

Establishment of Kerry College of Further Education and Training

On the 1st September 2019, all further education and training provision in Kerry was offered by one fully integrated college. Kerry College of Further Education and Training was the new name for the Kerry ETB Training Centre, Kerry College of Further Education and North Kerry College of Further Education.

Existing Kerry ETB sites in Tralee at Monavalley, Clash and Denny Street and Church Street, Listowel were renamed as campus locations.

Kerry College of Further Education and Training offers over 180 further education and training programmes in three newly defined areas:

- courses for employment
- courses for progression to further education or higher education courses and
- apprenticeships.

These courses are aligned to Level 5 and Level 6 on the National Qualifications Framework.

The primary driver for a move to a single entity was to create a Further Education and Training brand for the county that is more easily identifiable and is recognised as an excellent education and training route for learners, students, parents, guardians, school guidance staff, employers and the wider public.

Prospective learners/students may follow their chosen Further Education and Training course at one of the four campus locations currently in Tralee or Listowel.

A new website was launched in September 2019 for Kerry College of Further Education and Training www.kerryetb.ie, which provides a single reference point for Further Education and Training programmes across the County of Kerry.

Welcome

from our Chief Executive Officer



Fáilte chuig Nuachtlitir 2019/2020

As we all set out on the 2019/2020 academic year journey with many different plans, goals and aspirations, little did we realise the latter half of the year would be shaped by the effects of a global pandemic making 2019/2020 a very unique and challenging year for us all.

In September 2019, we were busy addressing increased enrolments across our post primary schools, opening two new Community National Schools (CNS) under the patronage of Kerry ETB, establishing Kerry College as an integrated College of Further Education and Training and finalising the establishment of the new ETB Board membership. Plans and preparations for September 2020 will be dominated by many matters which at this time we have little certainty or clarity about. In many ways, as we prepare for the new normal, 2019/2020 has made us all focus on the uncertainties of life and the importance of appreciating the many simple things life has to offer.

Kerry ETB as an organisation has responded well to the challenges the past few months have presented; rapidly transitioning to remote teaching and learning, staff working remotely ensuring the continuity of essential services, students/learners being supported as they adapt to learning remotely etc. The ability of the organisation to withstand the many challenges presented is due to the dedication and commitment of each member of staff across the organisation. I thank the three Directors, School management teams, Further Education and Training college/centre management teams, the team in Head Office, Teachers/Instructors/Tutors, Youth and Music co-ordinators and each member of staff across our 35 schools/college campus/centres for their valued contribution over the past year.

For our students/learners 2019/2020 has been very challenging. The manner in which they have adapted to the changed environment is inspiring. I hope you all get a good break over the summer months and return to continue your studies in 2020/2021 happy, healthy and ready for the new academic year.

In 2019/2020 many new members of staff joined the Kerry ETB team and I wish each of you well with your career in education and training. Many years may pass before they experience the concentrated level of change experienced this year, so well done.

In December 2019, we met to acknowledge the contribution of the members of staff that had retired during the year. In our education and training organisation, all of our jobs are focused on supporting the needs of the students and learners and I thank our retired colleagues for their tremendous contributions over the years and we wish them all every health and happiness in their retirement.

The support of the ETB Board Members, the newly formed Section 44 Committees, Finance Committee, Audit and Risk Committee etc. is ever present and I thank all the members for their work, support and advice.

Sincere thanks to all involved in the compilation and publication of this newsletter. The newsletter captures the many achievements, successes and highlights during 2019/2020. We have a vibrant organisation with a good team. This newsletter gives us all the opportunity to take time and reflect on the collective effort that is evident daily across the organisation, with the needs of the student/learner at the centre.

At the time of writing, publications such as "A Guide to Calculated Grades for Leaving Certificate students 2020", "Return to Work Safely Protocol COVID-19 Specific National Protocol for Employers and Workers" are dominating the daily schedule. We are not sure what the "New Normal" will look like for 2020/2021, however be assured we will plan diligently for the new year in line with Government and Health Service advice where staff and student/learner safety will remain paramount.

"Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine".

Tabhair aire.

Colm Mc Evoy



Student Awards

The annual Kerry ETB Student Awards ceremony took place on Friday 17th January 2020. This is a key event in the annual calendar when Kerry ETB celebrates the achievements of students and learners from their Post Primary Schools and Youthreach Centres.

Sixty-four student awards were presented at this ceremony, which is a very special occasion for all of the Award Recipients, their Parents/Guardians, Families and Teachers. The Award Recipients are excellent role models for their Schools and Centres. Students received awards for academic excellence, involvement in school life, peer mentoring, Transition Year (TY) achievements and leadership.

Ms. Toireasa Ní Fhearaíosa, a former student of Kerry ETB School Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí was the guest speaker on the night. In her address, she praised the students on their awards and encouraged them to continue to shine and develop their academic and leadership skills throughout their life. She acknowledged and commended Kerry ETB for encouraging student participation and student voice in Kerry ETB schools.

In his welcome address, Colm Mc Evoy, CEO Kerry ETB stated, "Our education journey can present many challenges and it is very important as an organisation that we provide a holistic education for our students, where the emphasis is focused on developing the whole person and turning challenges into opportunities and successes. The awards being presented this evening are a reflection of this approach, with awards being presented for academic excellence, involvement in school life, peer mentor, leadership etc. "

Ann O'Dwyer, Director of Schools, Youth and Music thanked the Principals and Staff in the schools who are constantly striving to be at the cutting edge in maths, business, science, technology

and the arts. She praised all the students from Killorglin Community College who were involved in this year's Young Scientist Exhibition. Timothy McGrath from Killorglin Community College received a special recognition award for his journey in school through science. His latest project 'An R&D Study on Using a Nutrient Treatment Biofilter to Combat Oceanic and Freshwater Dead Zones which Harnesses the Intrinsic Potential of Halophyte Species', for which he received the highest accolade when winning the overall prize at the National SciFest Competition in November. Timothy will represent Ireland on a global platform at the ISEF Science and Technology competition in California in May 2020.

A special mention went to Tara Whittington from Coláiste na Sceilge and Cian Ó Cianáin from Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí who achieved maximum points in their leaving certificate and were awarded 'Best Overall Academic Excellence Awards'.

Cllr. Jim Finucane, Cathaoirleach of Kerry Education and Training Board said that he was delighted to be associated with the annual Student Awards event and commended the students on their outstanding achievements. He urged them to continue to strive for their ambitions and to maintain their determination to achieve their goals in life. He thanked the School Principals, Deputy Principals, Youthreach Co-ordinators, Teachers, SNA's, Resource Workers and support staff in Schools and Youthreach Centres for their sincere dedication to quality teaching, learning, student support and pastoral care.

Kerry ETB thanked Dr. Brendan O'Donnell, President of Tralee Institute of Technology (Tralee IT) for hosting the ceremony.

Scoil an Ghleanna Pobal Scoil Náisiúnta

Scoil an Ghleanna Pobal Scoil Náisiúnta (PSN) is a wonderful, vibrant Gaeltacht school, situated by the shore of scenic St. Finian's Bay, The Glen, Ballinskelligs, Co. Kerry. The school is under the patronage of Kerry ETB. Tá muid an-bhródúil as an stádas atá againn mar Scoil Ghaeltachta. We are community focused and have a strong connection with the locality. St. Finian's Bay is on our doorstep and just a short five-minute walk away. In addition, we are the only school in Ireland to enjoy an unimpeded view of Sceilg Mhíchíl/The Skellig Rock. Scoil an Ghleanna PSN boasts low student teacher ratios, with a current enrolment of 18 pupils, providing a very high standard of academic teaching and learning while catering for all the educational needs of our pupils. We have a highly developed holistic approach to teaching and learning, ensuring the pupils receive a well-rounded education. We are very mindful of their social skills, mental health, developing their friendships and providing them with a strong platform that boosts self-esteem and confidence.

Our academic achievements are excellent and we ensure that the children enjoy their learning experiences and have a positive attitude towards their academics. We are an enthusiastic team, who work very well together to give a whole school approach thus achieving the best possible outcome for our learners. Our team of energetic, dedicated and positive teachers brings a caring enthusiasm into the school building on a daily basis. We have an impressive balance of skill-sets, stretching across all areas of the curriculum, providing excellence in education from every angle. Scoil an Ghleanna has an excellent parent body, with all of the parents being active members of the Parents' Association. We work closely together to provide the best we can for our pupils and the support of the parents is greatly cherished. Julia Clarke, a current parent comments as follows:

"My two children have enjoyed wonderful years in Scoil an Ghleanna and I couldn't wish for a better school. The teachers go out of their way to provide a stimulating, friendly and welcoming atmosphere and are so inclusive of children of all religions or none. They have been on many excursions to science conventions, Junior Entrepreneurs and Robotics, which they won! Despite being a small rural school it certainly has achieved great things."

Míle buíochas leat a Julia!

Our school has a very positive attitude towards the learning experiences we can offer the children, with support from our patron Kerry ETB, our Board of Management, our parents, our community and of course our staff and pupils.

Scoil an Ghleanna has had a fantastically busy and productive year to date, embracing and nurturing our culture. We have engaged in many interesting events and activities with the children, which they have thoroughly enjoyed. We are a very active school and we cater for all the children's interests. This year we embarked on learning Chess, a new area of interest for our pupils. A tutor was invited to the school to provide a workshop day, where we learnt all the key moves and rules. The children held their own tournament, giving them the opportunity to practise their new skills. Our regular activities, which we hold every year are weekly Irish dancing classes, twice weekly football training, various football competitions, music lessons including the violin, tin whistle, singing and bodhrán, learning a new language (which this year was Russian), beach clean-ups, sea shore safaris to name but a few. We travelled to and participated for the first time in this year's Science Blast/Bleait Eolaíochta, in the RDS, Dublin. The children researched how carbonated soft drinks effect the growth of plants, in comparison to normal watering. This showed a significant difference, highlighting the pollution that occurred with regard to the soil and lack of growth. The children received high praise for their project work and they were awarded with a plaque for their achievements.



Students and Teachers pictured at the Science Blast in the RDS, Dublin.



Scoil an Ghleanna Football Jersey



Scoil an Ghleanna is a Green School and we very much enjoy our regular beach clean-ups and caring for our local environment. We are currently working towards our 4th Green Flag, based on Travel. Our travel habits have changed dramatically since undertaking this task, with carpooling, cycling and a school bus being our focus. Through Greenschools, a bike stand has been applied for and we hope to receive a response in the near future. We now have a bus servicing our school for the first time. This caters for the communities of Valentia Island, Portmagee, Cahersiveen, Sussa and The Glen.

Students participating in a beach clean-up.

Our school has forged beneficial connections with our local Naíonra/preschool and our local Post Primary school, Coláiste na Sceilge. The Naíonra offers both breakfast and after school clubs, catering drop offs and collections from the school. Coláiste na Sceilge offers an Aonad Lán-Ghaeilge, which provides our children with the opportunity to continue their education through the medium of Irish. Our school has a 100% acceptance record of achievement, by those of our pupils who have chosen to apply for the Aonad Lán-Ghaeilge.

During these unprecedented times, where our school is closed due to COVID-19, we miss the children immensely and our daily interactions with them. We are keeping regular contact with our families and providing as much support as possible. Below is an extract from one of our 4th class pupils, Katie, on her experiences during this time.

"It was a sunny day when we went to school. Our teacher told us that Scoil an Ghleanna would be closed for a few weeks and some people got sad. We brought our school books home and we are doing our work and our reading with mom and dad. It is very different at home but we get to go cycling, play on the trampoline, go for walks and see all that the spring brings. I am enjoying spending time as a family but I miss my grandparents, uncles and aunts. We miss our friends and our teachers. We are watching COVID-19 on the News and hopefully we will be back to school soon. I am keeping a diary for COVID-19 and I hope to be able to tell other people about it in the future."

Maith thú a Katie!

We are proud to be the first multi-denominational Gaeltacht school in Ireland. Scoil an Ghleanna offers a multi-denominational education, respecting all beliefs and assuring inclusivity to all. We are exclusive in what we have to offer, yet our delivery is inclusive to all. We at Scoil an Ghleanna follow the ethos of the Community National Schools; Excellence in education, equality-based, community-focused and multi-denominational, catering for all abilities and interests. We are a child-centred warm and welcoming school and look forward to seeing new pupils enrol at all class levels. Our goal is to provide our pupils with the best possible education we can give and this is what we strive for on a daily basis.

Ní neart go cur le chéile - There is strength in community. Bíg linn!



Side view of Scoil an Ghleanna

Tahilla Community National School

First Day in Tahilla CNS

Tahilla Community National School (CNS) opened on 3rd September 2019 and is the third Community National School to be opened under the patronage of Kerry Education and Training Board (Kerry ETB).

Tahilla CNS is located between Sneem and Blackwater in South Kerry. The school, in common with other Community National Schools, provides inclusive and innovative education to meet the needs of students and the wider community. The school offers a broad range of extra-curricular activities and students benefit from a very good student teacher ratio.

Staff:

Principal – Máire de Cógáin

Mainstream Class Teacher – Karen Lawlor

Special Education Teacher – Ellen-Louise Grogan

Part-time Special Needs Assistant – Catherine Gul

Part-time Cleaner – Christina Hallissey

Part-time Secretary - Olivia O'Leary



Active Learning

'Excellence in Education' is a corner stone of our ethos and active learning is central to our teaching. In both classrooms, the children are provided with the opportunity to explore the curriculum through activity, talk and discussion.

Baking

We are busy bakers here in Tahilla CNS. Baking is an important skill to have, to help us be independent in the future. Some of the things we've made are apple cake, banana bread and báirín breac.



While baking we are also learning important mathematical skills such as weight, capacity and time. Using procedural writing skills, we also wrote down the recipes in our science copies.

By Ajay and Michele.

GAA And Swimming

Every second Friday kicks off with a GAA session coached by PJ Reidy. After a brisk warm-up we are fully awake and ready for what's coming our way. We have been focusing on solos, hand-passes and bounces. We learn these skills through various drills and games. Everyone has great fun and it puts us in a delightful mood for the weekend. Swimming began on Friday 15th of November 2019 for five weeks in Parknasilla Resort. We were very grateful to the hotel for allowing us to use their facilities. We were all very excited to venture down the road to Sneem for the swimming lessons. On the last day we also got a chance to play in their fantastic playground!

By Gearóid and Lilyrose.

Science Week

Science Week was a great success. Every day we carried out a new and exciting experiment. In small groups we each got the opportunity to act as scientists and figure out the answers to various scientific questions. One of our favourite experiments was making slime, we all loved the gooey slimy mess, but not the tidying up! During the week we also made lava lamps, dancing raisins, beautiful pictures out of chromatography and stood on a tray of eggs (without breaking them!) On Thursday 14th of November 2019 we showcased our fantastic experiments to our families in our Science Show. In pairs we each displayed one of the science projects in our school hall. We had a brilliant time chatting to our parents, grandparents and friends about all the things we had learned this term. We hope that all who attended had a super scientific time.

By Aoibhe and Emma.

Christmas Show

The children of Tahilla CNS really showed their creative side in the run up to Christmas when they wrote, directed and performed their own Christmas show. The teachers, parents and wider community were very impressed with the final product. The children also performed some pieces of music and songs for those present. We were delighted that Principal Múinteoir Máire accompanied them on her uilleann pipes. We even had a surprise performance from our Postman Kevin! It was a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. Maith sibh a pháistí!

St. Brigid's Cross and Bake Sale



The school held a 'St. Brigid's Cross Making Workshop' on Friday 24th January. This was a huge success producing over 60 crosses made by grandparents, parents, past pupils, teachers, students and many others from the local community. Thank you to everyone who hand-picked rushes, shared their cross-making skills or who simply just came along for a cup of tea.

The following week the children had a busy day baking. They baked rocky road, fairy cakes, rice krispie buns and gluten free brownies. After examining the costings for their produce they priced the cakes and crosses accordingly and made price tags and labels to be displayed outside SuperValu. We are delighted to announce that the children raised €218. We are donating half the money to Cork Simon Community to reflect the work of St. Brigid. The other half will be going to KLAWS, as a thank you for taking in and caring for a stray cat we found in our school.



Partnership Schools Ireland

Tahilla CNS became one of the first schools in Kerry to participate in the Partnership Schools Ireland programme. In December 2019, a Partnership Team at Tahilla CNS was created consisting of two staff members, two parents, two representatives from the wider community and three students. The team received training and developed a yearly action plan with four specific goals; two curriculum based, one behavioural and one to improve the welcoming climate in the school. The focus of the Partnership Team in January was the curriculum goal of 'improving the children's involvement in real life maths'. It was decided that the children would plan and prepare a St. Brigid's cross and Cake Sale in the local SuperValu in Kenmare in order to raise money for charity. Partnership Schools Ireland is a joint initiative by National Parents Council Primary (NPC), the Irish Primary Principals' Network and the Department of Education and Skills. Its aim is to improve children's educational outcomes by increasing parental engagement and creating effective partnerships between schools, their students, parents and the wider community.

One Good Idea Competition

Since September 2019, the children at Tahilla CNS have been working on the SEAI One Good Idea Competition. Two teams entered the competition and both progressed to the Regional Finals in the Omniplex Cinema in Cork on Monday 24th of February 2020. Both teams created a one-minute film to promote a simple idea which helps save energy and takes climate action. Team 'Lego Life Savers' were promoting 'Walk on Wednesdays' while Team 'Climate Change Kids' were promoting 'One Hour Free From Power'. Both were super innovative ideas which have been put in place in Tahilla CNS in an effort to save as much energy as possible. On the day the children's film was displayed on the cinema screen, they delivered a presentation pitch to the audience and were then questioned by a panel of judges. We are delighted to announce that 'Team Lego Life Savers' came in second place on the day! We all had a great day out and we were very proud of all the children.

Teacher - Artist Partnership



As part of the Teacher-Artist Partnership (TAP), Teacher Karen Lawlor and Artist Silke Michels worked together with the children to create some amazing work! The children enjoyed the outdoors so we decided on using some natural materials for our project. The children loved the idea of making mandalas using twigs,

leaves and other natural materials from our beautiful school surroundings. We ended up with some wonderful mandalas on individual wooden discs. The children now have great plans as to where these will be placed in our school garden and how we can add some other aspects to make a sensory outdoor space.

