But most of all, start.” - Simon Senek

On March 28th, the Leaving certificate students in Pearse College took part in an event called ‘Tomorrows Manager Today’. TMT is an enterprise simulation event targeting students from 3rd - 6th year to teach them lifelong skills.

The exercise features students running rival companies which have to meet contract deadlines to strict quality control standards. The event is being jointly organised by teacher Breffni Conaty, and the support of the Advanced Business course in Pearse College.

The simulation gave the students, who pair into teams of 8-10 students each, an opportunity to run a business for the day, gaining valuable skills in teamworking, communicating, planning, decision-making and working under pressure. It also gave them them an insight into the manufacturing industry of the twenty-first century and prepared them for the future world of work.

The students faced all kinds of problems – fierce competition, shortages of materials, faulty parts, design changes, computer crashes, changes of government policy and customers only able to speak French or German – and through all this still were able to make a profit!

The day ended with the students getting feedback from the dealers/companies around the room on how well they did compared to their real day-to-day experiences of being in business.

The event was a great way to integrate enterprise education to all leaving certificate classes and will hopefully become a permanent fixture in our academic year.

Thanks to all the students who took part on the day. For more information on TMT contact Breffni Conaty on bconaty@pearsecollege.ie.

Dublin Regional Skills Forum News

Dublin Regional Skills is an initiative under the Department of Education and Skills to support the engagement between education providers and businesses to meet and address skills needs within the region of Dublin. CDETB is one of the forum members amongst all other IOTs & Universities along with industry bodies, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, LEOs and county councils. It presents opportunities for collaboration and engagement.

The mission of the forum is to be the driving network within the Dublin region that identifies and delivers skills development outcomes that are all inclusive for learners through the positive engagement of enterprise & education and training system aligned.

Our core objectives will focus activities based on the National Skills Strategy and Jobs Action Plan. Sector activities will address skills in Tourism and Hospitality, Bio-pharma, Fintech, Retail, Med-tech, Transport/Logistics/Supply, Construction and ICT.

To find out more contact natashakinsella@regionalskills.ie or visit www.regionalskills.ie
Plunket College News

Digital Learning Framework at Plunket

While recognising the achievements and developments made by Plunket College of Further Education over the past 50 years, we are now entering a phase of new development. The college recognises that we are now providing education and preparing learners for a workforce that is increasingly being driven by digital technologies. Our Digital Learning Framework will provide an ideal platform for the college to embrace this new age.

Plunket College of Further Education, from November 2017, along with the Department of Education (DES) and the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST), engaged in the Digital Learning Framework for Post-Primary Schools. After an expression of interest was made to the Department of Education in September 2017, Plunket College of Further Education was among 20 Post-Primary schools nationally to be chosen to trial the framework over the 2017/2018 academic year. The trial will be wrapped up and reviewed in April / May 2018 in light of a full roll out to all schools nationally in September 2018.

The main aims of our digital plan are centred with a sharp focus on enabling students to enhance their learning experiences while creating for them an enjoyable learning platform where achievement can be monitored and improved by embedding the use of digital technologies into every practice. The improvement process will be facilitated by a series of school visits with a PDST advisor who will assist in the monitoring and updating of the schools action plan.

The digital plan will be achieved through the comprehensive engagement of all members of the school community, including School Management, Board of Management, Digital Learning Team, Teaching Staff & Students, PDST Advisor and Parents / Guardians - who each play a significant role in supporting this educational change and giving it momentum for the future.

Since the trial has commenced, the school’s digital environment has been enhanced in terms of the platforms it now provides for teachers and students to look at opportunities where the use of digital technology can be integrated into their day to day school environment. For example, all digital school communication by staff and students, such as the generating of academic reportage, school planning and the use of digital classrooms, is now routed through our Google Suite Platform. The school has also efficient resources, having invested in a range of technologies such as Digital Notice Boards, iPads, a laptop and other ICT equipment.

Plunket College of Further Education Digital Learning Team: Gerald Cunningham, Jason Ryan, Robert Vipond

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Michael MacDonncha, Gayle Smith, Pre-University Arts student and Student Council rep.

Carol Hanney, CE CDETB, Yuliya Karavayeva, Fifth Year student and Student Council rep.


Carol Hanney, CE CDETB and Lord Mayor of Dublin, Micheal MacDonncha, opening Mindfulness Garden

Members of the Student Council and teacher Maria Dixon in new Mindfulness garden

Councillor Aine Clancy, Councillor Andrew Keegan, Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin and former Chairperson Plunket College BOM, John Lonergan, Former Governor Mountjoy Prison, Lord Mayor of Dublin, Micheal MacDonncha, Carol Hanney, CE CDETB, Elaine O’Sullivan, Deputy Principal Plunket College; Adrian Delaney, Principal Plunket College.