Buíochas

Great credit is due to all who have worked so hard in making our first year as a Community National School a very successful one here in Tahilla CNS. To the children, parents, staff members, members of the local community, and members of Kerry ETB, Colm Mc Evoy, CEO; Ann O'Dwyer, Director of Schools; Single Manager, Pádraig Ó Donnabháin.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Two Mile Community National School

Two Mile Community National School (CNS) began year three, with twenty-six pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. Our first group of five 'home-grown' Junior Infants joined Catherine Barry's Junior class from Sharon O'Riordan's Little Explorers Preschool having completed two years under Sharon's care. This brought the total in the Junior Class to fourteen, while Ms. Thornton's class of 3rd to 6th had a total of twelve.

Two Mile CNS Refurbishment

It was an exciting and busy start to the year as we unpacked furniture, books and materials which had been in cold storage over the summer months as work was completed on a major refurbishment project. Our new look school was completely insulated and rewired and a new heating system installed. Works included new flooring, windows, doors and new security and alarm systems. The office and staff-room were redecorated. We are most grateful to the building team in Kerry ETB for their work and support. It was tight, but we managed to unpack everything in time for school opening on 29th August 2019 and we were honoured with a visit from Minister Brendan Griffin who unveiled a plaque in commemoration. Children, parents, members of the local community, staff members and representatives of Kerry ETB gathered to celebrate. Jelena Semerad presented her drawing of the newly refurbished school to Minister Griffin.



Student Jelena Semerad presenting Minister Brendan Griffin with her drawing of the newly refurbished school.

Bishop Moynihan Cup

Alas, Sam Maguire didn't make it as far as Kerry this year but we did have cause to celebrate when David and Paudie Clifford paid a surprise visit to Two Mile Community National School with the Bishop Moynihan Cup following their victory with East Kerry in the County Final.



David and Paudie Clifford surprising the students with the Bishop Moynihan Cup

Partnership School

The children in Two Mile CNS have been working hard in all areas of the curriculum to date. Participation in projects such as Green Schools, Incredible Edibles, Active Schools and Discover Primary Science and Maths provide pupils with opportunities to enhance and broaden their learning. Excellence in Education is a corner stone of the ethos of Community National Schools and we take pride in delivering quality learning experiences in partnership with staff, children and parents. As a commitment to ongoing school self-evaluation and improvement, Two Mile CNS is a participant in Partnership Schools Ireland, an initiative aimed at facilitating the whole school community in working towards school goals. The equality-based aspect of our ethos is catered with through the Goodness Me Goodness You Curriculum, a values programme which is unique to Community National Schools.

As 2019 moved into 2020, little did we think that our world would be upended so suddenly. On 12th March 2020, the children left Two Mile CNS in a haze of uncertainty. However, after St. Patrick's weekend, teachers, parents and pupils began working together in order to facilitate continuity of learning. Parents and children have been participating in teacher designed tasks which provide a balance between online activities and practical tasks. While we all miss school, it is most heartening to see creativity and imagination on display in the many stories, pictures, videos and photographs that the children send to their teachers. There is valuable learning for all involved as we seek out creative ways to stay in touch.



At the time of writing, the future is uncertain. However, we look forward to coming back to our new school building, to meeting our friends and to taking part in the activities that we enjoy.

Castleisland Community College

BT Young Scientist Competition 2020

Micheál O'Shea from Transition Year (TY) competed in the BT Young Scientist Competition 2020. His project was an exploratory study of the topic "Happiness". Its title 'Is Happiness a State of Mind or a State of Wellbeing?' is certainly a key element to the new Junior Certificate Programme. Micheál investigated experiences of happiness in the context of adolescents living in rural Ireland. He achieved this by devising research questions for teenagers. The answers were analysed using a quantitative research approach. Conclusions and recommendations were then drawn up.



Micheál O'Shea competing at the BT Young Scientist Competition 2020.

Debating

Congratulations to the Transition Year (TY) debating team who competed in the Castleisland Interagency Youth Forum debating final against Saint Patrick's Secondary School. The final took place in the Ivy Leaf Theatre in Castleisland on Wednesday, 4th December 2019. The Community College team passed the motion 'That alcohol causes more harm than illegal drugs in Irish society'. The judges were Superintendent Dan Keane representing An Garda Síochána, Sinéad Kelleher representing the HSE and Jerome Stack - Ivy Leaf co-ordinator. The students were praised by the judges for their 'excellent communication skills' and the 'great research undertaken'.



Pictured: Micheál O'Shea, Ellie Lenihan, Michael Moynihan, Chelsey Lane, Konrad Kloskowski and Gráinne Spillane.

National Winners Tidy Town Climate Action and Air Quality Youth Award 2019



Transition Year students 2018/2019 under the guidance of Castleisland Tidy Towns (Sheila Hannon and Mary Walsh) and their teachers formed a Junior Tidy Town Committee that undertook a major awareness campaign to

highlight the importance of recycling and up-cycling as a means of tackling climate change. The community was encouraged to improve the impact of the choices they make by recycling and upcycling items instead of sending unwanted items to land fill and wasting energy in the production of e.g. new clothes and toys.

Drama - Grease

Transition Year students performed the nostalgic 'rock and roll' musical Grease on Thursday 12th December 2019 in the Ivy Leaf Theatre, Castleisland. It was a spectacular performance as evidenced by the standing ovation received at the end of the night. Adults laughed and sang along to the tracks - for many it was a thoroughly enjoyable trip down memory lane. Transition Year students transformed themselves into the T-Birds and Pink Ladies and they had the moves and grooves to go with the superb costumes and props!

National Physics Winners 2019

Congratulations to our three Junior Cycle students, who became national winners in The Sophia Science Competition in University of Limerick. The students promoted the subject of physics in the school. Their project was mainly focused on highlighting females in science and ensuring that females in our school are encouraged to study physics. Alice Shannon who is studying for her PhD in 3D printing in University of Limerick provided a great example of a career in physics.

National Winners of Eco Unesco 2019 (3rd year in a row)

The fifth year Fairtraders from Castleisland Community College won a national award at the Eco Unesco environmental competition. The Fairtraders were one of 322 projects entered in 2019. The Fairtraders won the Eco Community category for their promotion of Fairtrade

products. Fairtrade protects the environment by setting certain environmental standards e.g. biodiversity protection and providing training for farmers regarding environmental friendly practices. Fairtrade is farming in a sustainable way.



Garda Youth Achievement Award

This year Kacper Podraza won an individual award and The Fairtraders won a group award. Kacper with his dedication, single mindedness and his commitment to hard work in school in the midst of his own challenges were some of the reasons why he received an award. The Fairtraders made Castleisland the 50th Fairtrade town in Ireland. This is normally achieved by a Chamber of Alliance along with local restaurants, hotels and cafes. The Fairtraders won a National Award for the Young Social Innovator's (YSI) Competition 2018. They also won a National Award at the Eco Unesco Environmental Competition 2019. They were invited to become part of the YSI Elevate Programme and were shortlisted to represent Ireland in the International Sage Entrepreneurship Competition 2019.



Bronze Gaisce Award



Congratulations to three of our students who received a Bronze Gaisce Award.

*Pictured from L-R:
Siobhán O' Donoghue
Seán Barrett
Joanna Browne*

Shoe Boxes

The spirit of Christmas has certainly begun in Castleisland Community College with students participating in the annual Christmas shoe box appeal for Team Hope. Transition Year students were as always instrumental to the success of the project as they once again made up toys in woodwork class, they wrapped up boxes and they also put together boxes for all the different age groups. The Art and Home Economics classes made soft toys whilst other students donated made up shoe boxes and some donated money. A total of 144 shoe boxes were collected with four euros for every box. The shoe boxes will be given to children in Eastern Europe.



National Young Social Innovator's Award 2019 (2nd year in a row)

The 'Global Gang' comprising of Transition Year students from Castleisland Community College won a national award at the Young Social Innovator's competition. The Global Gang won their category for 'Make Our Future More Sustainable'. The project focused on what we can do in our everyday lives to combat climate change e.g. recycling, buy FSC products and planting pollinator friendly plants. They were also shortlisted to the top five teams in the competition and were asked to perform for the second time to a different judging panel for the coveted positions of overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The Global Gang finished 4th in the overall competition - an amazing achievement!



Causeway Comprehensive School

Improving Teaching and Learning in Causeway Comprehensive School (CS)

The School's Teaching and Learning Committee's focus for this academic year is Differential Learning. A summary report of the various Special Educational Needs of students in Causeway has been prepared. The common educational needs have been identified. The challenges the student may experience, and the strategies the teachers can implement to support the student have been outlined. A presentation on the nine teaching methodologies has been provided to teachers. Information supplied includes: Reflection, Graphic Organisers, Storyboard, Socrative, QR Codes, Mentimeter, Wheel of Names, Walking Debates, and Carousel Teaching.

Home Economics



Our Home Economics Students undertook an initiative called 'Student Up Cycle Challenge'. It was linked to the Classroom Based Assessment (CBA). Visiting the school to check progress on the project was Maeve Leahy, Dermot Gilloway the National Retail Manager and Junior Lock the Tralee Donations Centre Manager for St. Vincents de Paul (SVP). The students projects go on display at the end of January in the Tralee SVP shop window.

To raise funds there were a few events the bake sale, raffle for a Christmas hamper, 500 bags filled with clothes and two trolleys of food filled. Home economics linked with RE department for the clothes and food trolley.

Home Economics awareness week runs from January 20th to January 24th. The department organised Chef Sid Sheehan to demonstrate a few dishes to our current first year Home Economics students. The remainder of the week - there was daily quizzes during the 15 minute break and samples of the students' dishes for the students.

Credit Union Poster Competition



Congratulations to all the art students that received prizes in the Credit Union Art Competition Chapter 23.

- 1st place (14 – 17 years category) : Caroline Medricka
- 2nd place (14 – 17 years category) : Shauna Casey
- 3rd place (14 – 17 years category) : Adina Melchert.
- Merit Winners (14 - 17 years category): Daithlé O' Fuarain, Tamzin O'Halloran, Kayleigh Lawlor, Katelyn Stritch, Maria Acuto, Sophie Griffin.
- 3rd place (11–13 years category) : Aisling Sayers.
- Merit Winner : Ava Flanagan.

Caroline Medricka's art entry was forwarded to the Munster Regional Level of the Credit Union competition, where she received 2nd place. The Awards Ceremony took place in Manor West, Tralee on Saturday 7th December 2019.

Kerry ETB Christmas Card Competition



Congratulations to Michaela Harrington (far left), who won 2nd place in the Kerry ETB Christmas Card Competition. The Awards ceremony took place on Friday 13th December 2019 in Kerry ETB Head Office.

Physical Education

As part of their PE programme, all students in the school were given the opportunity to run a 5K race around Causeway village on the 6th November 2019. Students began training for this run in September in their PE classes as part of a whole school 5K training programme. The race began at 11.45 a.m. and there was a huge variety of completion times with all students and teachers finished by 12.40 p.m. Refreshments were organised in the assembly area and Big Jim's music at the end helped to create a fantastic atmosphere. Medals were given to the fastest boy and girl in each year group and the fastest overall student Rhys Keane.

STAND UP Week

Causeway CS celebrated STANDUP week. The aim of the week was to promote equality and inclusion of members of the LGBTQI+ community. A range of activities took place over the course of the week. Workshops, involvement through art, pop up music, face painting as well as rainbow day were just some of the creative and inclusive activities that made Causeway STANDUP week memorable and enjoyable.

All Ireland Camogie Champions Kerry Team

There was great excitement in Causeway CS as we welcomed the All Ireland winning camogie team! It was a proud afternoon as we saw 6th year Brid Horan and many past pupils return to celebrate this fantastic achievement with us



National Ploughing Award

Congratulations to Causeway CS student Daniel Burke who claimed top honours in the 2 Furrow Conventional Junior Plough Class at the National Ploughing Championship.

New Jerseys for Camogie Team

A new set of Ladies football jerseys kindly sponsored by Clanmaurice Credit Union were presented to Causeway Comprehensive School.



Choral Workshop

Causeway CS Choir received a visit from Veronica McCarron from Donegal, who currently directs the Aris Choir, sponsored by Allianz. Veronica and her choir have performed at the Papal concert and Mass and most recently at Áras an Uachtaráin for President Michael D Higgins. While she was here the music students recorded a few tracks, and plan to bring out a CD before Christmas.

Maths Awareness Week

Congratulations to all involved in our recent Maths Quiz for first years as part of a number of activities for Maths Awareness Week.



Coláiste Gleann Lí

Students Inspired to Lead the Way on Environmental Action



Coláiste Gleann Lí is proud to be among the Tralee second level schools taking part in An Taisce's Neat Streets programme which aims to inspire young people to take environmental action in their town. Our student representatives did us proud at the Neat Streets Schools' Conference - 'The Tralee Town Takeover' held in the Rose Hotel earlier this year.

The Tralee event, which was supported by Kerry County Council, The Rose Hotel, Tralee Tidy Towns, GLAN Tralee and Tralee Chamber Alliance saw one hundred student representatives of each of the five second level schools propose environmental actions which will inform a town plan. The input from Coláiste Gleann Lí students was exceptional and noted by those in attendance. Ken Tobin of Tralee Chamber Alliance stated "We are so proud of these young people who are showing that they care about Tralee and are willing to take the lead." The school community of Coláiste Gleann Lí is no stranger to tackling environmental issues; the school has recently been awarded a second Green Schools Flag for its proactive engagement with the initiative. The school has a Green Schools Committee which is powered by students under the encouraging guidance of Ms. Regina Casey and Ms. Myrna Egan.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

Literacy Drive in Coláiste Gleann Lí

Coláiste Gleann Lí has implemented an intensive literacy drive created by amalgamating three literary strands within the school: the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) National Award for Literacy, JCSP - literacy initiatives and the MS Readathon. The strand relating to The PDST National awards was coordinated by Ms. Ashley Sabourin and students participated in thematic story, poetry and freestyle writing competitions throughout the year. Students were also encouraged to build their confidence and efficacy in reading by participating in opportunities to read to their peers over intercom and by reading their poems aloud

to parents. The JCSP team led by Ms. Myrna Egan co-ordinated a multitude of literacy initiatives which included 'Who wants to be a Word Millionaire', Drop Everything and Read (DEAR) Time and school-wide celebrations of student successes in literacy.



The MS Readathon was guided by Ms. Michelle Flannery who empowered our students to establish a committee comprising of students leaders.

These were: Sophie Foren, Ola Skotak, Samia Ali and Chantelle Allen. The students have arranged to visit to engage in a shared reading project in two local primary schools. The students will also do a craft with the primary school students. In addition to this, the students have organised a bake sale for books and a door decorating competition. The Coláiste Gleann Lí Literacy drive also ensured that World Book Day was celebrated in style with staff dressing up as book characters, competitions, book clubs and film clubs -inspired by books!- were all run successfully during the lead up to the special day.

Students and Staff Raise the Pride Flag for Inclusion

Coláiste Gleann Lí was one of the many Kerry ETB schools and centres that raised a flag in support of the LGBTI+ community. The raising of the flag was symbolic to demonstrate our unwavering support for diversity and inclusion across our school community. The event coincided with a major new survey of attitudes of LGBTI+ people living in Kerry entitled 'Visible in Kerry: An LGBTI+ Perspective'. The research was carried out to document people's experiences of being LGBTI+ and living in Kerry.

Coláiste Gleann Lí also took part in Stand Up Awareness Week from the 12th to the 16th of November 2019. Stand Up Awareness Week addresses homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying in secondary schools and youth services by encouraging friendship and positive understanding of LGBTI+ young people.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020- Cluichí agus Craic

Thosaigh Seachtain na Gaeilge i gColáiste Gleann Lí. Bhí comórtais á reáchtáil ag Roinn na Gaeilge gach lá le linn na seachtaine. Bhí cluichí agus eachtraí ar súil sa cheaintín agus

daltaí ar an gcoras fuaimne i rith an lae le frásaí agus foclóir nua gach lá. Míle buíochas leis na múinteoirí agus daltaí a reachtáil na heachtraí ar fad dúinn.

Local and National Media Coverage of Coláiste Gleann Lí's Key Role in the Success of the Drinkaware- Alcohol Awareness Programme

Coláiste Gleann Lí featured in local and national media recently for its key role in piloting the Drinkaware Alcohol Awareness programme in association with the National University of Ireland, Maynooth.

In 2017, Assistant Principal and SPHE/Wellbeing teacher Ms. Maryanne Lowney ensured that the school was the first Kerry school to pilot the innovative eight week programme which spans from first to third year. Subsequently, she and her colleague Ms. Myrna Egan have been specially trained in programme delivery engaging with the programme and rolling it out across all Junior Cycle SPHE/Wellbeing classes.

While the programme is just one element of a suite of wellbeing supports offered at the school, it has attracted media attention of late. Deputy Principal of Coláiste Gleann Lí Mr. Liam McGill stated: "The programme is proving highly effective in the research and reviews collated and published by NUI, Maynooth. This data tallies with our teachers' experiences on the ground delivering this programme. Our commitment to the delivery of the programme among our students has attracted media attention of late in tandem with the release of the most recent positive data set. It is recognition of a worthwhile and well-devised, relevant programme and we would advise other schools to include it in their wellbeing provision".

Meanwhile, Ms. Myrna Egan, SPHE teacher at the school stated: "We are delighted to be able to offer the programme to our students as part of our new wellbeing programme at Junior Cycle. The programme equips young people with the facts about alcohol and provides the information necessary for them to make sensible and informed choices as they progress through the adolescent years and into adulthood."

The programme has been welcomed by students who have praised it for being informative and thought provoking.

Coláiste Gleann Lí have been featured on Newstalk Breakfast with presenters Shane Coleman, Kieran Cuddihy, Radio Kerry's Kerry Today with Jerry O'Sullivan. The school will also receive mention in a feature article by Sheila Wayman in 'The Irish Times' shortly.

Student Wellbeing

The staff of the SPHE/Wellbeing department are immensely proud of all our first years who have made a successful transition from primary to post-primary in term one. We are well and truly settled and great progress has been made academically, socially and personally.

Great effort was made by the Coláiste Gleann Lí Student Council throughout the year to keep students and staff smiling! The Student Council ran a 'Start the New Year with a Smile' campaign early on this year. An initiative that allowed students and staff to send a message of positivity to a fellow student or staff member! Their efforts prevailed throughout the year, particularly on 'Blue Monday'! The representatives sent positivity across the student body by delivering messages and treats to combat the blues. Well done to all involved and to Ms. O' Kelly for assisting the students in their work.



This year the JCSP Positive Behaviour team looked to set-up student spaces around the school to promote student wellbeing and positive behaviour across the whole school. These spaces were created by Programmes Co-ordinator Ms. Myrna Egan and Deputy Principal Mr. Liam McGill and were very well received by the student body and the Student Council.

Fundraising

Every year Coláiste Gleann Lí engages in a series of fundraisers for local causes and this year was no different. This year the school got behind the charity 'Comfort for Chemo Kerry' who aim to build a €5 million-euro standalone Chemotherapy Unit within the grounds of University Hospital Kerry. The fundraiser was an after-hours school quiz which was organised by several staff members and coordinated by Ms. Margaret Kenny. A special word of thanks to Ms Eileen Quilter for organising a generous number of spot prizes. The quiz night which took place in the Ballymac Bar, Boherbee was a tremendous success. While it raised much needed funds it also provided staff, parents and students an opportunity to come together in support of the school in a positive and fun-filled way. Mary Fitzgerald of 'Comfort for Chemo Kerry' expressed her gratitude and delight to work with Coláiste Gleann Lí for the fundraiser.

Coláiste na Ríochta

Erasmus Plus Trip

Last October Coláiste na Ríochta hosted eight students and two teachers from the Valencian Secondary School: IES Ramón Llull in Spain. Together with six students from 5th and 6th year classes in Coláiste na Ríochta, they began working on an Erasmus + programme project: "Drama as an inclusive tool in the classroom". Pupils were working on two authors and one of their works; The Field by John B. Keane and Don Quixote by Miguel de Cervantes. The cultural factor in drama and literature through a foreign language helped students to understand the essence of being another person in a completely different context.

The Irish students and families immersed and welcomed the Spanish students in school and day to day life. During school days they broke their routine to take part in an active schedule of sightseeing trips with a strong historical and cultural content, team-building exercises and the development of two final representations of a scene of the two authors.



Students from the Valencian Secondary School, IES Ramón Llull in Spain.

Both schools continued to communicate remotely using the e-Twinning platform, which is a community for Schools in Europe. The students from Coláiste na Ríochta then had the opportunity to visit Valencia in Spain in February enabling them to elaborate on the drama product, and the project will continue until June 2020. Students and Teachers enjoyed school and family life in their partner school. The students were extremely lucky as the trip occurred before the outbreak of COVID-19.



The project has been a great credit to all students and teachers, families, school community and the Erasmus plus programme through Léargas, that has made this type of project possible and successful. Great thanks to our organising teachers Ms. Segade and Mr. O Sullivan.

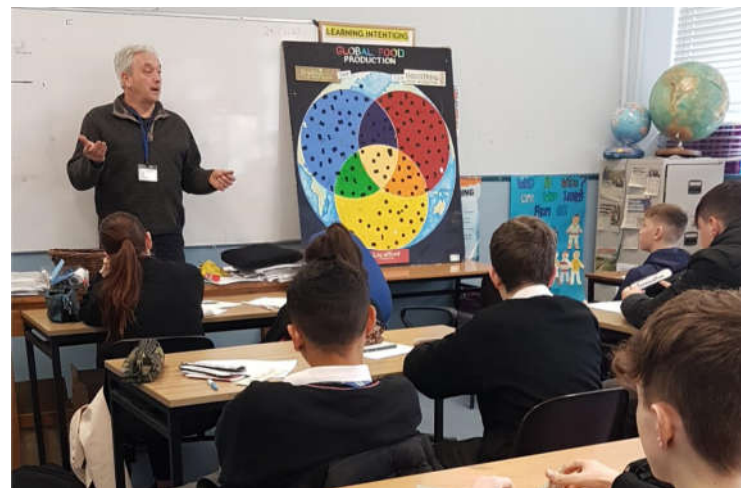
Global Citizens growing at Coláiste na Ríochta!

This year our school has been working with the World Wise Global Schools programme to encourage our students to become active global citizens. We are focused on the UN sustainability goals and implementing them into our classroom.

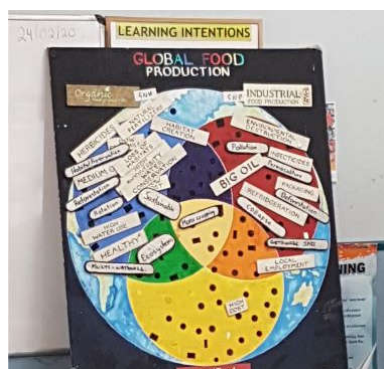


Our second-year group Willow were inspired by climate activist Greta Thunberg, 16, who addressed the U.N.'s Climate Action Summit. Like Greta, students wanted to take action. During our Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE) classes we focused on our ecosystems and biodiversity, our ecological footprint and sustainability. Once students understood sustainability and their role/responsibility, we looked at action on a global scale and at a school scale.

Students participated in two workshops facilitated by Ian McGregor from Gortbrack Organic Farm.



Our first biodiversity workshop took place on the 26th of February 2020. Students participated in an interactive workshop in which they spoke about what biodiversity is and linked the importance of biodiversity to the UN Sustainability goals. Students then accompanied the speaker around the grounds of the school. Each student completed a checklist to survey the area, identify the various species and see what action would be most suitable for our school environment. As global citizens the students are aware of and understand the wider world - and their place in it. They wanted to take an active role in their community, and work with others to make our planet more equal, fair and sustainable. Students decided to create a biodiversity plan for the school, almost mimicking our planet and why it is so important to create biodiversity.



Following this plan, students will create and draft a new policy for biodiversity at Coláiste na Ríochta. Students will decide on the final draft and then collaborate with school management to request the plan be included in the school

journal. This will ensure this policy will impact a change in our school environment. Overall students gained a sense of pride in their achievement and linked their project to the global issues surrounding sustainability. They learned to work together as a team, appreciate our natural resources, and these cooperative skills were transferred to the classroom. The biggest change in the students has been their attitudes and values. Seeing that they can take action and make a difference. Thank you to their teacher Ms. Niamh Fitzgerald for leading this initiative with the students.

Coláiste na Ríochta honoured by Oireachtas Members for Challenging Racism and Promoting Inclusion

Students from Coláiste na Ríochta were presented with the Yellow Flag and certificates of participation in the programme by TD John Brassil in Leinster House. The Yellow Flag programme is an eight step programme now in it's 10th year, through which schools deliver a series of practical actions which ensures prejudice and discrimination cannot flourish within a school environment. Thank you to their Teacher Ms. Fitzgerald for all her work with the students on this programme and to Ms. O'Keeffe for accompanying them to Dublin.



Students pictured in Leinster House with TD John Brassil who presented them with the Yellow Flag and certificates of participation in the programme

An Bord Bia Quality Mark Schools Competition



Congratulations to Conor Fitzgerald Horgan, 2nd Year student in Coláiste na Ríochta who won the Junior Category of the Bord Bia School's Competition last November during the

Listowel Food Fair. Conor is pictured here with Declan Coppinger from An Bord Bia, his Home Economics Teacher Ms. Long and TD Jimmy Deenihan.

Coláiste na Ríochta's Response to COVID-19 School Closure

In Coláiste na Ríochta all students study Digital Literacy at Junior Cycle and have done for the past five years. At Senior Cycle we are the only school in Kerry to offer Computer Science, our students will be the first cohort to sit this Leaving Certificate examination in May 2020. The fact that all our students are digitally literate and that they have an Office 365 Class Notebook for their subjects has meant for them, transition to remote learning as a result of school closures has been relatively smooth.

All of our 1st year class have HP X360 Probooks to work on at home and any of our 6th years who didn't have access to computers at home were provided with a school laptop. Hopefully the closure won't go on much longer, however if it does, I can confidently say that teaching & learning in Coláiste na Ríochta will continue to a high standard. Our Student Support & SEN Teams have also been meeting via Office Teams and will continue to support our vulnerable learners and those with additional needs as much as we possibly can.

Coláiste na Sceilge

While the following does not cover all events that took place throughout the year, it certainly gives an insight into what our school has achieved throughout the year and indeed what our school is all about, the students.

Mission Statement

This year our Mission Statement was added to our school steps in English and Irish. This was to implement and show our students the importance of the statement. Thanks to Pat Cronin, Shane O' Neill, Buddy O'Shea and Richard Burns for organising.



One Good Idea

Well done to our Transition Year students who produced a one minute film creating awareness of saving energy and climate action in our school. They reached the regional final in Cork. A big thank you to Ms. Anita McKeown, James Murphy and Ms. Mary Devane for their advice and work in creating the film.

Science Week

Science week was a great success this year with a great variety of talks and visits taking place



Debating

Our Debate team consisting of 5th & 6th year students competed against schools all over Munster in the Munster Debating Competition in October 2019. The debates were held in UCC.

Poetry Aloud

Well done to our students who took part in the National Poetry Aloud competition. Pictured are Patricija Pudzemyte, Poppy Smith, Martha O'Connell, Grace O' Connell, Shauna Walsh and Hannah O' Sullivan.



Lee Strand Garda Achievement Award

Congratulations to Sophie Daly-Wilson who won the Lee Strand Garda Achievement Award for her outstanding contribution in many areas including social activism, music and sport.

Basketball

Congratulations to our Senior Boys Basketball team who are All Ireland Silver Medallists.



Congratulations also to our Junior Girls Basketball team who made it to the All-Ireland Quarter Finals in Tallaght



Senior Girls Basketball Team

Síofra had the honour of captaining Coláiste na Sceilge Senior basketball team in her leaving cert year and they played some great games. This team was coached by Michael Culloty who travelled weekly from Tralee. They played in the A division and with wins against Ennis, Milltown, Kenmare, Castleisland Community College, The Crescent and one loss to Mounthawk saw them once again heading to playoffs. Unfortunately, St Vincent's in Cork beat them to a semi-final position. It has been a wonderful six years of basketball for our six leaving cert girls that have played since their first year in Coláiste na Sceilge Síofra O'Shea, Aoibhinn Fitzgerald, Laura Dwyer, Natalie O'Connor, Sarah Landers and Kelsey McCarthy. We would like to wish these girls good luck as they leave Coláiste na Sceilge to pursue their chosen careers and hope they continue playing basketball.



Síofra has played for Ireland U16 in FIBA European Championship in Montenegro in 2018, in U18 FIBA European Championship in Macedonia in 2019 and is currently on

the Irish U18 panel preparing for the FIBA European championship in 2020 in Austria. She currently has three Irish caps.

Síofra joined St Mary's Castleisland U18 team and is currently playing with Team Tom McCarthy St Mary's National League Team winning the Southern Conference and were runners up in the National League final being beaten by Trinity Meteors. Síofra was awarded the best overall lady player at the 50th annual Christmas blitz.

Síofra has been awarded the Kerry Sports Star Award for juvenile basketball in 2017, 2018, 2019 and now 2020 where she has shared the stage with other juvenile recipients.

Athletics

Our Athletics team had a wonderful year this year. Congratulations to Adam Quigley who came 13th at the All Ireland Schools Cross Country in Santry.

Football

After a long training season of commitment, hard work and passion from over 45 girls both our Junior and Senior team reached the Munster Final stage of the LGF competition. After a long hard battle our Junior girls were defeated to a strong Cashel side. Hearts were broken but the fight continued with our Senior girls. Our Senior team won their Munster Final against Coláiste Choilm Ballincollig. This is the first time in nine years we won to move on to the all-Ireland series. The Senior team then defeated St. Nathys College, Roscommon in the All Ireland semi-final. We are now on our way to an All-Ireland Final!



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Bhí Seó Bóthair ar siúl inniu le grúpaí na hIdirbhlana eagraithe ag Roinn na Gaeilge. Cur i láthair iontach déanta ag Eve Ní Bhraoin ó Chonradh na Gaeilge. Tús iontach luath curtha do Sheachtain na Gaeilge.

Coláiste na Sceilge's Response to Covid- 19 School Closure

This is simply a snippet of all the activities that occurred in the school throughout the year. Lastly, during these unprecedented times, all at Coláiste na Sceilge would like to wish everyone the very best. Stay home, stay healthy, and stay safe.

The following poem was written by Kathleen (Kitty) O' Meara which represents the way of life we have had to adapt to.

And the people stayed home. and read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí

Kerry ETB Awards

Bronnadh gradaim ar deichniúr dalta ó Ghaelcholáiste Chiarraí ag Ócáid Bhronnta Gradaim Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí. Bronnadh na gradaim orthu de bharr an sár-oibre a dhein siad laistigh de, agus lasmuigh den seomra ranga le linn na scoilbhliana seo chaite. I mbuaic phointe na h-imeachtaí bronnadh an Bonn Óir ar Cian Ó Cianáin Rang na hArdteiste 2019 de bharr na torthaí iontacha a bhain sé amach an samhradh seo chaite.



Sport



This year has been a very busy one for the Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí's Football, Hurling and Basketball teams. The Senior Girls Basketball team were unlucky not to progress to the All-Ireland Finals this year after losing by two points in their final game of the year. The 1st Year Girls Basketball team, coached by Iníon Ní Chathasaigh, were doing exceptionally

well this year, playing excellent basketball and winning in every round up until the season was called to a halt in March. They had realistic ambitions of playing in the National Basketball arena in Tallaght later in the year but will now most likely have to wait until next year.



Cispheil BL1

The Senior Hurling team, trained by Máistir Ó Murchú, had another very good year in which they played in the Munster semi-final but, on the day came out the wrong side of the result. The Junior team and the Camogie teams also had good years again this year and Hurling and Camogie are going from strength to strength in Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí.



Microsoft DreamSpace



Coiste Gaeilge agus Coiste Glas

The Student Council-Coiste na Gaeilge and Coiste Glas na Scoile have been busy and productive since September 2019. The Student Council-Coiste na Gaeilge have organised many events and activities for students throughout the year and represented the Student Body ably on many occasions. When the school welcomed An tAire Seán Kyne to Tralee to launch Plean Teanga Thrá Lí, Sinéad Ní Mhurchú from Castleisland, spoke passionately of the importance of the Irish language and culture to her and her fellow students. They championed initiatives such as Frása na Seachtaine and Ciorcail Comhrá and for Seachtain na Gaeilge they organised a 5k Fun Run in the Town Park in which the whole school community took part. Once again, this year the school has been awarded the Gaelbratach and Coiste na Gaeilge, along with Iníon Ní Laocha, have led this program in Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí. Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí.



The Coiste Glas, ably supported by Bean Uí Mhuiris and Iníon Ní Leidhin, began the year as they finished last year, determined to increase the awareness amongst the school community of the impact that the choices we make can have on the environment and in helping us all to reduce any negative impacts. At the start of the summer they sourced, helped design and ordered re-usable bio-degradable water bottles which were then available to students in September. They led an awareness campaign around proper and effective recycling, and they instigated a recycling program in the school which reduced the school's landfill waste by approximately one third. They have also recently made it to the Final of the UNESCO Young Environmentalists Awards.

Maith sibh uile. Ní neart go cur le chéile.



Killarney Community College

Fifth Year Bonding Trip

Towards the end of September 2019, our fifth year students climbed a mountain in the surroundings of Killarney's Gap of Dunloe. Strickeen mountain was basking in beautiful sunshine and afforded the group an opportunity to physically challenge themselves and bond with class mates. This proved a fantastic wellbeing activity and got the year off to a great start for the students. The trip was the brain child of their year head Mr. D O Sullivan and ably assisted by Ms. Kissane, Ms. O Leary, Mr. A O Sullivan and Ms. Mulligan



School Run/Walk

At the start of October 2019 and in perfect weather conditions, the school's annual walk/fun run took place across the road in the stunning surrounds of the National Park. With school suspended for the afternoon runners and teachers from all years and houses dusted off their trainers to run the picturesque and challenging route. Others simply dressed

up in their house colours and enjoyed a leisurely stroll through the park basking in glorious sunshine. There were house points up for grabs for runners and best fancy dressed participants. There were also prizes for those who raised the most money through their sponsorship cards. A great day was had by all. Every house gave their all and points were assigned to the overall house competition. This activity formed part of the school's continuous implementation of wellbeing within the College.



School Tour

In October 2019, 70 students and eight teachers departed for beautiful Barcelona as part of the Senior and Junior school tour. The group flew from Shannon and when they landed in Barcelona they were greeted with blue skies, sunshine and temperatures of 23 degrees. The group had an action packed few



days. On Saturday they visited the theme park in Portaventura and on Sunday went for a guided walk around the city learning about it's history and famous buildings followed by lunch on the infamous street of la Rambla and the short journey to the Nou Camp for a tour of the stadium.

Students invited to view Munster Training Camp

At the beginning of the school year our students were invited to attend Killarney Rugby club to watch an open training session for the Munster rugby team. Our students had a fantastic time and the Munster players were more than happy to stand for a selfie or two. The players were very accommodating with their time answering questions about keeping physically active, the demands of a professional sports person and tips on how to keep fit.

A visit from the Irish Basketball Coach and past pupil



The first year ladies in the College were very fortunate in December. Our school was chosen as one of eight in the country to take part in a

new Basketball Ireland initiative to promote Women's basketball. James Weldon, a former past pupil, gave an exciting and fun training session to the students. James encouraged the girls to attend the regular school team training sessions and to gain interest in such a wonderful sport. The College is proud of the fact James is now in the position of Head Coach of the Irish Senior Women's team.

The Vikings - winners of the first Carmella Sheehy Memorial Cup



An epic futsal final took place at the end of January with the Vikings Team and Gaels Team battling not just for coveted house points but of course The Carmella Sheehy Memorial Cup. This tournament ran over

the last seven weeks organised by Ms. L McCarthy and Mr. Hehir. The Carmella Sheehy Cup was handed over to Captain Max by Triona and Eddie Sheehy remembering our colleague and friend Carmella. Carmella was our guidance councillor in the school and is deeply missed. She was sports mad and forever encouraging students to keep involved in sports. What better way to remember her than through this brilliant tournament? The victorious Viking Team are the first to be engraved into the Carmella Sheehy Remembrance Cup.

Senior Ladies football team reach Munster semi-final.

Our Senior Ladies' football team had a great win over Bishopstown Community School on Friday in the Munster Quarter Final winning 8-4 to 3-7. It was a super team performance. Our Senior ladies have now reached the semi-final of this Munster competition for the third year in a row. This is a fantastic achievement and proves what an extremely talented group of individuals we have in our school. Credit must go to the team's mentors Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Cronin. The semi-final is still to be played.



CPR training

The cardiac response unit were filling hearts on Valentines Day in the Killarney Community College, when some teachers who are members of the First Aid Responders team came to train first years in CPR and AED usage. This

training is part of a larger initiative with the aim to train up the three secondary schools in the Killarney area. Students were literally learning life saving skills on the day and the unit were thoroughly impressed by the students interest, concentration and implementation of their new skills on the day.