Former Principals Kevin O’Meara and Orla Kehily, Current Principal Adrian Delaney
Plunket 50th Anniversary

On Friday 9th March, Plunket College celebrated its 50th Anniversary. This historic event was attended by many teachers, students, parents and other family members (both past and present).

Guests of Honour and visiting speakers included The Lord Mayor of Dublin – Councillor Micheal Mac Donncha, Ms Carol Hanney (CE CDETB), Mr John Lonergan (Former Governor Mountjoy Prison), Councillor Andrew Keegan, Chairperson of the BOM, and Pre-University Arts student, Ms Jean Marie Kelly who gave a heartfelt and moving speech about the direct impact of adult education on her personal life. In fact, this theme was recurrent and on everyone’s lips throughout the day and enormous praise was reiterated for the 50 years contribution made by Plunket College of Further Education staff to the lives of so many thousands of students down through the years.

This was very much in evidence and reinforced by the ‘Plunket College of Further Education 50th Anniversary Journal’ which contains many wonderful testimonials submitted by current and former students and staff alike.

The College was particularly delighted to welcome so many former members of staff including former Principals, Kevin O’Meara and Orla Kehily and former Deputy Principals Tony O’Brien and Teresa Murphy.

Tributes were also paid to all those involved in preparing for this memorable celebration including the Student Council who were on hand to welcome and assist the many guests in attendance as well as presenting our visiting guests with mementos of the occasion. The opening of a new ‘Mindfulness Garden’ was just another meaningful highlight in what was a very enjoyable day for, and shared by, all.

Business in the Community

By Jason Ryan

Plunket College of Further Education in conjunction with Business in the Community have been partnered with Veolia Ireland as part of the Skills at Work programme. During the year students from 6th year and repeat leaving certificate took part in different workshops with Veolia, including the following.

**Speed Interview** – During this workshop students met with the employees from the company and asked them questions about their career, how they got the position that they are in and any advice they had about the world of work.

**CV and Interview Techniques** - The next workshop was on CV and interview techniques. This is where the students learned how to write a good CV and the skills needed for a good interview. The students then had to apply for a job in Veolia, either as an Administrator or as a Removal Griffith Technician.

**Mock Interview Techniques** – Students were then invited to attend a mock interview in Veolia’s Head office in Glasnevin. Each student was interviewed by an employee from Veolia’s Human Resource Department and given feedback on how they performed. The students found this exercise very worthwhile and learned a lot from it even though some of them were very nervous.

**Wrap up Session** – this year the students created a website (https://plunketsaw.weebly.com) which was launched on the day. The website is a collection of what the students have learned during the programme and includes video presentations and pictures.

The students would like to thank all the employees of Veolia who took time out of their busy working day to pass on their experience and advice, and Donna Mare Masterson, Jenny and Sabrina who worked so hard organising the different workshops.
Prison Education Service News

New play comes home

Students in the Education Centre, Mountjoy Prison, recently attended a unique performance of Sebastian Barry’s new play ‘On Blueberry Hill’. The play, produced by Fishamble Theatre Company, was first performed during the Dublin Theatre Festival then moved to Paris for a week before returning to Dublin to be staged in the prison.

The play is set in a cell in Mountjoy shared for 20 years by two lifers whose crimes are inextricably bound together. Accordingly, teachers in the Education Centre felt it would have a particular relevance and resonance for their students and perhaps prove to be a truthful and meaningful theatrical experience. And so it was. Having sat attentively for nearly two hours as the drama unfolded, many of the audience said afterwards that they had never seen anything like it, with one student declaring it ‘awesome’. As Director Jim Culleton said “there were ripples of acknowledgment at many points and a breath-holding silence for many of the emotional sections about the experience of the characters in Mountjoy”. He also noted how at the end, unlike with other audiences, the students sang along with the actors while “a man whistled along beautifully, someone shouted ‘C’mon Christy’ and there was a great cheer as the lights went down”.

Similarly, Hugh Linehan, Irish Times Culture Editor, who had accompanied Fishamble to the performance, wrote afterwards, “It’s not a typical theatre crowd – none of the prisoners I talk to has been to a play before – but the subject, the setting and the raw emotion of the drama seem to hit home”. Sebastian Barry, who was also in attendance was heartened by the positive reaction and said, “What a magical place to bring this play,” and “I’m really proud to bring it here.” Linehan quoted Barry as stating “That’s the best audience we’ve ever had.”

Travellers in Prison Initiative Conference

At a major conference held in Dublin Castle on 20 October, Director of the Irish Prison Service, Michael Donnellan paid tribute to the CDETB Educational Service to Prisons for the role it has played in addressing the challenges faced by members of the Travelling Community in the prison system. Mr Donnellan said there was now a teacher in each prison education centre in Dublin dedicated to ensuring that the needs of Travellers were identified and outcomes improved.