Master chef provides master class to Junior Certificate students

In March, 3rd year Home Economics students thoroughly enjoyed a day of cooking with local Chef Mark Doe preparing and serving a variety of mouth watering dishes. 'The students had a super day of learning and fun as Mark taught them some amazing ways of making food more attractive and appetising and passing on some of his invaluable experience' said Home Economics Teachers Ms. Brosnan and Ms. Keane. Mark Doe who runs his own cookery school 'Just Cooking' in Fries is a fantastic mentor and has a wonderful way with the students said the teachers and really inspired these young students on Friday.

YSI group scoop top prize at Garda Awards



Our Young Social Innovators 'Be Dementia Aware' who received a group award at the Kerry Division Garda Youth Achievement Awards for all their compassion and work they showed throughout their community to raise awareness about Dementia. The awards were held in The Ballyroe Hotel, Tralee on January 24th 2020. The 5th year students involved are Caoimhe Fleming, Aoife O'Brien, Julia Olabode, Ben Cussen, Darha Puzanova and Ares Farre. 'Be Dementia Aware' were nominated by Ms. Lorraine Crowley. She said 'the passion and innovation these students have shown since September 2018 is an inspiration to all young people in Kerry and beyond. They showed great care and support towards the families and the people who have dementia in their community and are well deserved winners of this award'. Well done 'Be Dementia Aware'.

Killorglin Community College

eTwinning School

Killorglin Community College (Killorglin CC) was awarded the prestigious title of eTwinning School and it is one of only five schools in Ireland that have been awarded with this title. This is an immense achievement and it would not have been possible without the fantastic support of students, parents, teachers and members of the wider community. As an eTwinning School, Killorglin CC is recognised as a pioneer and leader in digital practice, eSafety practice, innovative and creative approaches to teaching and learning, and in promoting collaborative learning practices between staff and students. Its eTwinning involvement has further enhanced the technological aptitude and confidence of teachers and students at the college. In fact, eTwinning by its nature encourages teachers to use technology effectively and consistently.

Two eTwinning National Quality Labels were awarded in August 2019 to two of our eTwinning projects undertaken by the school. eTwinning National Quality Labels are awarded to teachers that lead and facilitate excellent eTwinning projects. One project was led by Acting Principal Vera Kerrisk and the other by her colleague Marieke O'Connor. Both projects were also awarded with European Quality Labels. Throughout the duration of the school's three projects Killorglin CC partnered with schools in Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, France, Croatia, Belgium, Italy and Estonia. Staff and students collaborated with their European partners using online digital platforms creating websites, eMagazines and flipped classroom videos. These projects saw staff and students travel for a week to each of the participating countries and host staff and students during their return visit to Killorglin. Staff and students are currently engaging with two new projects entitled 'Participating is more important than' and 'Walk Through Science' involving Poland, the Republic of North Macedonia, Reunion Island, Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands, Greece and Spain.

As an eTwinning School Killorglin CC is also recognised as a leader in promoting the continuous professional development of staff. As passionate educators, staff at Killorglin CC not only engage with professional development at a national level, but also at a European level. Since becoming involved in eTwinning projects, staff have job shadowed in schools across Europe and attended continuous professional development courses at home and beyond acquiring new ICT and pedagogical skills.

SciFest National Champion



On November 22nd 2019, Timothy McGrath was announced as the overall National Winner of the SciFest 2019 competition with his project "Combating Oceanic and Freshwater Deadzones using Halophyte species

based biofilter". He scooped the top prize, the SFI Intel ISEF Award, along with an all expenses paid trip to represent Ireland at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) in Anaheim, California in May 2020. He also scooped the Excellence in STEM Award. Timothy has participated in SciFest, at both local and national levels, every year since entering in first year and received a special award, a collage picture of all his appearances in SciFest, from 2014 – 2019, for his endeavours. His teacher, Ms. Marieke O'Connor, won the Teacher of Excellence Award for mentoring Timothy on his project and she will accompany him on his trip to Anaheim in May. We are delighted to witness him present his project now on a global level. Regarding his experience he has said "Overall my SciFest journey has been a once in a lifetime opportunity. So many doors have opened because of my participation in SciFest and I wouldn't be where I am today only for that. It has transformed my confidence, allowed me to develop new skills and brought out my passion for STEM. I would recommend every student in the country to enter a project into SciFest as you will gain so much from the experience, which you would otherwise not have received from the classroom".

Garda Youth Achievement Awards



Three of our students, Jack Nagle, Saoirse Fitzgerald and Serena Leahy Breen received a merit award at the Garda Youth Achievement Awards held in Ballyroe Hotel. Each of them truly deserved to be

awarded and acknowledged for their diligence, enthusiasm for learning and success, and for their courage, strength and resilience.

Gold Gaisce Awards



Six of our Leaving Cert students achieved the Gold Gaisce Award and were presented with their awards by President Michael D. Higgins at an award

ceremony in Dublin Castle. Our school is in its 5th year of running the President Award with 14 Bronze and 6 Gold Awards received this year alone. Over the past four years the adventure journey has been a highlight for students as they get to be active, cook meals for each other and more importantly have overnight stays with their friends. Gaisce is such an important part of our school so thank you to Ms. G O'Sullivan for all her hard work over the past four years. Here is to many more #lágaisce days to come!

Euro Scola Participation in Strasbourg

In January 2020, TY & 5th year students travelled to Strasbourg, France for four days to attend Euro Scola. Our TY students won the trip as a prize for a competition entry in conjunction with Gaisce and The European Parliament. Over the four days they explored Strasbourg and attended Euro Scola. EuroScola offers an immersive experience in the Chamber of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, allowing students to learn about European integration by experiencing it first-hand. Students from the 28 EU Member States are selected to become Members of the European Parliament for one day. They take to the floor in plenary and committee sessions to debate and vote on resolutions on current affairs, all the while practising their language skills and making friends with fellow students from across Europe. Teachers also have the opportunity to meet their colleagues and exchange feedback about their own classroom practices & experiences.

UCC+ Student Achievement Awards



Eight of our 2nd year students received UCC+ Student Achievement Awards in the areas of Maths, Gaeilge, English and European Languages. Well done to

Caoimhe Giles, Naoise Larkin, Ciara O'Shea, Michael O'Shea, Cian McCarthy, Sophia Doherty, Leah Callan and Thomas McIntyre. This award recognises their academic excellence, hard work and dedication and is part of a long standing link and relationship we have with the university.

Fexco 'Business in the Community' Programme

'Business in the Community' linked up with our 2nd year Business Class as part of a pilot programme to introduce students to the world of work and to start thinking about possible future careers. Students received input from Fexco, a local business, on the soft skills required by industry, as well as a tour of Fexco itself. In return all the business students presented a group input on what they had learned from the programme to Ann Sweeney from the HR Department in Fexco before receiving a well earned certificate of participation. Fexco's 'Business in the Community' Programme also links in with our LCVP class, where they conduct mock interviews with the students in preparation for the workplace. Many thanks to Ms. S Fitzgerald and Ms. E Murphy who continually liaise with Fexco & work on these projects.

Rowing

Our 2nd year student Darragh Lynch was a recipient at the Kerry All Star Awards for his successes this year on the Handball court. He was also part of the Cromane Rowing Club Mixed U14 crew, along with fellow students Molly McCarthy and Sean Carey, who were awarded at the Gala also.

Rugby

This year saw the establishment of our first boys rugby team. The team is made up of students from 1st and 2nd year. Weekly training sessions, coaching sessions from Munster Rugby Development Officers and their first training friendly match against a neighbouring school saw them make great progress on the field.

One Man & his Dog

With the help of her faithful sheepdog Skye, 3rd year student Tara Foley proved herself a champion by winning the Junior Handlers' title in the BBC's prestigious One Man and His Dog competition in Scotland.

TY Museum Takeover Day

In September our TY's took over the running of Kerry County Museum for a day. Our students took on the roles of tour guides, front of house, reception, photographers, security, organisers and social media. The students received training in the weeks leading up to the takeover and flourished in their roles on the day.



Irish Language Office

Beatha agus sláinte chugaibh ar fad. Tá súil agam go bhfuil gach duine ag déanamh go maith agus ag tabhairt aire mhaith dóibh féin an aimsir shuaite seo. Ba mhaith liom an deis a thógaint san alt seo sibh ar fad a chur ar an eolas faoi Phlean Teanga Thrá Lí a bhfuil mé ag obair air faoi láthair. I am working with Kerry Education and Training Board (Kerry ETB) as an Irish Officer and along with that I am working on the development of a Language Plan for Tralee. I would like to use this short article to let you know the background to that Plan and how you can get involved in it.

Trá Lí le Gaeilge was established in order to develop and implement a Language Plan for Tralee (www.tralilegaelge.ie). The aim of the Language Plan is to increase the use of Irish in the home, in the community, in education and in both the public and private sectors. Funding has been made available for the Tralee Language Plan as it is a Gaeltacht Service Town, servicing the Corca Dhuibhne and Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht areas. Kerry ETB has been named as the lead organisation in developing the Plan. I am developing the Language Plan in conjunction with an Advisory Committee. Research and consultation with the community of Tralee is being carried out in these initial two years, which will lead to a sustainable and impactful action plan. Implementation of the Language Plan will occur over a period of seven years.



The Coiste Comhairleach (advisory committee) was established to advise and give recommendations on all aspects of the development of the Tralee Language Plan.

The Committee has representatives from various organisations and groups operating in Tralee, including Conradh na Gaeilge, Tralee IT, Tralee Chamber Alliance, Kerry County Council, Kerry ETB, Siamsa Tíre, An Garda Síochána and the GAA. The Coiste Comhairleach shares expertise on various fields and, in the implementation stage, it will give us an opportunity to embed actions from the Plan in the relevant organisations and fields.

The Plan will focus on the following areas:

1. Education
2. Young people
3. Community



4. Sport
5. Public Services
6. The Business Community
7. The Arts

The consultation process with the people of Tralee began in November 2019 and is ongoing. We were delighted to welcome Aire Stáit na Gaeltachta, Seán Kyne on the 15th November in Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí to launch this public consultation process. I would be most grateful if you could get involved in the process and share your thoughts in this survey here <https://forms.gle/uk6DpSgVGuyU2qVe7>

You can also access the survey on our website www.tralilegaelge.ie and you can also keep an eye on developments on our Facebook page, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Go raibh míle maith agaibh as an alt seo a léamh agus ná déanaigí dearúd an suirbhé sin a líonadh amach nuair a bheidh seans agaibh – dá mhéid freagraí a fhaigimid is ea is fearr a bheidh an Plean ar deireadh! Tugaigí aire mhaith daoibh féin.



Pictured from L-R: Oifigeach Gaeilge Chomhairle Contae Chiarraí, Roibeard Ó hEartáin, Príomhoifigeach sa Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta, Seán Mac Eoin, Oifigeach Gaeilge, Aoife Ní Chonchúir, Stáit na Gaeltachta, Seán Kyne, An Stiúrthóir Scoileanna, Ógra agus Ceoil, Ann Uí Dhuibhir agus Príomhoide Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí, Ruairí Ó Cinnéide

Kerry ETB Physical Education Programme 2019-2020

In September 2019, and blissfully unaware of the unprecedented events coming in the form of the Coronavirus, the PE teachers in Kerry ETB launched into the programme that they had drawn up in May. As a community working together, they had carefully planned meetings and events to run complimentary to each other throughout the year. An event or Rich Task for the students would be preceded by a Community of Practice meeting to allow for planning and debriefing of activities so that safety, enjoyment and teaching and learning for students would be maximised.

The Rich Tasks, outlined below, have been organised for over ten years now and consequently, they run very efficiently. This year the teachers decided to modify the Orienteering Rich Task to become a Classroom Based Assessment (CBA) for the Junior Cycle allowing students to profile their achievement within the PE Short Course and be reported upon within the Wellbeing section on a student's eventual Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement.

LCPE and SCPE

The phased introduction of both Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) and the non examinable Senior Cycle Physical Education (SCPE) is nearly completed. It is a very exciting but also a challenging time for the PE community in Ireland. In 2018, 64 schools enlisted to become the first schools in the country to undertake LCPE for examination in 2020.

Coláiste na Sceilge expressed interest in beginning the LCPE curriculum in September 2020. Pdraig Murphy will be the lead teacher and a cohort of 20 students will commence the course after the summer break. The impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic will have on this year's examination and on the roll out of the new curricula nationally is unknown at the time of writing.

Physical Education Community of Practice (PE COP)

Meetings

Since its formation in 2007, the PE teachers from our second-level ETB schools and centres in Kerry have been meeting four times a year, outside of school hours to plan, collaborate and coordinate the PE programme across the scheme. This has huge benefits for the students, teachers and schools. It is a highly effective and efficient way of operating. By sharing resources and planning together, it brings a richness and diversity of experience to all our students irrespective of which ETB school or centre they

attend. This year, a Department of Education and Skills Inspection Report acknowledged this fact. The report highly praised the PE teachers for collegiality while also commending the school management and Kerry ETB for supporting and advancing the work of communities of practice. The report further recognised the strong sense of collaboration among the PE department stating that 'overall planning has been very positively influenced by the educational leadership of Kerry ETB'.

There were four meetings scheduled for this year, in September, November, March and May. At the time of writing, it looks as if the May meeting, (the meeting that reviews the work completed during the year and plans the Calendar for the next academic year) will be conducted on Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 restrictions on physical distancing and travel.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The COP members devised their own schedule of in-house CPD this year relevant to their needs as identified and outlined in the PE Strategic Plan.

The teachers believe that CBA in the Junior Cycle are very valuable tools in preparing students and teachers alike for assessment in PE at Senior level. Formal assessment in PE is very recent. It requires changes in how PE is taught. The old order has changed. So, for that reason, the first CPD opportunity focused on CBAs.

On 5th September 2019, in Centreport, Tralee, Donal Dowd, Director of Cappanalea NCOET, and COP member, collaborated with the teachers in designing a CBA for the JC Module in Orienteering to be trialled at the Orienteering Rich Task for second year students in November. Last year, the teachers centred their attention on a CBA in Gymnastics. Year on year the intention is to build up a suite of CBAs in PE.

The second part of the in-service involved upskilling in protocols and procedures for using tablets in PE and was facilitated by Jeremy Wrenn, Technology Enhanced Learning Officer in Kerry ETB. All the extra work and effort that Kerry ETB has put into developing digital technology was formally recognised by the Department of Education and Skills in a recent Inspection report commending the 'Exemplary use of digital technologies by the PE teacher'. The teachers use the tablets for designing schemes of work, collaborating with colleagues, sharing and storing resources for the PE department. Students also gain digital skills using

technology as part of a PE class to enhance teaching and learning.

The role of Digital Technology in Physical Education

Overall, Digital Technology plays a huge role in teaching and learning in the LCPE, SCPE and Junior Cycle PE curricula.

LCPE (Leaving Certificate examinable)

- 50% of overall mark is submitted digitally
- Video analysis
- Video editing and student feedback
- Used as an aid for teaching and learning

SCPE (Leaving Certificate Framework, assessment but not the points)

- Used throughout through a variety of curricular models
- Video editing, analysis and feedback
- Used as an aid for teaching and learning
- Used for SCPE Eportfolio/Portfolio

JCPE and NCCA Short course

- CBA's, formative assessment
- Video analysis
- Video editing, feedback
- Used as an aid for teaching and learning

The annual Physical Education Conference was held on the weekend of the 11th/12th October 2019 in Portlaoise. Three COP members attended on our behalf, Julie Kelly, Killorglin CC, Donal Dowd, Cappanalea NCOET and John Creagh, Coláiste Gleann Lí, Tralee and reported back at the November meeting. Understandably, the conference leaned heavily towards LCPE and SCPE and many of the PE teachers who are involved in the two-year pilot addressed the delegates and recounted the opportunities and challenges teaching the new curricula.

The final in-service was held on the 3 March 2020 in Centrepoint, Tralee. This was a teacher-led in-service working together on aspects of Junior Cycle PE, Short Courses, and SC Framework Modules. All eight schools working collaboratively saves an endless amount of time and energy and unnecessary duplication of effort.

Rich Tasks and Events

The Department of Education and Skills PE Inspectorate always praises Kerry ETB's Rich Task design and implementation in reports and 2019 was no exception:

Kerry ETB has outlined a clear strategic vision for the development of PE, part of which involves a shared, rich task event organised for Junior Cycle students in which all Kerry ETB students participate. This is good practice'



Pictured: PE Teacher and COP member, Julie Kelly

Most of the Rich Tasks were held in the autumn term. The Athletics event had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Reporting on some of the events is not possible because of pressures caused by the school closures.

- Second Year Orienteering, Ballyseedy Woods, Friday 22nd November 2019
- Senior Cycle Tag Rugby, TRSLC, Tralee, Friday 8th November 2019
- Third Year Spikeball, TRSLC, Tralee, Tuesday 3rd December 2019
- First Year Girls' Basketball, Castleisland Friday 14th December 2019
- First Year Athletics, An Ríocht, Castleisland, Thursday 2nd April 2020 (Cancelled)

Orienteering 22nd November 2019

Students from four schools participated in the second year Orienteering Event that took place in Ballyseedy Woods in November 2019. It was the first occasion that the event was used for a Classroom Based Assessment and it generated a great buzz of excitement. The Orienteering Module proved to be a very suitable module for the CBA assessment. A PE teacher and two participating students share their conclusions of the overall experience.

Teacher

Preparing for the Orienteering CBA made the teaching and learning environment more focused for myself and the students. Assessing the students on the success criteria was straightforward and easy to follow. I found it a very manageable and clear to see what descriptor each student achieved when reviewing and assessing their performance in Orienteering.

Student Cian

I enjoyed this Rich Task more than the previous ones as I felt I had a reason to do it. I was more interested and focused on the task because I knew I wanted to do well.

Student Naoise

I personally found it easier on the day knowing the success criteria and what was expected of me. Knowing I was being assessed made me more focused in class. I enjoyed being assessed in PE.

The schools taking part were Coláiste na Sceilge, Coláiste Gleann Lí, Killorglin CC and Coláiste na Ríochta

Spikeball 3rd December 2019

Now in its ninth year, this year's annual Spikeball event for third years catered for over 250 students from Coláiste Gleann Lí, Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí, Killorglin CC, Killarney CC, Causeway CS, Coláiste na Sceilge, Coláiste na Ríochta and Castleisland CC and Tralee Youthreach. It was very enjoyable event as usual, full of festive cheer. John Creagh, Coláiste Gleann Lí hosted the day and thanked Kieran O Callaghan and the PLC students from Kerry College Clash Campus for their assistance.