The Travellers in Prison Initiative (TPI) was developed in 2014 as a response to the particular needs and circumstances of Travellers within the 14 prisons in Ireland (and is funded by the St Stephen’s Green Trust, the Irish Prison Service and the Irish Probation Service).

The aim of the TPI is to effect change in policy and practice in relation to how the prison service engages with Travellers. To achieve this, they have been working with the ETBs to assist the prison education centres in ensuring that training and education is both culturally sensitive and inclusive of Travellers.

Since 2016 CDETB teacher Jane Newman has coordinated the effort in the seven Dublin prisons by organising Traveller support groups and meeting with Traveller liaison teachers in all of the education centres. Jane has also organised CPD for teachers in Dublin in relation to Traveller Culture. CDETB teachers have also organised Traveller pride events in the Dublin prison education centres.

That Irish Travellers account for just 0.6 per cent of the population but make up an estimated 15 to 22 per cent of the male and female prison population was just one of the shocking statistics highlighted at the conference. Low levels of literacy has been identified as one of the main barriers to Travellers accessing education and services in prison.

Hosted by the Travellers in Prison Initiative (TPI), and opened by Minister of State for Equality, David Staunton, the conference heard from a range of speakers and activists including Maria Joyce, Kathleen Lawrence, Nell and Michael McDonagh, Thomas McCann, and Martin Collins.

While the granting of ethnic minority status to Travellers by the Irish state was warmly welcomed, Thomas McCann of the Traveller Counselling Service stressed that Travellers still suffer significant disadvantages and discrimination in Irish society. Traveller unemployment rates remain at 80 per cent; suicide among Travellers is six times higher than in the general population, participation in third level education is as low as one per cent, and the average age of school leaving is 15.

Students in the Education Centre, Mountjoy Prison, recently attended a unique performance of Sebastian Barry’s new play ‘On Blueberry Hill’. The play, produced by Fishamble Theatre Company, was first performed during the Dublin Theatre Festival then moved to Paris for a week before returning to Dublin to be staged in the prison.

The play is set in a cell in Mountjoy shared for 20 years by two lifers whose crimes are inextricably bound together. Accordingly, teachers in the Education Centre felt it would have a particular relevance and resonance for their students and perhaps prove to be a truthful and meaningful theatrical experience. And so it was. Having sat attentively for nearly two hours as the drama unfolded, many of the audience said afterwards that they had never seen anything like it, with one student declaring it ‘awesome’. As Director Jim Culleton said “there were ripples of acknowledgment at many points and a breath-holding silence for many of the emotional sections about the experience of the characters in Mountjoy”. He also noted how at the end, unlike with other audiences, the students sang along with the actors while “a man whistled along beautifully, someone shouted ‘C’mon Christy’ and there was a great cheer as the lights went down”.

Similarly, Hugh Linehan, Irish Times Culture Editor, who had accompanied Fishamble to the performance, wrote afterwards, “It’s not a typical theatre crowd – none of the prisoners I talk to has been to a play before – but the subject, the setting and the raw emotion of the drama seem to hit home”. Sebastian Barry, who was also in attendance was heartened by the positive reaction and said, “What a magical place to bring this play,” and “I’m really proud to bring it here.” Linehan quoted Barry as stating “That’s the best audience we’ve ever had.”
Travellers suffer from high levels of internalised oppression and experience significant discrimination in everyday life, according to McCann who reflected that this legacy of shame dates back to the 1963 Commission on Itinerancy which saw Travellers as a ‘problem’ that could only be solved by their integration into ‘settled society’.

Important issues which were discussed at the conference included the need to build a knowledge base about Travellers in prison through the introduction of an ethnic identifier, along with the need for improved access to services in prison, peer support and self-advocacy for Travellers in prison, and the importance of strengthening supports for families, and post-prison supports via a multi-agency approach.

The difficulties faced by Traveller women were also highlighted, with a very moving first-hand account of one woman’s experience of addiction and imprisonment. Traveller women are 22 times more likely to end up in prison than women in the general population.
Erasmus trip to Nantes, France

By Aisling Breen

The travel bug and not the usual winter cold and flu symptoms is what struck the 10 Erasmus + students from Rathmines College. In early February the group travelled to Nantes, France for a two week work experience programme.

Now in its fifth year the Rathmines College Erasmus + programme, in association with our Nantes partner, Lycee Talensac, saw the students experience French working life, culture and, of course, social life. Rathmines College teacher Patrick Desprez accompanied the group to Nantes again this year – a great asset to the exchange students as Patrick is a native French speaker.

Working in customer service, restaurants, cafes and local shops the students have gained valuable experience of living and working abroad with the opportunity of improving their French language skills and of course enjoying themselves over the two-week programme. Pre-travel jitters of traveling abroad have now been replaced with student travel plans for more adventures in summer 2018.

Rathmines College will be expanding the Erasmus + programme to Berlin, Germany in February 2019. A partnership has been formed with OSZ IMT, the largest IT College in Berlin with over 3500 students. Next year another group of 10 students will experience travel and working opportunities to the German capital and for Rathmines College the hope is that this extra partnership brings with it more learning and travel opportunities for the 10 selected students.
**Football news**

Rathmines College football team had a brilliant season, winning Division 4 of the Colleges and Universities Football league. The team went undefeated, winning 7 games in a row.

The season started with a tough away game against Royal College of Surgeons, but a super goal from Dele Bioduin set Rathmines on their way.

Next to come was a local derby with Pearse College. Rathmines defence stood strong from the outset under the leadership of the impressive Jake Carroll and in the second half pulled away from Pearse College with a hat-trick from Yemi Adebsin.

Now full of confidence, Rathmines saw off DCU Freshers in their next outing before coming to their toughest test so far against the undefeated Inchicore College. This was a tight and tense affair and certainly not for the purists, but Rathmines edged out 2 – 1 winners in the end, with Mazen Agamy and Joel Bekombo contributing the goals that confirmed a home quarter-final.

The draw pitted Rathmines against St. Pat’s of Carlow. Another tough game where both sides had goal chances early on, but Rathmines eventually broke the deadlock just before half time with a well-worked corner, Kevin Sanz providing the decisive finish. After the restart, Rathmines kicked on, taking a three goal lead. Possibly a sense of complacency had set in, but this game was far from over. Carlow pulled two goals back and a nervy finish was in store. However, superb defending from Aaron Leahy and Mark Nolan ensured Rathmines progressed.

The semi-final left Rathmines with a daunting trip to Limerick IT, but the team relished the challenge of a tough away fixture and showed their grit and determination, running out easy winners in the end with goals from Brian Sofola and Jack Moore.

Rathmines faced local rivals Griffith College in the final in the FAI HQ in Abbottstown. A ding-dong Dublin derby looked like remaining scoreless until the interval. The game sprang into life with Griffith taking the lead in the 44th minute, a potential body-blow for Rathmines coming so close to half-time, but the quick-thinking Joel Bekombo equalised a minute later.

Rathmines upped the intensity in the 2nd half and a tactical switch of moving Mazen Agamy up front was the winning of the game as Mazen struck a second-half double to help Rathmines College claim their first ever Colleges and Universities Division 4.

Their success in winning while undefeated can be put down to resolute defending and quality scoring, but undoubtedly their work-rate and particularly their positive never-say-die attitude kept them in games they might otherwise have conceded.


Rathmines celebrated St Patrick’s Weekend with the ‘Rathmines Shindig’, a three hour street event which took place on Friday March 16th. The event was a collaboration between four colleges: Rathmines College, DIT Conservatory of Music and Drama, St Louis High School and St Mary’s College with support from Dublin South City Partnership and funding from Dublin City Council. For the most part, the performers were students of the colleges and the entertainment included music, song, dance and drama. The Muslim National School Choir, Clonskeagh along with the Indian duo, Lenin and Lional, added a strong multi-national element to proceedings.

This unique collaboration between the four colleges was instigated by Rathmines College in 2015 with a view to raising the level of interaction between students and the local community in which the colleges belong. Rathmines College has strong links with the local community, having in the past, organised Clubs and Societies days, Rathmines Festival and Festival under the Clock which formed a basis for an event management course; it also hosts ‘InRathmines’ an online community information and news noticeboard.

The celebration continued in Rathmines College with students offering samples of food, music and dance from a wide variety of countries.

Business Level 6 students also organised a book sale and donated approximately €100 to the St Vincent de Paul.
Spotlight on Ringsend College – a hothouse of science

What a wonderful start to the year for two very talented 1st year students, Abbie Cassidy and Clodagh Clarke from Ringsend College.

Their study on stress in students and the best ways to deal with it was shortlisted to appear at the BT Young Scientists and Technology Exhibition 2018. They were also selected to do the launch publicity. Next day, 10th of January, Abbie and Clodagh found themselves all over the papers, social media, radio and TV.

This is a very prestigious event attracting 55,000 visitors who get to see the work of Ireland’s brightest young scientific minds. Not only did Abbie and Clodagh get this second-to-none opportunity to showcase their project – they got to make a spectacular performance at the launch.

Only last year Ringsend College students Toni Mockler, Nichole Gaynor Meier and Kyle Graham won third place in the Social and Behavioural Sciences category at the BT for a self-diagnostic App they created to track teenage mental health.

‘Binning = Winning’ and ‘Cycling Against Racism’ Awards for Stoneybatter Youth Service

This year Stoneybatter Youth Service (SYS) won two awards at the final of the ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) held on the 23rd May in the Mansion House. The YEA honour the work of young people to protect, conserve and enhance the environment through local environmental projects, making a difference to their lives and the lives of others both locally and globally.

‘Binning = Winning’ won the Waste – Junior category. This educational project raised environmental awareness, understanding and knowledge of the environment with a focus on recycling in the community amongst young people.