Major Contributors to the Development of Physical Education in Ireland

The teaching of Physical Education in Ireland has undergone many changes in the recent past. The introduction of new

curricula necessitating the implementation of the very latest technology in PE requires support from school management and government agencies. Happily, I can tell you that this is readily available, and all the teachers are actively encouraged to attain the highest standards. Outlined below are four major players in Physical Education and their links to Kerry ETB PE Community of Practice.

• Professional Development Services for Teachers (PDST)

The PDST is the country's largest single support service and offers professional learning opportunities to teachers and school leaders in a range of pedagogical, curricular and education areas. From September 2019, the PDST PE Team are supporting schools in preparing for the introduction of Senior Cycle PE Framework and Leaving Certification Specification through in-school visits. The PE Post Primary PE team includes Advisors, a Team Leader, Associates and Local Facilitators. It is funded by the Teacher Education Section (TES) of the Department of Education and Skills (DoES).

Donal Dowd, Cappanalea NCOET has been a PDST Associate in Outdoor Education for many years.

• Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT)

Junior Cycle for Teachers is a dedicated continuing professional development (CPD) support service of the Department of Education and Skills. It supports schools in their implementation of the new Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) through the provision of effective teaching and learning resources.

Loretta Maher, Killarney CC is a PE Associate with the JCT

• The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA)

The NCCA is a statutory body of the Department of Education and Skills. The NCCA advises the Minister for Education and Skills on:

- Curriculum and assessment for early childhood education, primary and post-primary schools.
- Assessment procedures used in schools and examinations on subjects which are part of the curriculum.

At school level, the NCCA works with learners, teachers, practitioners and parents to develop research based curriculum and assessment.

The current Chairperson of the NCCA Council 2019-2022 is Professor Mary O Sullivan a teacher educator at the University of Limerick and among her many roles served as Inaugural Dean of Education and Health Science at UL. It was while Mary was Head of the PE College in UL that she worked with Kerry ETB to help set up the PE Community of Practice in 2007. She is acknowledged worldwide for her expertise and research on Communities of Practice.

Three of our teachers have just finished working on a trial for the NCCA led by Dr. Deborah Tannehill and Dr. Antonio Calderon from the University of Limerick. Dr. Tannehill sent the following note of thanks to Kerry ETB.

‘Six post primary physical education teachers were partners with the University of Limerick and the NCCA to examine enactment of a new curriculum models-based framework, supported by digital technology. Julie Kelly (Killorglin CC), Loretta Maher (Killarney CC), and Gillian Fitzgerald (Coláiste na Sceilge) were part of the team who, along with their students collaborated with UL researchers, Antonio Calderon and Deborah Tannehill on this project focused on the SCPE framework. Throughout this two-year project these teachers worked as part of a learning community sharing ideas and insights, reflecting on and revising practice, and designing exciting and challenging learning experiences for their students. Their work will be shared across the Irish physical education community and will impact practice of both the curriculum models which are part of the SCPE framework and the new Phyz app that has been introduced to support young people in documenting their learning. It is worth noting that this unique research has potential for transfer to other subjects in both national and international contexts. At the close of the project a showcase event was held to allow teachers and students to share their experiences with other teachers and stakeholders linked to this work. This group of teachers and their students were exceptional; they discussed teaching and learning through the different curriculum models, how new pedagogies allowed students and teachers to negotiate together how learning can be facilitated and highlighted the benefits of using the Phyz in conjunction with the curriculum models to enhance learning. Antonio and Deborah thank these teachers and students for taking part in this research and congratulate them on their role in influencing new ways of teaching and learning in physical education’.

Dr. Deborah Tannehill University of Limerick.

• **The Physical Education Association of Ireland (PEAI)**

Founded in 1968, the PEAi is a voluntary association that promotes excellence and innovation in Physical Education teaching in Ireland. Its membership comprises of PE teachers and pre-service PE teachers.

The PEAi Executive Board organises an annual PE Conference for its members at second and third level to come together to celebrate the work that has been done in the previous year; to attend workshops for Junior Cycle and come together to celebrate the work that has been done in the previous year; to attend workshops for Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle and to provide a valuable opportunity for PE teachers from all over Ireland to meet.

This year the PEAi organised six Regional Roadshow Workshops (free of charge) throughout Ireland on the integration of Digital Technology (DT) in Physical Education. The workshops provided teachers with a step-by-step guide on setting up the sports hall for integrating DT. Recommendations on how to best capture a student’s performance, key skills required to edit and package a performance and examples from teachers currently delivering LCPE were also included in these workshops.

John Creagh, Coláiste Gleann Lí, Tralee was elected as an Executive Board member of the PEAi in October 2019 at the annual PEAi Conference.

Michael Darmody Lifetime Achievement Award for Donal Dowd

At a special ceremony at the PE Conference in Portlaoise in October 2019, Donal Dowd, Director of Cappanalea NCOET was awarded the prestigious Michael Darmody Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of his work developing the centre and promoting outdoor education over the last four decades.

The Michael Darmody Award was launched in 2011 to recognise outstanding contributions to physical education in Ireland. It is presented annually at the PEAi Conference. The award is named in memory of Michael Darmody, who worked as a physical education inspector in the Department of Education for many years and was instrumental in transforming the teaching of PE in schools into its modern form.

Congratulations Donal and well-deserved! A worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

Conclusion

The fact that so many of our members are engaging at the highest level in Physical Education in Ireland is an enormous boost for Kerry ETB PE Community of Practice. It is also very gratifying that the PE Inspectorate continues to acknowledge the value of the community and the standards that are being achieved.

Thank you to all who have made this possible, to the Principals, Deputy Principals, Colleagues, Parents and Students Fora, Parents and Students Councils and to the many outside agencies for assisting us when requested.

A special ‘thank you’ to Colm Mc Evoy, CEO of Kerry ETB and to Ann O Dwyer, Director of Schools, Youth and Music, Kerry ETB for supporting the work of the PE teachers throughout the year.

Youth Development Office

The Youth Development Office at Kerry ETB is where Youth Work and a range of Youth related services are centralised. These services range from supporting the provision, coordination, administration and assessment of youth work services as laid out in the Education and Training Board Act 2013 to supporting young people in the areas of creativity, music, mental health and wellbeing. This is all with a view to supporting the goals of Kerry ETB that young people are engaged and supported in their lives to grow and flourish.



Kerry ETB Youth Officer Seamus Whitty

In this section my colleagues will outline some of their work and give you a sense of the breadth and range of dynamic opportunities we are committed to providing to young people throughout the county. All this work is considered, and delivered in a community context with a range of very committed and engaged stakeholders. It is important that if any of you have ideas about how we can collaborate or work better together to support young people in our respective areas we would welcome hearing from you. With this in mind we have included our contact details and would consider it a privilege to hear from you.

For further details on Youth Development please contact Seamus Whitty, Youth Officer at Kerry ETB Head Office on 066 7121488 or email swhitty@kerryetb.ie

Youth Work

Youth work has been enhancing the lives of young people and adults in Ireland for more than 100 years. It was given formal statutory recognition in the Youth Work Act 2001, which defines youth work as:

A planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young people through their voluntary involvement, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations.

Youth work is an educational and developmental process, based on young people's active and voluntary participation and commitment. It is committed to meeting young people 'where they are at' and ensuring that they are key decision-makers throughout the process. These principles inform all of what we do in the Youth Development Office of Kerry ETB, whether we are working with Youth Service or directly with young people on creative projects, supporting their wellbeing in schools or helping them develop through music.

Youth Work Services are provided to young people in Kerry by a number of excellent voluntary youth organisations throughout the county. Kerry ETB's role is to support the provision of this work as an intermediary body on behalf of the Department of Children and Youth Affairs. Some of the work we will be doing this year will be in the following areas:

- Targeted Youth Funding and the upcoming UBU - Your Place Your Space Scheme - designed to provide young person-centred, community-based and out-of-school youth services to young people in need of support. Budget is €427,958
- Local Youth Club Grant Scheme- supporting volunteer led youth club/group activities at a local level that provide a programme of youth work activities for young people. Budget is €56,300
- Youth Information Centres- providing a network of information hubs for young people to allow for access to free and confidential information on a range of subjects including education, employment, careers, rights, entitlements, sport, leisure, travel and European opportunities. Budget is €115,677
- Extensive research on the needs of young people throughout the county and identification of those most in need of support. This will be shared with our extensive network of stakeholders with whom we collaborate in order to best support young people together.
- Projects for specific groups of Young People such as:
 - The LGBTI+ Grant Scheme
 - Youth Employability Initiative.
 - Equipment grants for Youth Clubs

Across all this work the priority of Kerry ETB Youth Development Office is to ensure that all youth services are supported to deliver their service in the most effective and efficient manner possible in order to have the maximum impact on the positive development of young people. We consider it a great privilege to do this work and are excited about the possibilities it creates for the young people it serves.

Wellbeing Kerry

The work of Wellbeing Kerry is focussed on supporting wellbeing and mental health in schools throughout the county in all post primary schools. Wellbeing Kerry does this by building capacity in schools and enhancing existing structures with the ultimate aim of empowering school communities to make choices that support the wellbeing of all. This is achieved by working, in line with a range of national policies across a continuum of support: support for all, support for some and support for few. We are very proud to announce that Mr. Tim Nolan is the recently appointed Wellbeing co-ordinator for the Wellbeing Kerry Project. Tim's role will be to support schools in the following area:

1. Capacity Building.

Wellbeing Kerry supports wellbeing promotion in schools by engaging with school communities to develop their capacity to promote wellbeing across the school community in line with the Junior Cycle Wellbeing Guidelines and the Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018-2023. This process is designed to build on the strengths demonstrated in schools all over Kerry, while supporting school teams through reflection and self-assessment to identify areas for growth.

2. SPHE Support

Wellbeing Kerry facilitates, through a process of co-teaching, dynamic student-centred programmes supporting the SPHE curriculum. The areas we provide support to students on range from: mental health, developing confidence, personal wellbeing to peer support. It's very much about finding out from students and schools what their needs are building on existing strengths.

3. Student Support Teams

Wellbeing Kerry under the governance of Kerry ETB leads an inter-agency collaborative support programme to support Student Support Teams in all schools in Kerry. There are currently 24 post primary schools in Kerry participating in the training programme. The training and support model has been collaboratively developed and is facilitated by the following agencies: NEPS, CAMHS, JIGSAW Kerry, TUSLA, HSE Suicide Prevention, South West Counselling and Kerry Adolescent Counselling Service with Wellbeing Kerry and Kerry ETB providing the lead coordinating role.

Evidence from schools participating in the training is that they have already seen the impact of the training in their schools.

- Improved communications and collaborative approach with external specialist agencies with regard to referrals, pathways and ongoing support for vulnerable students.
- More developed understanding of the role and function of the teams in broader context of school wellbeing promotion.
- Heightened awareness of the need for self-care and peer support throughout the teams.
- Increased understanding of critical incident plan in school and role of team members.
- Greater capacity to identify and focus on in-school interventions for vulnerable students.

Kerry Local Creative Youth Partnership

Kerry Local Creative Youth Partnership (Kerry LCYP) is a new project for Kerry and one of three national pilot initiatives operating in Ireland under Action 14 of Creative Youth, the plan for Pillar one of the Creative Ireland Programme. It is funded by the Department of Education and Skills and Creative Ireland. Kerry ETB is the lead partner in the county, offering the structure through which Kerry LCYP as a collaborative network, can create opportunities for child and youth creativity in the county. The strategic goals of the project are as follows:



Goal One

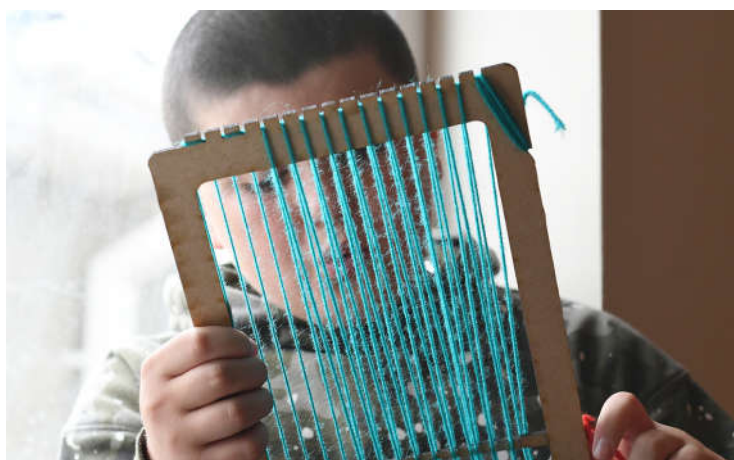
To establish clear pathways for children and young people to experience and develop creativity. This is achieved by building a partnership network of public sector organisations, cultural and community resources and organisations willing to share information and collaborate in order to bring about a better use of existing resources with the purpose of enhancing child and youth creativity at local level.

Goal Two

To develop significantly more opportunities for children and young people to be creative in their local communities. This is achieved by developing strategic plans at local level that will enhance child and youth creativity in communities across Kerry. This work involves collaboration with schools, youth groups, youth service providers and family resource centres.

Goal Three

To ensure that all partnership activities are directed by child and youth voice. This is informed by cognisance of disadvantage, exclusion, location and marginalisation of all kinds.



Goal Four

To create opportunities for the creative industries to input into the work of Kerry LCYP. This is achieved by coordinating and supporting a professional team of creative tutors and specialist educators who deliver the annual work plan of Kerry LCYP. This work engages directly with children and young people as well as builds capacity across stakeholder and community groups.

In 2019, Kerry LCYP organised 19 activities targeting 948 young people in Kerry. Workshop programmes embrace the creative arts and creative industry disciplines and include everything from music and performance to construction and design.



For further details on Kerry Local Creative Youth Partnership, contact Deirdre Enright, Creative Youth Co-ordinator at Kerry ETB Head Office on 066 7121488 or email denright@kerryetb.ie

Music Generation Kerry



Music Generation has come to Kerry!

Music Generation is Ireland's National Music Education Programme which transforms the lives of children and young people through access to high-quality, subsidised performance music education. Established by its parent company Music Network, Music Generation is co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and Local Music Education Partnerships (MEPs).



Kerry is one of the five latest areas to join the Music Generation Programme and with the appointment of Music Development Officer Deirdre Johnson, plans for Music Generation programmes are well underway. Deirdre is a Tralee native who has

returned to her home town to take up the post of Music Development Officer after 15 years working in music education management in the UK. Deirdre worked for many years at The Manchester College (TMC) heading up a large music department there before taking on the role of Course Leader for Professional Musicianship at BIMM Manchester in 2016. Deirdre is a multi-instrumentalist and electronic composer who is thrilled to be leading on the rollout of Music Generation in the county. Music Generation Kerry is working in partnership with Kerry ETB and Kerry County Council with particular support from the Arts Office and the Community Support Team.

Music Generation is all about creating positive outcomes for children and young people by providing high-quality, multi-genre music performance education particularly to those who cannot yet access it for socioeconomic or geographical reasons. As well as education programmes in primary and post primary schools, Music Generation Kerry will over time

develop ensembles and projects that will be countywide, including a Brass Band Project, County Choir and County Orchestra. There are plans for music technology initiatives and these will be linked with band projects and recording and live performance opportunities. Children and young people on Music Generation programmes will be provided with instruments through their schools, and a low-cost Instrument Rental Scheme will be run in collaboration with Kerry Libraries when programmes roll out later in 2020.

Music Generation will also play an important role in providing employment opportunities for local musicians as Musician Educators. So far, 25 musicians have been recruited to the Musician Educator pool and these talented individuals will soon be providing group instrumental tuition in the following instruments/specialisms:

- Guitar/Ukulele/Bass
- Brass and other wind instruments
- Choir and Vocals
- Multi-instrumental Traditional
- Classical Violin and Viola
- Music Technology and Recording
- Songwriting and Music Production
- Band Workshops

Provision will be based initially in Tralee, Castleisland, Killorglin, Cahirciveen, Listowel and Killarney but the geographical reach will increase as more Musician Educators are recruited. Keep up to date with Music Generation Kerry by following on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram and sign up to our mailing list to make sure that you are amongst the first to hear about developments and performances.

For further details contact Deirdre Johnson, Music Development Office at Kerry ETB Head Office on 066 7141288 or email musicgeneration@kerryetb.ie

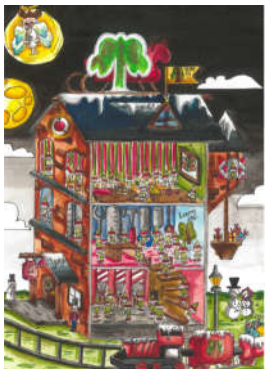


Kerry ETB Christmas Card Art Competition 2019

Kerry ETB received over 200 Entries for the Annual Christmas Card Competition from their eight Post Primary Schools throughout Kerry and as always the standard was very high.

The winner and runners up were invited to Kerry ETB Head Office and were presented with their prizes by Ann O'Dwyer, Director of Schools. According to Ann O' Dwyer, "Every card submitted demonstrated great artistic talent in our schools and we are very proud to display all the entries here at our offices in Centrepont, Tralee for everyone to enjoy and admire". The winning card was sponsored and printed by Kingdom Printers and was circulated all over the country as the official Kerry ETB Christmas Card.

The winners were:



Overall Winner:
Katie O'Connor
School:
Castleisland
Community
College
Art Teacher:
Pia Thornton.



Runner up 1:
Michaela Harrington
School:
Causeway
Comprehensive
School
Art teacher:
Marianne Browne



Runner up 2:
Shannia O'Brien
School:
Coláiste Gleann
Lí
Art Teacher:
Cáit Lynch

Katie received a Samsung Tablet sponsored by Hugh Culloty Expert, The Mall, Tralee with Brendan Culloty joining Ann O' Dwyer in congratulating the winner Katie and runners up Michaela and Shannia on their impressive card designs. Each runner up received a €50 O'Mahony's Book voucher.

Cappanalea The National Centre for Outdoor Education and Training

Expedition in the Arctic Circle

by Darragh Lenihan

Many months ago I heard of an opportunity to go to Finland to assist in leading a group of students for a week long expedition in the Arctic Circle.

I immediately put my name forward, deciding to figure out logistics and other details later. I suppose my thought process was that an adventure like that doesn't come around too often.

I wasn't fully sure it would in fact happen as it was due to be six months later and that seemed very distant and intangible. But, those six months snuck passed me very quickly. I found myself facing the unknown with little preparation done and no small amount of anxiety.