The group looked at the issue of waste and worked in a creative and fun way on the recycling process in the Smithfield area. They made a video, acting out different scenarios of littering in Smithfield square in order to find out what the response was when members of the public saw others throwing rubbish on the ground. The young people then invited their friends and family to view their video. As a result, they brought attention to the importance of recycling in their community.

Winners in the ECO-Community Development – Senior category was ‘Cycling Against Racism’. This community action project aimed to promote personal development of international young people and the wider community through the provision of alternative recreation and environmental education. The programme developed a supportive environment for all young people that increased social inclusion and participation, social support and networking and a sense of integration in Irish society. Some of the activities involved learning how to cycle, painting t-shirts and baking cookies for the event. At the end of the project the young people organised a Cycling Against Racism Event in the Phoenix Park and raised awareness of the ‘No Hate Speech’ campaign.
Stand up together

A LGBTQI+ event was hosted by Whitehall College for Further Education in November 2017, as part of Stand Up campaign by Belong To, organised by Conor Kelly (student) and Paul Rudden (our guidance counsellor). Keynote speaker on the day Sharon Nolan, from BI + Ireland Network, spoke to staff and students, increasing awareness and support for LGBT by other students. Following the event the College won a draw to receive a talk from Monnine Griffith, Executive Director of Belong To Youth Services, and Monnine gave the talk in the College in March 2018.

# Me Too has momentum from Whitehall College speaker!

A great afternoon of debate, discussion and argument was enjoyed by everyone who attended the Public speaking blitz held in Crumlin College on January 24th.

Whitehall College student Sarah Tyrell’s speech “The power of women” proved to be a hotly topical speech which enthralled the audience and adjudicators alike. Sarah, examining the revolution that we are witnessing now, highlighted that women in the aftermath of the Weinstein case have finally been empowered to articulate their experience of abuse. However, Sarah added the important proviso that “if anyone is considering the notion that women journalists ought to be chaperoned when interviewing male celebrities, we might as well give up and go home to cover the piano legs!”

In her narrative Sarah clearly outlined that until the link between power and masculinity is dissolved internally that this brave new world risks looking pretty much like the old one.

Well done to Sarah on winning the Jonathan Philbin Bowman cup for public speaking for 2018.

Pictured: Sarah Tyrell and her teacher Maire Smyth

Kilmainham Goal Visit

On 26th February our New Horizons – English language students visited Kilmainham Gaol as part of their Historical Studies/Intercultural Awareness modules, with their teacher Shane Dalton.

Fashion Boss Visit

Local entrepreneur Lorna Duffy came to Whitehall College of Further Education on Wednesday 6th December to speak to students from the Business Department. Lorna runs her own business as a Style, Travel and Lifestyle Blogger and is also a Fashion Presenter with a background in Digital Marketing. Lorna gave an insightful presentation to students about setting up a business in the ever-progression digital age. She told students:

‘The key to kick-starting your career or setting up your own business is to think outside the box, stand out and be creative.’

Lorna currently works with TV3 as a Consultant and Stylist and said that: ‘Self-motivation, knowledge and determination are the keys to success.’
The FE Network had its 13th meeting in NCI in March 2018 on the theme of QQI. Five speakers shared their research, insights and experiences followed by discussion. The theme of this meeting was particularly topical given the recent publication of the QQI Green Paper on Assessment of Learners and Learning.

The Further Education Network is a voluntary community of practice set up by FE practitioners with the aim of providing a forum for those involved in Further Education in Ireland to share resources, research and ideas. The Network allows practitioners to assist each other in a critical inquiry of their work by hosting meetings where FET practitioners give short talks followed by discussion.

Speakers have come from over 30 different organisations and have covered a very wide range of topics related to FET. We would like to thank all our speakers including CDETB staff members Carrie Archer, Angela Cameron, Marie Clonan, Marie Collins, Gerard Flanagan, Linda McDermott, Mona McMahon, Eileen McPartland, Denis Murray, Charlain Pepper, Rory O’Sullivan, members of the Steering Committee, Finola Butler and Miriam O’Donoghue (FESS) and many apologies for any omissions. The commitment of staff members to improving their practice is evident in the quality of their presentations and their willingness to share their experiences and expertise with fellow practitioners. If you would like to know more about the FE Network contact fenireland@gmail.com or follow us on facebook or on Twitter @furthered.
CDETB Retirements

Congratulations and best wishes to the following staff who have retired or resigned since our last edition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Institute/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rose O’Sullivan</td>
<td>SSSF</td>
<td>Cabra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glenda Chop</td>
<td>PRT Teacher</td>
<td>Inchicore CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neville Style</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Liberties CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Mac Uidhir</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Preserved Benefits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena Powell</td>
<td>PRT Teacher</td>
<td>Prisons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Valerie Gavin</td>
<td>Senior Porter</td>
<td>Larkin CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ulrike McMahon</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Colaiste Dhulaigh PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Devine</td>
<td>Deputy Principal</td>
<td>Ballyfermot CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Nolan</td>
<td>SNA</td>
<td>Margaret Aylward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fergal Hardiman</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Ballyfermot CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ancilla O’Reilly</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Colaiste Eanna</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Duffy</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Bonnybrook YR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phelim Connolly</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Ringsend College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helena Brennan</td>
<td>PT Gen Op</td>
<td>Inchicore CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orla Kehily</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Plunket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn Scott McKenna</td>
<td>PRT Teacher</td>
<td>Rathmines CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Halpin</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Killester College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean Twohig</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Prisons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patrick Byrne</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Colaiste Eoin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maeve Macken</td>
<td>PRT Teacher</td>
<td>Whitehall CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noel White</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Transition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Curtis</td>
<td>Head Porter</td>
<td>Head Office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Murphy</td>
<td>General Operative</td>
<td>Colaiste Dhulaigh PP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Rooney</td>
<td>General Operative</td>
<td>Larkin CC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eamon Rice</td>
<td>General Operative</td>
<td>Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Donegan</td>
<td>General Operative</td>
<td>Maintenance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paul Lawless</td>
<td>General Operative</td>
<td>Cabra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurence Lynch</td>
<td>Assistant Porter</td>
<td>Killester College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Duffy</td>
<td>Supervising Teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Norris</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Prisons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Byrne</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Averill</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia O’Grady</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esther Osinuga</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>CDU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frances Pepper</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Parnell Adult Ed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil Nolan</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernadette Bekir</td>
<td>PT Gen Op</td>
<td>Transition Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqui O’Sullivan</td>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Crumlin College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Walsh</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Colaiste Ide CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anne Wilson</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roderick Gill</td>
<td>Regional IT Support</td>
<td>Ballyfermot TC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meabh Coogan</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Presentation College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry Sneyd</td>
<td>Clerical Officer</td>
<td>Ballyfermot TC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Damien Nolan</td>
<td>Instructor</td>
<td>Ballyfermot TC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Kelly</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Plunket</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitriona Cuddy</td>
<td>Tutor</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Lawless</td>
<td>General Operative</td>
<td>Pearse College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendan Ennis</td>
<td>Clerical Officer</td>
<td>Finglas TC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eileen Burke</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Prisons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deirdre MacEntee</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Presentation College Terenure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann Power</td>
<td>Class III Teacher</td>
<td>Inchicore CFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bernie Sproule</td>
<td>AEO</td>
<td>Adult Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas Hayes</td>
<td>General Assistant</td>
<td>Finglas Training Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Heffernan</td>
<td>Assistant Manager</td>
<td>Ballyfermot Training Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maureen Molloy</td>
<td>Grade VI</td>
<td>Head Office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CDETB offers sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of John Stitt, Class III Teacher at Ballyfermot CFE, who died in December 2016
Con Harvey-An Appreciation

By Charlie Mc Manus

Con Harvey, who died on 25th April 2017, was a teacher in Ringsend College (formerly Ringsend Technical Institute) for all of his career. He taught English and on occasion also Maths and Gaeilge. For a period he co-ordinated the college’s renowned Repeat Leaving Cert programme and for the last fifteen years of his career, before retirement in 2011, he held the post of deputy principal.

Con will be remembered as a brilliant teacher who built a strong rapport with his students whom he enthused with a love of the subject. Not one to follow the latest fad, he cast a cold eye on some superficial negative critiques of our education system. He was conscious of the very positive changes that programmes, in particular English, had undergone in recent times. He was enthusiastic about the reform of the Junior Cert.

As an advising examiner for Leaving Cert English higher course for many years he brought an added dimension to his teaching which was of great assistance to his students.

All his colleagues will remember him as a very friendly and courteous man who was not above a bit of friendly staffroom banter. He had a deep interest in current affairs generally and was a huge asset on any quiz team. He held strong opinions but was never opinionated. He never sought the limelight. His calm demeanour belied a steely determination and a capacity to assert himself strongly when the situation demanded it. This combination of qualities stood him in good stead when he became deputy principal. He exercised his responsibility for the day to day running of the school to the full. He worked well with his staff colleagues and performed his leadership role in a spirit of friendliness and co-operation. His knowledge of the family networks in a close knit village like Ringsend, and the fact that he taught many of the parents, were key factors in the school’s strong relationship with parents and the community.

Never one to adopt fully the new technology (although he did manage texts and emails in later years) he preferred pencil and paper when doing the timetable. It was noted however that he completed the task as fast as timetabling software and that his solutions, when uploaded, produced no conflicts!

As deputy principal he chaired the weekly meeting of the student support team and was always resourceful, pragmatic and caring in guiding its work and implementing strategies. His strong commitment to students in need of support was demonstrated when, upon retirement, he devoted some of his time to working with the nearby Life Centre in Pearse St.