Before I knew it I was on a bus, and then a plane, and then very far from home. But, perhaps I should back track and explain a few things. Like where this trip opportunity came from.

Back in 2017 a team from Paukkula, a youth institute in Finland, came to Ireland with the intention of arranging an Erasmus plus programme with some Outdoor Education centres. They visited Kinsale OEC and Cappanalea NCOET. They were taken on multi activity adventures, including climbing Carrauntoohil and canoeing on the Lakes of Killarney, while living together at Cappanalea. At Kinsale they went on more adventures while staying with members of the community there. The Finnish team were very impressed and invited the staff of Cappanalea and Kinsale to come and experience a Finnish adventure in return.

I first went to Cappanalea to attend the Outdoor Activity Instructor Traineeship. I had studied Adventure Tourism Management at Tralee IT so I knew a little about the outdoors but I lacked a lot of practical skills and qualifications. The Traineeship at Cappanalea is a nine-month programme designed to give you the skills and knowledge to work as an instructor in the outdoors. On the course I learned how to rock climb, how to kayak on the rivers and on the sea, and more importantly I learned how to teach these skills to others as well. As I was finishing this course the new level 6 advanced programme was set up. I applied and was accepted. This course further developed my skill set and added new things such as canoeing and orienteering and also looked into other aspects of working in the industry such as team leadership and event management. After another nine months of training I refused to leave

Cappanalea and began working there part time. It was around then that I heard of an opportunity for the staff to go to Finland on an expedition. I have excellent timing.

So this brings us back to me facing the unknown in a strange land. I wasn't alone though. Lorcan McDonnell, a very experienced colleague, was with me. We landed in Helsinki and spent the night in a hotel before taking a train to Mikkeli the next morning.

It was here that we met Tommi Narhi. Tommi is a teacher at Paukkula, the school in Mikkeli. Tommi was one of the Finnish team that had gone to Ireland to see the outdoor centres. He was organising a group of twelve students for a trip through the wilderness of Lapland. I was to assist Tommi in leading six of the students, while Lorcan was to lead the other six with a Finnish assistant.

That day we met the students, prepared our gear, bought our food and then it all began with a fourteen-hour bus drive. You may be thinking, nothing could be worth such a ridiculously long time on a bus, but I'm starting to believe that everything worth doing starts with a ridiculously long bus drive. Regardless, many infinities later, we arrived in Giellajohka. Giellajohka is a family run holiday village in Lapland where we spent the night before setting out on our wilderness hike.

The hiking started at a comfortable pace, surprisingly comfortable. But, with seventeen-ish kilograms on your back and five days ahead of you, slower is better. The students, four girls and two boys, of about seventeen years, spoke only in Finnish and to each other at first. I knew two words of Finnish, 'thanks' and 'dog'. Why dog? I'm not sure, but those were the only two words I remembered. Tommi spoke to me of course but still I felt some isolation.



But very soon two of the students with the best English began talking to me a little. I spotted a plant from home, greater butterwort; one of Ireland's few insectivorous plants. I pointed it out to the students and explained about it. They showed me things too, and told me the Finnish words for them, and I would tell them the English as best I could. Part of my being there was to help with their English, and for a cultural exchange.

Towards the end of the first day we received word that the other group had a twisted ankle. Arrangements were made to alter our campsite so we were closer to an evacuation point. We had to add a few kilometres to our day but both groups made it to the campsite and the leaders discussed the situation. It was decided that the next morning we would have a late start, while Tommi walked with two of the students to the evacuation point, the girl with the twisted ankle plus a boy from our group that was having stomach problems. Then shortly after dinner there was an incident with a stick and a nose resulting in a substantial nose bleed. It seemed like the trip was doomed.



Tommi rushed off to the other campsite to help with the nose and I was left at camp with our six students. Looking back on the trip, this was when I started to love Finland. The scenery was wonderful. The reindeer halting traffic like our sheep back home was hilarious and charming. But sitting around a campfire with those students, chatting, joking, laughing with them as they made the worst pancakes you have ever seen, that is Finland for me.

Over the next few days the students began talking to me more and I started learning and speaking some Finnish, probably very badly. I think my poor attempts at speaking Finnish encouraged the other students to speak more English, it made getting things wrong okay. So the more Finnish I spoke, the more English they spoke.

We started to get to know each other as we walked through the never ending forest. We would pick berries, such as blue berries, cloud berries and linden berries. We found antlers, some from reindeer and some from elk. We made food and always asked what everyone was eating to see if we could get ideas for future camping meals. We joked around

campfires and told stories, some stories being folk tales from Finland and from Ireland, and other stories just being nonsense we made up. We swam in lakes, although swam is probably an exaggeration. We mostly jumped in, squealed a little and jumped back out. We identified plants; birds; droppings; and fungi. We navigated through the hills and valleys and we learned from each other along the way.

Perhaps on the fourth day everyone seemed to be realising that the adventure was ending, and ending soon. There was a slight change in the mood. We had deeper discussions, we stayed up a little later by the fire, and we did some mindfulness exercises. I would say all of us tried to take in the moment a little more, and appreciate the time that was left. Then on our last day before hiking out we reflected on the trip and discussed what we had learned and what we were taking back with us. There were jokes and such of course, but some of the students had some poignant things to say, and I got the impression the trip had really affected them. They discussed how they had come together as a team; how the trip had changed them as leaders and may shape the direction they take with their careers. Then we walked the final kilometre into Giellajohka.

Finland is a beautiful country and very like Ireland, but different. We have vast areas of open land with patches of forest; they have vast areas of forest with patches of open land. In parts of Kerry, the sheep own the roads, and we drive at their leisure, but in Finland it's the reindeer. Many of the trails we walked would not have looked out of place along the Kerry way. The areas of boggy ground look much the same as home but on closer inspection many of the plants are different. Having gotten to know the people there I would say they are quite like us as well.

I went to Finland for an adventure. I went to push myself. I went to experience wilderness, to see beautiful places and to try new things. And I did all of those. I didn't expect to make such good friends in Finland, but I did that too. This was a tremendous experience and I would highly encourage anyone that, like me, hears of an opportunity to go on a trip like this, to go.



Adult Literacy and Basic Education

Maths Trail

Kerry Education and Training Board in collaboration with Killarney House & Gardens have developed a Maths Trail. The launch took place at Killarney House & Gardens on Tuesday, 15th October, 2019 to mark Maths week. The project was by National Adult & Literacy Agency (NALA) under the Better World Books Grant.

Numeracy is a vital skill in today's world – Maths not only consists of sums, fraction and decimals. It is much broader than that. Numeracy teaching has firm links to everyday life, and includes concepts of space, patterns, measurements, data handling and using numbers for day to day activities.

The Maths Trail was designed and developed by Students, Tutor Elaine Clifford and Adult Literacy Organiser Mary Concannon at Killarney Adult Literacy Centre (Kerry ETB). We, at Killarney Adult Literacy & Basic Education Centre, integrate numeracy into most of our programmes. The Maths Trail is to encourage mathematical thinking and talking, to improve problem solving, facilitate group work and familiarise people with their surroundings. Maths is linked to everything in society and this trail is a practical application of Maths in the world around us.

Our Maths Trail is an innovative resource and shows the power of partnership at a local and national level. Our Maths Trail is a fun activity engaging investigation, estimation,

measuring and problem solving. The emphasis is on the journey through the problem rather than the answer. We hope our Maths Trail will motivate young and old to use their Maths Eyes.

Kerry Adult Literacy & Basic Education (Kerry ETB) provides free and confidential group classes and one to one tuition for adults who wish to improve their reading, writing, spelling, maths and basic computers skills. There are eight centres around the county.

Bernadette Corridan, Adult Education Officer (AEO) with Kerry ETB stated, "Kerry ETB is very proud of our Tutor and learners who have developed this Maths Trail using an innovative and practical approach to learning maths by linking to everyday situations and real world examples. The Adult Literacy Service is committed to the integration of numeracy into our courses and welcome new initiatives like the Maths Trail, which can be embedded into our courses and expanded across the county. The Maths Trail is available on the Kerry ETB website & Killarney House & Gardens website".

It is wonderful to see that our Maths Trail is receiving continued interest during COVID-19 pandemic. Killarney Outlook and Loreto National School, through their Facebook page, are encouraging people who live within 5km to visit Killarney House & Gardens and try it out.



Volunteer Tutors Gathering and Sharing ResourcesOld and New

In late February 2020, the Adult Literacy & Basic Education Programme held an in-service training event for our Volunteer Tutors. The theme of the event was Sharing Resources – Old and New.

For those of you, who may not be very familiar with our service, here is a definition of literacy – based on definitions by NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) and the Department of Education and Skills. Literacy encompasses far more than you would think!

In the past, literacy was considered to be the ability to read and write. Today the meaning of literacy has altered to reflect changes in society and in the skills needed by individuals to participate fully in society.

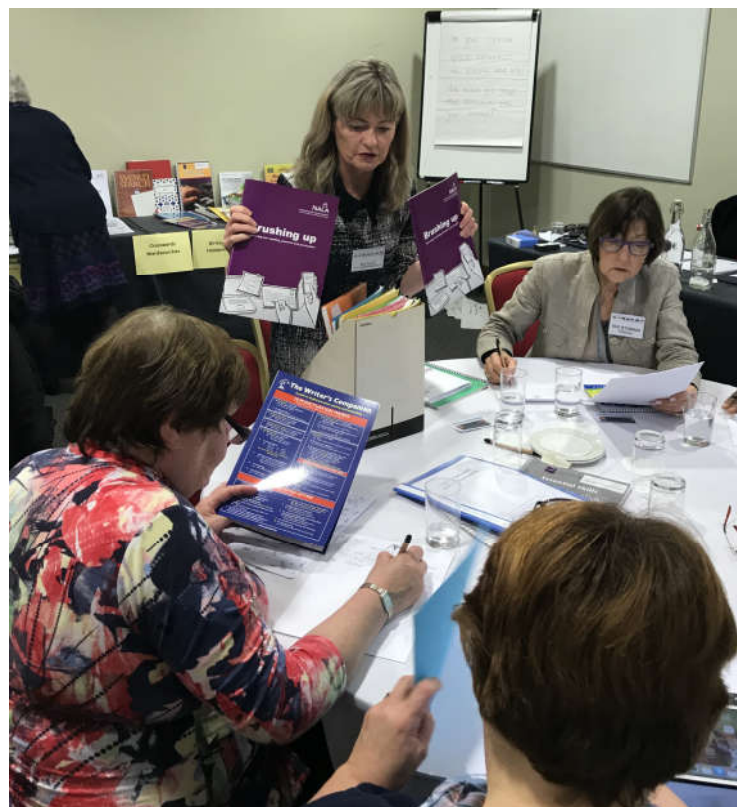
Literacy involves listening, speaking, reading, writing, numeracy, language acquisition and using everyday technology to communicate and handle information.

Our Volunteer Tutors are an integral part of the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Programme. They provide tuition on a One to One basis to adults. The tutor and the learner work in partnership, setting goals and taking the steps necessary to achieve those goals. The learning is an active process so the goals can change, depending on the needs and interests of the learner. For some learners, One to One tuition is a pathway to group learning and accreditation. For others, it is a chance to gain skills that they missed out on in their earlier days. The prospect of promotion is often a key motivator for learners who want to move up the ladder at work or who want to keep up with changes, which require a higher level of literacy in their job.

The tutors, like our learners, come from all walks of life and bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and interests to the Teaching & Learning partnership. We provide excellent training – Initial Tutor Training Course – before any of our volunteers are allocated a learner. The course is approved by WIT (Waterford Institute of Technology) thus giving it a recognised professional standard that can lead to a qualification.

The Adult Literacy & Basic Education Programme has a broad range of resources, including resources developed by our tutors, that cover all aspects of literacy tuition. This event brought tutors together from around the county, to share their own resources, to discuss what they find useful with their learners, to share ideas and to look at the books and resources provided by our centres around the county.

The event was opened by Acting Director of FET, Stephen Goulding and AEO, Bernadette Corridan. They



thanked the tutors for the time they give to the service and for the vital role they play, using a holistic approach, in helping adult learners to work towards achieving their potential and their goals.

The morning was a great success. The tutors found it worthwhile and enjoyable but too short! We look forward to another gathering of our Volunteer Tutors in the near future. We would also like to express our thanks to those Volunteer Tutors who were unable to make it on the day. Hopefully we will see you all at the next gathering.

Here are some of the highlights mentioned by the tutors:

- Loved meeting other tutors and sharing knowledge.
- Finding out about useful resources for various levels.
- Sharing experiences and the tools used by other tutors.
- Getting to know about the resources that are available and hearing how other tutors are working with their learners.



Kerry ETB, Adult Literacy Tuition During Covid-19

The Adult Literacy & Basic Education Service has received great leadership from management and the wider education community during the coronavirus pandemic. Tutors are finding innovative ways to help learners during this strange period. Time did not allow for a planned remote learning process, but all tutors have had to quickly adapt to supporting their learners remotely from home. We are very proud of how all our tutors have responded in ensuring the continuity of service in this unprecedented time.

There is a great range of remote learning platforms being utilised to assist the teaching and learning process, and as always we are meeting the learners where they are, and working from there. So for some, that's email or online communication but for others it's looking at a video on YouTube or answering a text message. Our tutors have created digital content to enhance the learning process, and have found ways to distribute it to learners, using smartphones and computers where they are available. Often, our learners may not have this sort of technology, but someone else in their household does and they can help them to access it.

We have drawn on several useful software platforms at this time – one such is Screencast-o-matic. Using this website will allow you to make a video, by recording an explanatory voice over while you carry out operations on your computer, for example going through the slides of a PowerPoint presentation, on any specific topic explaining the contents, as if in front of a class. Some tutors are developing materials, such as training videos (step by step instructions on various tasks and topics using screencast-o-matic) which can then be shared with other tutors and learners county wide. When you are isolated at home, a video of a familiar face can be very cheering, according to some of our learners.

The digital divide problem in education isn't new, but it is magnified by the COVID-19 pandemic and adult education centre closures. Our centres provide a structure, respite, and shelter in ways that digital learning never can. Self-directed learning requires discipline and motivation that sometimes can be hard to muster, especially when under stress as we all are at the moment. That reality is going to favour a certain type of student over ones that are trying to find their bearings on their own. However, that personalised, learner-centred approach is one of the great strengths of the Adult Literacy and Basic Education Service. Tutors are engaging with learners, maintaining contact, providing regular feedback and support by email and telephone as the personal contact can mean so much.

To reach learners without the digital resources or digital skills to engage in an online learning environment, tutors are emailing work packs to Adult Literacy Organisers (ALOs) for printing and posting out to learners. Tutors are then following up with weekly telephone calls with support to complete these work packs and deal with any issues encountered.

Tutors are also engaging with Kerry ETB policies and QQI guidelines regarding alternative assessments for example using Microsoft Teams to record learners doing assessments on line where applicable. Tutors are also encouraging learners to complete learning journals. Learner engagement is being monitored by each ALO and every effort is being made to engage learners who are not responding to these weekly calls.

Our AEO, Bernadette Corridan, conducts regular team meetings via Microsoft Teams to ensure continuity of teaching and learning and providing support to all the literacy team. Contingency plans have been activated with feedback and support. ALO's hold Tutor meetings via Microsoft Teams too, to share resources, links, and best practice and to develop alternative assessment approaches. ALO's are also linking learners with Kerry Adult Guidance service, who provide great encouragement and support to learners.

There are many training websites offering free membership for a specific period in times of school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic, for example the team at onestopenglish offering access to all resources free until June 30, 2020. Another example is SOLAS, the Further Education and Training authority, whose eCollege online learning service is available free of charge to support learners.

We hope that all this good work being done at this time with all the learners will encourage them to return to class when we re-open. Until then stay safe everyone!

An Tóchar Further Education and Training Centre

The centre continues to meet the needs of the community in North Kerry by offering a broad range of both accredited and non-accredited part time courses. Over the past year our students have graduated from courses such Health Care Support, Cookery, Professional Bartending and Cocktail Making, Early Childhood Care & Education, Horticulture, Computer Literacy, Train the Trainer, Dog Grooming, Foundation Course in Counselling, Ceramics and Digital Photography.

Community Education learners enjoyed courses such as Making and Painting Ceramic Plates, Sculpting, Singing, Batik and Painting.

Early Childhood Care & Education

Students receive their QQI award in Early Childhood Care



Students getting into the spirit of play from the Creative Arts for Early Childhood course



Wood Carving

A piece of work from the Community Education Wood Carving class.



Art and Design - Ceramics

Students of Ceramics display their work for the open day at An Tóchar



Horticulture

The garden at An Tóchar is thriving! A group of learners prepare the area for planting trees



With two poly tunnels and outdoor raised beds all planted up and cared for by the Horticulture group.



Horticulture students celebrate their achievement on graduation night



Nutrition & Healthy Options L3 course



Students from the Nutrition & Healthy Options L3 course L-R: Ann O'Shea, Tricia O'Riordan, Martina O'Connor with tutor Maxine Brown.

Hospitality Operations



Hospitality Operations students with their certs for International Cuisines & Food Preparation L5. Front L-R: Mary Griffin, Eileen Carroll, Assumpta Dore. Back L-R: Nora Knapp, Margaret Wren, Brenda Stack and Shivaun Shanahan, AEO

GLOW Women's Group



GLOW Women's Group hosted a "Be a Dancer for Cancer" event in the centre during a line dancing class with Natalie Russell and raised €436 for Today FM's Dare to Care Campaign.

O' Connell Further Education and Training Centre

The year started off with not one but two retirements! We bade farewell and thanks to our long-serving Administrator, Phil Sugrue, and Cleaner, Christine O'Neill. They were part of the life of the centre for many years, gave great support to everyone and were key in ensuring that everything ran as smoothly as possible.



On Awards night presentations were made to Christine O'Neill and Phil Sugrue (seated) on their retirement.

Regional Tour Guiding

This year the centre collaborated with Kerry College Monavalley to run the QQI Level 6 Regional Tour Guiding award based at the O'Connell Centre. The course attracted participants from as far away as West Cork and the classes were delivered by experienced accredited tour guides, Jessie MacDonald and Rob Vance.



Jessie MacDonald, guide and tutor, with some of the Tour Guiding course participants on one of their practice guiding trips.

Horticulture

We're very proud of our Horticulture projects here at the centre and this year the groups have upped the standard once again with a variety of projects underway, including, low tech and higher tech water harvesting systems, a woodland trail with cleared seating area, a pond already featuring some tadpoles and three-bay rotating composters.