Outside of school, Con’s main interest was his family. He married Máire while both of them were in their final year in UCD and they have three children and eight grandchildren. Born and reared in Dun Laoghaire, where he attended the local CBS, he spent the rest of his life in Bray where he and Máire had put down roots.

He was interested generally in sport but his focus on this front was mainly soccer and horse racing. While he worked over the odds in terms of time put into school activities all would know that on Cheltenham Gold Cup afternoon he would be nowhere to be found! The year after he retired he ticked a bucket list item by attending the Cheltenham Festival.

In more recent times, with the encouragement of Máire, he took up drawing and attended classes for a period. In this pursuit he discovered a competence which he had not realised he possessed and which he would likely have developed if he had not taken ill.

The onset of Con’s illness in the early years of his retirement was a big blow but he faced the treatment with his usual optimism and pragmatism. For those of us on the staff, either retired or still working, his death at the age of 64 means that a significant connection with the history of the modern school has now been broken. For his family his passing is an immense loss. He is survived by Máire and their children, Deirdre, Caitríona and Michael, as well as his grandchildren.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair. The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.

Con treasured a caricature drawn by Phelim Connolly, art teacher in Ringsend, which he was presented with on his retirement. It portrays him being carried aloft by happy students. The caption borne by the leading student sums up how he was regarded by the whole school community. It states simply “THE BEST”.

In all his dealings with students, staff and parents he was transparent and fair.

The high esteem in which he was held by students was underlined by the many comments on the school’s Facebook page by former students.
My experience of Youthreach

By Lucy

My experience with Youthreach so far has been one of the most influential experiences in my life especially in terms of education. The difference between general education and Youthreach is what really makes me enjoy my time here. I was never really someone who (has) enjoyed being in school and never felt it was right for me but I found out about Youthreach and it sounded exactly like something I would be interested in and it was. The best thing about Youthreach for me is the amount of respect I receive from the staff and the students. It’s a place where anyone is welcome and respected no matter what. This was one of the biggest issues for me previously in other forms of education, I didn’t feel that I was getting the respect I deserved which affected the way I worked and the amount of effort I put into things.

Youthreach has so many interesting and beneficial things to offer to young people. There’s new and interesting subjects like Beekeeping, Catering and Communications which are subjects that will actually help you in the future but can also be fun while doing them. The staff here want everyone in the centre to succeed in everything that they are capable of doing. No one here wants to see anyone fail or see anyone going down the wrong path and that’s very clear to see. The staff put every student’s needs before anything and will do anything in their power to help you achieve what you want to achieve. I think Youthreach has brought out a side of me that I didn’t know I had, the side of me that wants to achieve things in life and wants to succeed in the future but also a side of me that feels this is all possible even if I may slip up at times. The centre is all about bringing people together and making students aware that anything they want to do is achievable if you put your mind to it and put all the effort you can into it.

One of the bigger differences between general school and Youthreach is the resources we have here. We have access to computers and Photoshop, all types of art supplies, a catering kitchen, a beehive and protective suits, woodwork room with all necessary equipment and safety tools and also every day we get freshly made soup and hot food so people don’t have to bring in lunch or lunch money.

I think going to Youthreach was one of the best decisions I’ve made for myself because I’ve come such a long way in my short time here so far and (I know the outcome of this is what I need to have to do what I want to do in my future life.) The people here in Youthreach are all like a family, everyone laughs and jokes and has real conversations rather than in school there would be groups of certain people and people would easily get excluded. If someone new joins the centre everyone always goes out of their way to make conversation because in Youthreach we all want the same thing at the end of all of this so there’s no point in excluding people and everyone realises that. Youthreach as a whole is completely different to school in most ways and I can’t think of anything that I personally preferred in school, from the teachers to the students, subjects, environment, resources, food, everything in Youthreach for me is definitely a better place to be.

My plans for the future have changed since joining Youthreach because now I can see so many options for me. I would really love to take a year break for travelling and to discover a little bit more about the world and myself on the way. There’s so many places I’d love to go and it’s a dream of mine to go travelling. I would also like to do a college course in either travel and tourism or beauty therapy. Beauty therapy for me would be more fun and interesting because I love makeup and I really enjoy doing other people’s makeup and seeing the smile on their face after it’s finished, the course would be beneficial even if I didn’t pursue a career in it in the future because I will have enjoyed myself along the way. In the long run travel and tourism could be more fitting for a long term career that pays well and everyone travels so it’s not a job that will go out of style.

I also have an interest in cooking and I know I would thoroughly enjoy any job involving making food because I’ve always loved cooking, there are courses I can take that will help me go in that direction but until I know which course I want to do I could get a job in a restaurant for the experience. Until the time comes when it’s actually time to make the final decision I plan on exploring even more options and more courses now because there are so many available and the staff here help with any information I need so I know that in the end it will work out for me and I’m confident that I’ll make the best decision for me.