'Low-tech' water harvesting solution



Large tank water harvesting



Three-bay rotating composters



Pond to promote Biodiversity



Table and seating work in progress!

South Kerry VTOS & Youthreach Programme

Creativity is not confined to Horticulture with our Youthreach coming up with their own healthy smoothie recipes and a Woodwork class producing beautiful Christmas pieces.



Amber Flag Initiative

In spring 2020, students from the Kerry ETB - Killorglin VTOS and Youthreach programme undertook the Amber Flag Initiative. The Amber Flag is a mental health initiative designed to help schools and education centres promote positive mental health within the educational system.

The three main goals for the Amber Flag are:

- To promote mental health and well-being for all.
- Preventing mental health problems through increased awareness, social support, reducing risk factors such as racism, bullying and isolation.
- Improve the quality of life for students with mental health problems by promoting recovery through awareness and education.

With their teacher Ronnie Moore, as part of their personal development programme, students worked to examine issues around mental health, learned strategies for recognising and supporting people with emotional difficulties and undertook activities to develop their personal resilience

As part of this, the students hosted a fundraiser/awareness day. The centre was decorated, advice and educational materials were available. Numerous visitors to the centre feasted on delicious treats made by the students and staff. The event raised €255 which on Wednesday 4th of March was presented to a Pieta House representative, Mr. Con O' Connor.

Programme Co-ordinator Joe Brennan, expressed his delight at the successful event and praised the students and their teacher. "This was a wonderful piece of work involving planning, teamwork, education and community service. These are useful workplace skills and essential life skills. Sadly, we are all aware of the problems facing society today and it's great to see students do their bit to support others". We look forward to similar activities through the course of the year.



BTEI

Kathleen Barrett wins 2nd place in World Flower show

We were so delighted to hear about Kathleen's success in India, such a long way to travel for a competition but not everyone gets this opportunity to compete at this level. She said she had to pre-order the flowers she intended to use for her display in the competition and had hoped they would be the correct ones or something similar that she could use to keep with what she had planned to make. She is such a gifted woman, she has won prizes in the Chelsea flower show and several at Bloom. She has for years won awards in the Kingdom County fair and several others around the country. Kathleen has delivered Horticulture modules for BTEI around the county in Listowel FRC, Shannow FRC, Moyderwell, Ragoonane, Castleisland, Killorglin KCYMS, Blennerville and Caherciveen. We congratulate her for her success and wish her the very best in her next round of competitions.



BTEI response to COVID-19

The BTEI programme like many other programmes had to postpone our classes around the county. Our learners were very disappointed to have their classes cut but understand it was for a very good reason to protect them and their families from this dreadful pandemic. We have a huge amount of learners that are vulnerable themselves or are caring for vulnerable individuals at home or in their workplace. We can all be very proud of our Health Care students who are working in this area and took on more shifts and for others who signed up to the call from the HSE to take up emergency employment. We are so privileged to have such experienced focused tutors who share their knowledge with our students and give them the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and experience in caring techniques for the people they care for. It is only fair to acknowledge the importance of having these committed tutors who play such an important role for our learners who in turn practice this in the wider community.

We had some lovely classes for our students to suit their particular interests for example:

- our health and nutrition classes that were catering for families, single parents and those living alone. We provided these in areas we previously had horticulture classes to encourage our learners to grow things that they can eat and consider healthier choices for them and their families. They would also cover specific dietary requirements like diabetes, recipes for gluten free products for coeliac patients, nutritional options for old and vulnerable people. All our learners really want and love to learn about all of this as they use the knowledge they learn in their everyday lives on a practical and healthy basis.
- our computer classes are enjoyed by many for various different reasons as we offer introductory level, levels 3 to 5 to cover all abilities.
- the craft classes provide our learners with craft skills and expertise to make and explore different types of craft work with various tools and techniques using different materials and methods.

Our learners are keen to get back as for many they have made great friends with the other learners and miss their catch ups during their tea breaks. We all look forward to resuming our classes whenever we can.

Tralee Youthreach

Health Related Fitness (HRF) & PE

"Sport has the power to change the world...it has to power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand"

Nelson Mandela

HRF & PE play a massive role in the Tralee Youthreach programme. Most students get two-three hours of PE per week and take part in a range of sports. Our QQI Level 3 group study the Level 3 Health Related Fitness module, this gives them a good basis of knowledge in order to become more physically active and also a good starting block in order to progress to the Level 4 HRF module. Our Level 3 & 4 PE programme covers a wide range of sports including the mile challenge, fitness testing, basketball, dodgeball, benchball, kinball, netball, spikeball, gymnastics, badminton, tag rugby and kwik cricket. We use the fantastic facilities at Tralee Regional Sports and Leisure Centre.

Our QQI Level 4 group study the Health Related Fitness module as part of their QQI Qualification. This comprises of both practical and theoretical components. We cover the cardiovascular, respiratory, skeletal and muscular systems, components of fitness and FITT principles. Fitness testing plays a vital role in the centre as part of students' personal assessment, the fitness testing assessment involves taking part and recording a range of at least 15 fitness tests which is undertaken at least twice a year. Following on from the Fitness testing results another assessment involves an eight-week fitness programme designed by the students, the fitness programme is carried out at Banna Leisure Centre & Achieve Fitness, Tralee.

Throughout the Level 4 Health Related Fitness module the students are given the opportunity to lead a warm up and cool down session for their peers, take part in two presentations, an amenities research poster project and drugs awareness PowerPoint presentation. At Level 4 students are assessed on a range of physical activities similar to the Level 3/4 practical programme using technology wherever possible in order to enhance learning.

Over the past number of years, we have had the opportunity to take part in the Kerry ETB Secondary School Tag Rugby and Spikeball tournaments. We work with external agencies in order to facilitate water-sports, Zumba, yoga, Thai chi and kickboxing.

At level 4, students learn and participate in mindfulness and stress management sessions. The sporting/ fitness ethos is further enhanced by the comprehensive Outdoor Education programme run one day per week for students.



Outdoor Education & Mindspace

Outdoor Education is an important aspect of the Tralee Youthreach. It is a very popular activity with the students that takes place every Thursday. The programme involves hiking, orienteering, team building activities, ecology, beach clean-ups and residential trips to Cappanalea. A recent activity that the students of Tralee Youthreach participated in as part of our Outdoor Education Programme was a team building and survival workshop in Killeen Woods in Tralee. The workshop was called "Mindspace" and facilitated by two fantastic instructors, Alanah and Andrew from The Kerry Earth Education Project. The following account of the day was written by student, Olga Zupkova

Mindspace Workshop

by Olga Zupkova

On Thursday 30th of January 2019, Tralee Youthreach took us to Nun's Wood near Killeen Woods. We all met in the centre, we had to sign in and got our gear then we all walked up to Nun's Wood as a group. The people that work with Mindspace were Alanna and Andrew. They split us up in two groups. In my group was Jamie, Mariam, Chloe, Magda, Paddy, Nicky and Gabrielle.

They first explained what we would be doing and before we went into the woods they gave us a blindfold each and asked us to blindfold ourselves. They then put a rope in the middle for us to hold so we were able to stay stable and not trip, we had Alanna as our "teacher" for the day and we followed her voice into the woods.

The first activity we did with our group was to build a shelter and try make it waterproof with anything we could find from around the area where we were. We weren't allowed to break anything, we had to find stuff from the ground that had been broken already. We found it difficult at the start but then we got the hang of it and figured out how to do it. We built our shelter from sticks, branches, leaves and mud.

Our second activity was a game called 'Minefield'. A minefield was set out with ropes on the ground going straight and across to make boxes. We then had to figure out which boxes to step in to, to get to the other side without "exploding". We were the first group to figure it out and win the game.

The third activity was a game something like hide and seek called "Capture the Flag". One person from each group had to blindfold themselves and count up to 60. In that time, we all had to find a spot to hide. We then tried to make our way to the flag and not get caught, by being seen, by the person who was on. The person who reached the flag without getting caught won the game.

For the fourth and last activity Alanna and Andrew took two teams and showed each team how to make a fire if we ever got stuck in the woods or anywhere else. We were given cotton wool and Survivor Outdoor Fire Steel and told to try and light a fire. Some people were very good at lighting fires. Overall it was a really good day.

LCA Youthreach

What my first Work Experience on LCA Youthreach was like for me

by Sadie O Sullivan



We started work experience on the 10th of February until the 20th of February 2020. I did my work experience in the Rose Hotel with the 'Banquet and Conference Manager'. The main jobs that you do while in this job is organising and planning events, weddings, meeting, banquets etc. Working hours vary with this job

and you have to be flexible all the time.

I started work experience on Monday. I was given a uniform that was black trousers, white shirt, tie, waistcoat and black polished shoes. I was then talking to the HR manager about the information on the hotel and their policies.

After this I went downstairs to the Banquet and Conference Manager aka Events Manager. She showed me around the hotel and told me what my days would be consisting of.

She told me that in the mornings I will be helping with the breakfast service for an hour or so and then I go to her office and do some work with her e.g. go to meetings. I helped her in the office writing up wedding checklists and using the programme 'opera'. She also let me interview her for my career investigation task and for my work experience booklet.

During Work experience I used and developed a lot of skills. I used computer skills in the office, I used interpersonal skills when taking orders in the morning for breakfast, I also developed skills when meeting and greeting clients for meetings.

I really enjoyed working with the Events Manager in The Rose Hotel. I now think that I would like to pursue a career in events management as the Manager gave me a good insight to what the job consists of.

Review of Session 1 on LCA Youthreach

by Sarah Wheeler



I started the LCA Youthreach programme in early September. Before this there was a recruitment day in July. I was really excited to start. My first day here I was nervous because I didn't know anyone

doing it, but it was a very welcoming and nice atmosphere. At the start of the programme they did team building exercises with the group so we could get to know each other.

The group and staff seemed nice and chill. It didn't feel like mainstream school. You can get along and talk to the teachers. I was surprised with some of the subjects because I was used to the mainstream school subjects. There's Maths, English, French and Art which weren't different. VPG, MPI, Office and Health Ed were new to me. The other subjects that are there are Drama, Social Ed, Music and ICT. I'm good at Maths and really enjoy it. I don't mind English, but I don't like writing up on things. I love Art.

We have been looking at work experience and the different aspects of it throughout the first session. We've worked on our CV's and cover letters and had to look at places to go on work experience. We did a lot of preparation for the work experience which started on February 10th 2020.

We completed our first Task in General Education. I did my task on guitars. The task was easy enough to do. There's a lot of key assignments throughout session one. You can miss a lot from missing one day and it's hard to catch up.

The LCA does different types of activities with us too. At the start we had to go to the gym every Monday for four weeks, and recently we were doing Zumba. They brought us to Cork to look at a Cork prison museum. This was one of the things I liked most so far.

Another thing I like is they cook food every Thursday. I think LCA is more helpful than secondary school and I'm glad I joined. I don't like the early mornings and struggle getting up early but I'm slowly getting the hang of it. I don't know what to expect in session two, but I know I will enjoy it.

Killarney Youthreach

Crawford Art College

Killarney Youthreach students and staff visited the Crawford Art Gallery in Cork City on 18 December 2019 as part of their required learning tasks for their QQI Level 4 Painting Module and their QQI Level 3 Art & Design Module. Led by Art Tutor, John Crowley, students were asked to complete a number of tasks while touring the gallery.



Anthony Fealy (left) and John Adams (right) lead Killarney Youthreach students on tour of Crawford Art Gallery, Cork on 18 December 2019.



John Crowley and Elizabeth Williams leading students into the sculpture hall at the Crawford Art Gallery.

John Crowley has a Degree in Fine Art from Crawford College of Fine Art and has been inspiring students with Killarney Youthreach since 2008. The Crawford Art Gallery is a public art gallery and a museum located in the heart of Cork City. The tour was the centre piece of Killarney Youthreach's 'Christmas Trip 2019', as for some students, it was their first trip to Cork City.



Majella Hegarty supporting students to complete Art Assignment in Crawford Art Gallery.

Killarney Youthreach is newly located at 50 High Street, Killarney and caters for early school leavers between 16 and 20 years of age. The programme is led by John Adams, Co-ordinator who has led a dedicated team of professional educators at Killarney Youthreach since 2001.



Killarney Youthreach Centre

Community Education

Tralee International Resource Centres Arts and Crafts Programme



An example of the Tralee International Resource Centres creativity. This piece was created in the spring 2020 arts and crafts programme with Tutor Cecile Augereau. The centre provides information, education, and support for Asylum Seekers and refugees. The courses that are organised support language skills, cultural awareness but they are also a place for people to share information, to meet new people and to get to know the community in Tralee.

Castleisland Personal Development Course

This term Kerry ETB Community Education Programme in conjunction with Castleisland Family Resource Centre has delivered a Personal Development course with Tutor Sheila Fitzgerald. The learners have thoroughly enjoyed the class.

In fact this Personal Development Initiative grew from an Effective Parenting course that was organised by Liz Galwey in Castleisland Family Resource Centre and funded by Community Education in Autumn 2019. The learners from the Parenting course were so positive about their experience they felt that there was more to gain and learn. This is a very positive, open to learning group who have engaged with every aspect of the initiative.

As Liz Galwey summed it up "the students are really enjoying the course and are thrilled to have the opportunity

to attend. Castleisland Family Resource Centre are delighted to have an ongoing relationship with Kerry ETB and to be able to provide a space where members of the community can get together and avail of some of the great range of courses that are being rolled out by Kerry ETB". This is a great example of Partnership in action.



Tutor Sheila Fitzgerald with learners from the personal development course.

Ionad Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna an Daingin

Tá bliain eile curtha isteach in Ionad Breisoideachais agus Oiliúna an Daingin. The 2019-2020 academic year was yet another productive one in the Dingle FET Centre. A mixture of BTEI accredited courses were run at the Centre, and we had our second group of Healthcare Support learners complete their major award at easter, many of whom have since entered into gainful employment. There was also a selection of individual BTEI modules delivered at the centre including a variety of Horticulture L4 modules.



Stained Glass and Mosaic Courses

Again this year we continued the long Dingle tradition with stained glass, and ran beginner and intermediate Stained Glass and Mosaic courses such was the interest and demand from the public. This year also saw our first Stained Glass Level 5 course, a progression route we had planned for learners who had previously completed non-accredited courses and wanted to continue learning. A magical selection of artistic works of art emerged through hard work and perseverance on the first floor of Rice House over the autumn & spring terms.



Willow Basket Making and Quilting Courses

There was a variety of other Community Education courses delivered at the centre throughout the year which were in great demand, with an array of beautiful pieces of work created by learners in our Willow Basket Making and Quilting courses..



Searmanas Bronnta

In October, Dingle FET Centre opened the doors of Rice House to celebrate with all the learners who had completed courses during the year. QQI Certificates were awarded for Healthcare Support and Community Health Services (Major Awards); and for Palliative Care, Psychology, Equality & Disability, Horticulture, Digital Media Technology, Computer Literacy and English as a Second Language. Congratulations to all learners and tutors involved on their achievements.



Some recipients of QQI Certificates in Psychology are pictured L-R: Eithne Boland (Centre Manager), Bernadette Brosnan, Siobhán Griffin, Geraldine O'Malley and Denis Daly (Kerry ETB Tutor).



Pictured at the Dingle FET Centre Awards Ceremony 2019 are recipients of QQI Major Awards in Healthcare Support and Community Health Services. Back Row L-R: Joan Moran, Esther Laverty (Kerry ETB Tutor), Bridget Galvin, Damien O' Flaherty and Sarah Hick. Front Row L-R: Shivaun Shanahan (Kerry ETB Adult Education Officer), Emma Noonan, Delia Kennedy, Aleksandra Ostrowska, Eithne Boland (Centre Manager) and Michelle Flannery.

ABE

During the year, our Adult Basic Education (ABE) programme delivered an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) course which had a significant uptake during the year. While improving the chances of gaining employment on the peninsula, the course also assists learners with integration into the Dingle community. The ABE programme also delivered Computer Literacy L3, Irish for Parents of Early School Goers to enable parents to assist their children with homework; Read, Write, Spell with members of Camphill Community and Tobar Eoin, and provided one-to-one classes through Irish and English for individuals to improve literacy skills. At the end of term the centre organised a day out for ABE learners which had them head out of Dingle Harbour at speed!



Collaboration

Dingle FET Centre worked with a number of community organisations and groups throughout the year. Every week our little friends next door in Bunscoil an Chlochair paid a visit to the centre to use our two IT labs and each time brought with them much excitement and enthusiasm to learn. Our collaboration continued again this year with Comharchumann Forbartha Chorca Dhuibhne who delivered weekly beginners Irish classes at the centre. In the coming year, Dingle FET Centre plan to deliver courses through Irish for Gaelgóirí dúchais (native Irish speakers) which will require collaboration with a number of local organisations. We will also be collaborating with Kerry College, Clash Campus in the delivery of an accredited Animation course.

This year we were again involved with the annual festivals of Féile na Bealtaine and the Dingle Food Festival. Rice House hosted Mike Foley, Kerry College Monavalley Campus Instructor who gave a demonstration as part of the Dingle Food Festival; and there was food for all, which needless to say drew a crowd!



Buíochas

Now that we are drawing a close to the past academic year, we would like to thank everyone who supported us here in the Dingle FET Centre. The staff would like to congratulate and thank all the learners who participated in courses throughout the year and wish them well into the future.

Tá súil againn go mbeidh an chéad bhliain acadúil eile chomh rathúil is a bhí an ceann seo agus go leanfaidh an comhoibriú tairbheach atá eadrainn féin agus pobal Chorca Dhuibhne ag bláthú.

Tech Amergin Community Arts & Further Education Training Centre

Life is like a journey, maybe a train journey, sometimes the journey is long and arduous and sometimes short. You pass through deep dark gorges, over calm flat plains and visit high mountain tops. Sometimes you forget where you are. It's like you got lost somewhere in the past, back down the line. Or you worry about making the connections missing the boat; your body is in Kerry and your mind is frantically trying to fix the track, make it safe.

Then you reach the safe place, catch your breath, Tech Amergin, classes at Tech Amergin. The arts, the crafts, the exercise, the music, the plays and films. You catch your breath with other Travellers. Relax. In the moment.

By Lesley MacVean (tutor)

So far 2020 has been a busy term at Tech Amergin. Classes started in January, both certified (QQI) and non-certified (Community Education, Self Financing & Adult Basic Education) in a broad range of subject areas. Accredited courses included Veneering and Marquetry, Word Processing, both at level 5, and Ceramics at level 6 as well as First Aid Responder (PHECC). Non-accredited classes included Art & Design for The Active Retired, Fiddling with Fabric, Buying & Selling on the Internet, Stained Glass, Digital Photography Skills, Teacht le Cheile, First Aid Refresher, Woodwork for Fun, Yoga & Pilates.