Overall I have a much better view of education after joining youthreach as it’s shown me that you can learn things and enjoy learning them along the way. It’s also shown me there’s so much more to learn than I know of, and I shouldn’t let people discourage me because I’m more than capable of doing what I would like to do. The level of maturity in youthreach with the students has made the whole journey a lot easier for me because I feel like the people here are here for a reason and not just to waste time which helps me feel motivated to do what I have to do.
Liberties College News

Students awarded Finbarr Flood Scholarships-Diageo/Guinness.

Congratulations to two Liberties College students, Leroy Walsh and Louise Dolan, who recently received Finbarr Flood awards at a special awards dinner in the Guinness Storehouse.

These scholarships are awarded by Diageo/Guinness to students from the Dublin 8 area, selected for their commitment to their studies and their academic achievements. The scholarships will support them as they continue to further their education.

Leroy Walsh completed his secondary education at Marino College, a CDETB school, and progressed to study Applied Social Studies in Liberties College last year. He is now studying Arts in NUI, Maynooth.

Louise Dolan completed her Higher National Diploma in Media Studies in Liberties College as a mature student and this year she progressed to Colaiste Dhulaigh FE College to a ‘top up’ degree programme. This one year programme is accredited by Wolverhampton University.

YOUth Summit: Peace, Justice and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Students from the Youth & Community Studies course in Liberties College recently attended the YOUth Summit held in the Aviva Stadium. This was organised by the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) and Concern as part of One World Week.

In July 2018, Ireland will report to the United Nations on the progress we are making on these issues at national and international levels at a meeting in New York. Ireland’s two UN Youth Delegates are creating a report of young people’s opinions on key issues affecting them from a personal, local, national, and global perspective. This report will go to Government, policy makers and leaders in Ireland, Europe, and UN in 2018 and will help to inform the Irish reporting on SDGs progress from a youth perspective.

This Summit gave young people an opportunity to discuss issues and provide feedback to this report thus ensuring their voice is heard.

Liberties College students brought their own energy to the occasion and their tutor, Dermot O’Brien received very positive feedback from a number of facilitators about their contributions and the value of their presence on the day. They were very inspired by some of the young people who spoke on the day and there was a sense amongst the group that they too could be on that stage in the future. Some commented that they would love to improve their public speaking skills and noted how the college staff help and encourage them when they are creating videos and making oral presentations in class.
Forest School Experience in Phoenix Park, The Furry Glen

Twenty seven students and three tutors headed into the woods at the Furry Glen on one of those fine final gloriously sunny days you can get in November. On our way there we had already spotted fallow deer, and grey squirrels foraging for and hiding nuts. We arrived at Camp One which was really our gateway into the woods. We gathered around the Hawthorn as our sacred tree and asked permission to enter the woods, the answer came in the wind rustling the branches of the tree. Our facilitator, Ciara Hinksman, assured us that in the absence of the tree rustling, children could be convinced of the forest welcome by the sound of simple birdsong.

Thus welcomed we trooped off through the woods led by Ciara towards Camp Two where Lucy, another facilitator, waited for us around a superb camp fire. This area is a permanent fixture in the Furry Glen and is used by Forest Schools for training and outdoor activities for many different groups. The campfire was surrounded by huge tree trunks lying on their side which were used as seating.

Slowly the students began to engage more with the experience, and the city fell away to be replaced by trees, sunlight, birdsong and the warmth of the fire. We had arrived and for the next three hours we stayed at this site, we were in the flow and time simply flew past.

Activities included: making dolls from twigs and grass, whittling elder and willow, elder to make advent or forest candles, and willow to make fairy wands, to use magic to put the forest and nature to sleep for the winter. Rope bridges were constructed for climbing, and ropes used for old fashioned skipping games. We were all constantly active. Lunch was had around the camp fire and we shared our food, students from both classes bonded really well.

You could feel the philosophy of Rudolph Steiner behind much of the practice: the love of nature, the healing power of nature and trees in particular, the magic in the ordinary things of life.

We all had a terrific experience and came back to the city invigorated and changed because of this simple exposure to the natural world. Thanks to Ciara and the college for organising this wonderful day.

Liberties College represents Ireland in Bulgaria

A Liberties College student represented Ireland in EU Youth Conference in Bulgaria

Dean Murray, Youth & Community Studies course (Level 5) was selected as one of three delegates to represent Ireland at the EU Youth Conference in Bulgaria in April.

Congratulations to Dean. Liberties College students and staff are so proud of him.
Every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of CDETB News and no responsibility is taken for any error or omission. Photography is courtesy of Keith Dixon, Tommy Clancy, Conor McCabe, Steve Perry and staff and students from across the organisation. For more news and stories visit: www.cdetb.ie