A new series of workshops in Digital Photography Skills (run under Community Education), led by tutor Michael Herrmann, started in early March and was scheduled to continue into April, but unfortunately due to the COVID-19 crisis, all classes ceased from the middle of March. We hope to be in a position to continue these classes at a later date. This practical course was to run over a series of seven weeks, covering different aspects of photography including available light photography, architecture, reproduction of old photography and art pieces, landscape photography, macro, and long exposure photography.

Student Testimonial

Painting' Level 6, BTEI class

"Spent an exhilarating day in a storm swept Cill Rialaig Famine Village with Bernie Kennedy's art class. It was inspiring to watch how nature, when observed as though it's entirely alone, came to life. Can the hillsides contain the emotion of that pelting and battering? Do the stone houses express their dismay in a visual way? Does the searing pitch sound of an unbridled wind have a shape or colour?"

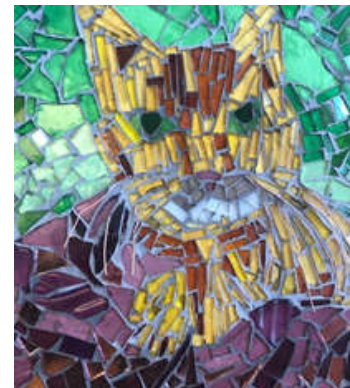
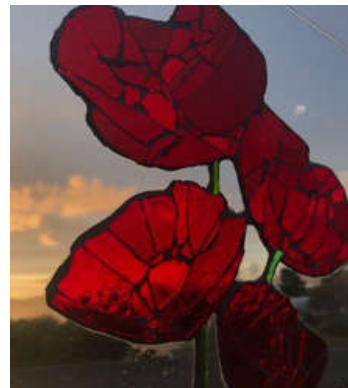


Using the information from our colour theory classes, what surprised me was how the mood, movement and mystery could be translated onto the canvas, using very few colours. Skies can be a tricky part of a landscape, so you can really have fun conveying energy and

drama with big brushstrokes applied with freedom. It was very interesting to see how the contrast between light and shade can transform the entire painting. All in all, a thoroughly enjoyable and powerful day. Thank you Bernie.

Theresa Cronin, student.

Introduction to Stained Glass, Community Education class



Pictured from L-R: Poppies by Marianne Eshmade, glass mosaic student, Shadow (Cat) by Trish McLintock, glass mosaic on wood

Veneering & Marquetry Level 5 BTEI class



As part of the Veneering and Marquetry class in Tech Amergin, a student created this miniature guitar (pictured to the left). The student was making a guitar-shaped collection box for the mountain roots festival in Cahersiveen. The sides of the guitar are made from four layers of veneer that were bent and glued to shape around a mould he made in the vacuum bag. Perspex was used to create the slot for the money.

Tech Amergin Gairdin an Phobail (Community Garden)

Plants, plants and more plants has been the theme for our Community Garden in 2019 and into the first months of 2020. We asked many people what they would like more of from the Community Garden in February 2019 and were told they would like to buy a wider range of plants from us so we had great fun taking cuttings and planting seeds.



*Pictured on the left: Patie O'Sullivan and Nora O'Sullivan
Pictured on the right: Cian Gavin and James O'Connell*

The tomato plants have always been successful as a seller in May and June but we also sold window sill size chilli's, sweet peas, marigolds, evening primrose, buddleias, rosemary and sage plus many more for customers to plant in their gardens. It was wonderful to see our 'babies' going to new homes and hearing about how well they were getting established.

During the spring and early summer our usual sales of salad bags and tomatoes, cucumbers and beetroot were appreciated by those people who picked them up from the shelves in the entrance or came down to the poly tunnel to choose their own.

We sold chilli oil and house plants during the autumn, a great favourite being Aloe Vera but also many Spider plants and Clivias (a very dramatic lily type house plant with an orange flower). Lemon Geranium plants were sold in three sizes and our recipe for Lemon Geranium cake was a real winner - you simply lay the leaves in the base of two sandwich cake tins and pour Victoria sandwich batter onto the leaves. Yes, you can eat the leaves but if you don't want to, they flavour the whole cake deliciously.

Gort na mBeach (Bee Garden)

March 2020 may not have been the best month to have planned to plant The Gort na mBeach (Bee Garden). The digger has been in and cleared the sites, the paths have been marked out and the plants that were ordered early are now in pots waiting!!!

GameLab2020

Once again, we are delighted to be in a position to work with the Engagement through Art group in their latest gaming project.

Engagement through Art in conjunction with South West Kerry Family Resource Centre will use the IT room at Tech Amergin, this time to design and create Games as part of their latest GameLab2020 project. Following on from a very successful Erasmus exchange between Engagement through Art, and South West Kerry Family Resource Centre the group plan to establish a group to learn about creating and developing games. They have identified Apps that are free to download and are easy to use and yet can be used to a very sophisticated level to make professional level Games. Once the Apps have been mastered the participants will consider other elements in developing a game, such as the game strategy and game rules. The group will also learn about using a drawing tablet and screen pen to draw characters and to create virtual game environments, then how to load these into the game they are developing. Some of the participants will already be Gamers and have an insight to Computer video games. They will come with their own skills and insights which they will share together in a team to create some new games. The Apps we will use have applications beyond Gaming such as in Digital Art, Virtual Reality and Animation. Once trained in the use of the Apps and in team game development we hope that some of the participants will join our Engagement through Art group. In the future the group would like to develop games that would have relevance to our local area.

Once the training project for Game creation is completed there will be more people with IT, animation and gaming skills in South West Kerry. They can join us in planning future creative projects. It will mean Engagement through Art can plan bigger and better projects. There are many projects we could work upon to promote South West Kerry and at the same time give people a start into doing something meaningful in their lives.

Killarney VTOS

Killarney VTOS 2019 Graduation

A graduation night was held in September 2019 to celebrate the achievements of all the Killarney VTOS Graduates of 2019. All learners did exceptionally well, achieving QQI Level 3 or Level 4 Major Awards in Information and Communication Technology Skills or Employment Skills. The majority of these learners also achieved component certificates at QQI Level 5 standard in Communications, Work Experience and Payroll.

These courses prepare learners to develop new skills for progression to the World of Work or Further Education. An integral part of the course was computer training, which was offered up to ECDL/Advanced ECDL and Expert ECDL standard.

These QQI/ECDL certificates are proof of the commitment, determination and perseverance of the Adult Learners. All the learners were congratulated on their hard work, on getting their QQI qualification which is a wonderful tool in today's world, one that can open many doors of opportunity for them.



Visit to Dairymaster



Killarney VTOS Learners paid a visit to Dairymaster as an insight into the workplace environment from an administration and production perspective.

Killarney House

Our visit to Killarney House and Gardens was both enjoyable and educational for all. We enjoyed a tour of the historic rooms and also took in the beauty of the gardens.

The new interpretive exhibition, which is located on the first floor, provided us with an opportunity to discover more about Killarney's beautiful landscape and history associated with Killarney and in particular with the somewhat confusing history of Killarney House itself.

We would encourage everyone to visit Killarney House and Gardens at least once as there is something for all ages to enjoy and it is free.

Book Launch



Sean Moraghan who graduated from Killarney VTOS in May 2019 launched his book 'Days of the Blackthorn' on 16th January 2020 in Killarney Library. The book is about Faction Fighters of Kerry. Killarney VTOS Staff and his classmates were very proud to be with him on the night.

The success of the book meant that Frank Lewis from Radio Kerry, dedicated a full Saturday Supplement Show from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday 29th February 2020, to discuss, read extracts and visit areas around Kerry which are mentioned in the book.

Following Sean's graduation from Killarney VTOS, he has gone on to work in an organisation called 'Churchfield Community Trust' in Cork. Sean works with young men from disadvantaged backgrounds, some of them might have come into contact with the justice system and some have previous substance issues. Sean is involved in Social and Therapeutic Horticulture. The purpose of this is to teach the basics of horticulture and this works to ground the participants as part of their recovery therapies.

Listowel VTOS

VTOS Student Testimonial

Going to the Kerry College open day was one of the best moves I ever made. It was something I had been debating on doing for years but never felt it was the right time or that I was able for it. I went in enquiring about the childcare course. Explaining how I was an early school leaver and how I questioned my ability. The teacher recommended I speak to the person over VTOS. I skipped out the gate. What she explained to me about the two year course was music to my ears. I made my decision there and then and signed up. A year and a half in and I have not looked back. Ending my first year with distinctions in all subjects was one of the best feelings I have ever had, and all those years thinking 'I am useless at maths' are well and truly behind me. My confidence has grown and it has made me a much happier person in myself. I would highly recommend it to anyone.

Caroline Normile, Listowel VTOS

Graduation 2019



VTOS Students on their graduation day, 23rd of October 2019 in the Listowel Arms hotel.

Ribbons & Raffles Event



Listowel VTOS students who organised a 'Ribbons & Raffles' event held in Kerry College, Listowel Campus, December. 2019 as part of teamwork for their 'Personal Effectiveness' module.

Student & Staff outing to Loop Head Lighthouse Co. Clare



Tralee VTOS

Tralee VTOS is celebrating 30 years and during these very challenging times it might be a good opportunity to reflect on the positive influences we, as educators, have on our students and helping them to achieve their goals through education & training.

Here is a contribution from a student from Tralee VTOS who was asked to complete the "What VTOS Means to Me" exercise.

"WHAT VTOS MEANS TO ME"

As my time with VTOS nears an end
I think it's fair to say ...
It was not what I expected
It surpassed in every way
Such choices at your fingertips
Support at every turn....
With expert advice to recognise, the strengths you need to learn

There's "something" here for "everyone"
The tools that you require ...
And IF you believe, you CAN achieve
Whatever your hearts desire!

Math minded maybe not ? Computer skills forgot ?
Do not despair ..help is everywhere
So do not lose the plot !!!!

Communicate, art designs create, health & fitness ..just a few
Not to mention outdoor activities
And throw in a 700 piece jigsaw too !!!!

But the friendships forged amongst us all
Was for me what mattered most of all
Each day was full of cheer and laughter
With memories I'll cherish from hereon after

So as I bid VTOS adieu .. my heartfelt thanks to all of you
For giving me the opportunity
To be part of your VTOS family ...
As my lifelong dream I now embrace ...
This is just the first chapter... so WATCH this space !!!!!

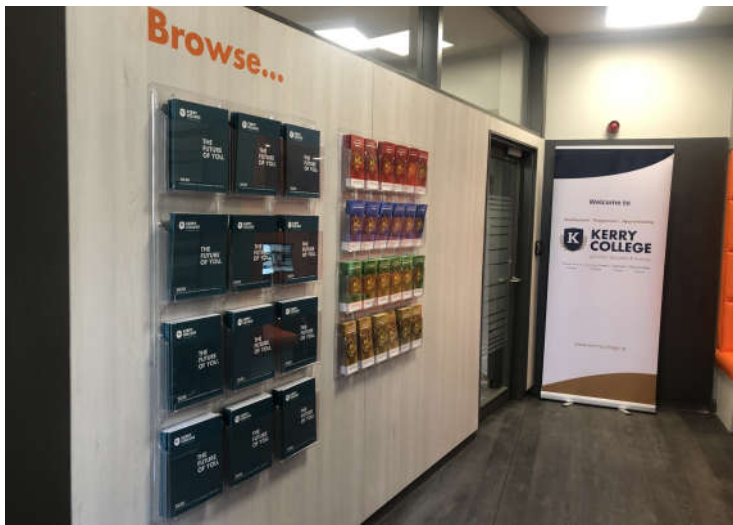
by Jennie Sheehy

Kerry College Admissions Office



Kerry College of Further Education and Training (Kerry College) Admissions Office was officially opened on Tuesday, 3rd March 2020 by An Cathaoirleach of Kerry ETB and Mayor of Tralee Cllr. Jim Finucane.

The official opening marked further progress with the establishment of Kerry College, an integrated college of further education and training.



The Admissions Office is located at 7 Denny Street, Tralee and provides information and assistance for students/learners, parents/guardians regarding further education and training opportunities at the Kerry College's campuses in Tralee – at Clash Road, Denny Street, Monavalley and in Listowel.

The Admissions Office is a key access point for those wishing to access further education and training, providing information on courses, applications process, income supports etc.

In September 2019, Kerry College was established and the college integrates the provision previously provided at Kerry College of Further Education (KCFE), North Kerry College of Further Education (NKCFE) and the Kerry ETB Training Centre.

The courses on offer include courses for employment, progression and apprenticeships and with the ever-increasing focus on further education and training as a key sector, the opening of this new office is very timely. The courses on offer are certified at national level (QQI Level 5 and 6).



Pictured L-R: Admissions Officers Niamh O'Donovan and Ella O'Donoghue

The new Kerry College website www.kerrycollege.ie was launched recently and provides an overview of Kerry College, its four campuses and courses on offer.

The office will be staffed with a team of six initially – including three Admissions Officers – John Herlihy, Ella O'Donoghue and Niamh O'Donovan. The other members of the team are David Brick (Assistant Administration Officer), Celine Foran (Administration Support) and Meaghan Nolan (Administration/Reception)



Kerry College Clash Campus



Kerry College and Kerry County GAA Board – A Winning Team!

In a unique collaboration, Kerry ETB's Kerry College Clash Campus, Tralee and the Kerry County GAA Board have combined to ensure a steady provision of professionally trained referees. Students studying on the QQI Level 5 GAA Coaching & Sports Development and Sport & Recreation Courses are offered an opportunity to undertake training and attain the GAA Refereeing certification as an integral part of their course. The County Board will provide expert training and workshops from top level national GAA referees tutors as part of the initiative.

According to Mary Lucey, Principal Kerry College, Clash and Denny Street Campuses: "Kerry College is delighted to be involved in the nurturing and cultivation of the future cohort of GAA referees. This is a wonderful opportunity for students as it will mean that they can offer their services as referees to the county."

To launch the new collaboration, St Pat's GAA Club and an Ghaeltacht GAA Club, in Kerry, offered GAA Scholarships to cover the full cost of studying on the programme for the academic year. As part of the scholarship, the recipient

will provide support to the sponsoring club through the provision of refereeing services; enabling the student to gain first-hand experience on the field.

Jimmy Mulligan, Chairperson of St Pat's added; "Our aim is that other GAA clubs across the county will come on board supporting students in furthering their education in the GAA Coaching and Sports Development arena. Through this collaboration, the GAA will be sure of a constant stream of highly qualified referees to make consistent and informed decisions and act at all times with integrity both on and off the pitch.



Kerry College Listowel Campus

College Awareness Week



Siobhán Creedon, Lecturer from IT Tralee pictured with the Level 6 Business Marketing Class with their Tutors Mrs. Angela Kearney & Mr. Tony Perrill. Siobhán delivered a very interesting talk on potential progression routes from Kerry College of Further Education to IT Tralee.

Celebrating Diversity & Inclusion in Kerry College, Listowel

Early Childcare & Education Classes Level 5, 6 and SNA Level 6 students in Kerry College Listowel Campus, support LGBTQI+ Awareness day. All students wore different colour jumpers representing the LGBTQI+ flag.



Fundraising Events & Donations



Students from the ECCE Level 5 Early Childcare and Education group with the Christmas donation boxes – photo was taken by Kevin Langan - Kerry College - Listowel Campus Photography and Arts teacher.

Students and staff in Kerry College – Listowel Campus, donated for the month of December for Adapt Kerry Women's Refuge and Support Service and the Tralee Soup Kitchen. Early Childhood Care and Education Level students and teachers organised this event for Christmas.



The college would like to sincerely thank Oonagh Hartnett of Brodericks Pharmacy, Listowel who donated several glucose-monitoring machines to the Nursing studies and Healthcare Department of Kerry College - Listowel Campus.

Christmas Event 2019

On Thursday the 19th of December 2019 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., all of our Further Education students were invited to celebrate and unwind together in the canteen. This Christmas celebration marked the end of another term on Campus. All staff and students were encouraged to wear Christmas Jumpers for the festivities.

Health Promotion Week

Health Promotion week was organised by the Special Needs Assisting and Healthcare level 6 groups as part of their Health Promotion module. The theme of the event was to highlight the importance of holistic care and develop awareness of keeping a healthy mind and body. The event included many workshops and talks, to name but a few, Healthy Cooking Demonstrations by Lizzy's Little Kitchen, Mindfulness session with Rosario O Connor, Organic Farming, Organic Skincare by Dr. Maher, Effects of Technology by Tony Duggan, Counselling session with Lorraine Boyle and Billy Mann Life Coach.

WE WANT YOU TO RECLAIM YOUR HEALTHY BODY & MIND

COME AND JOIN US FOR HEALTH PROMOTION WEEK 9TH – 13TH MARCH 2020

Monday 9th	Tuesday 10th	Wednesday 11th	Friday 13th
Rosario O'Connor Wellness 45 Room 101 (10.30 - 11.15)	Marian Hughes Judo 11 Room 11 (10.30 - 11.30)	Billy Mann Life Coach Room 11 (10.15 - 11.15)	George Fries Ricks Room 11 10.30 - 10.30
Lizzy's Kitchen Healthy Cooking Demonstration Room 101 (11.30 - 12.30)	Dr. Maher Organic Skincare Room 11 (11.30 - 12.30)	Dr. Maher Organic Skincare Room 11 (11.30 - 12.30)	Dr. Maher Organic Skincare Room 11 (11.30 - 12.30)
Organic Farming Room 11 12.30 - 1.30	Tony Duggan Effects of Technology Room 11 12.30 - 1.30	Lorraine Boyle Counselling Services Room 11 12.30 - 1.30	Suzanne Power Room 11 12.30 - 1.30



Kerry College Listowel Campus Open Day March 2020

Our Open Day was held on Wednesday 4th of March this Year. The College is offering a large number of Courses for Employment and Progression in a variety of areas, including Childcare, Business, Animal Care, Nursing, Photography and many more



Radio Kerry were broadcasting live from Kerry College, Listowel Campus on the day. Demonstrations in Animal Grooming, Childcare and Hairdressing were live throughout the open day.



Some current Art students displaying their work



Art & Design

Kerry College, Listowel Campus Art, Design & Portfolio creation students produced fantastic photos and art work in their Digital Photography module this year under the guidance of their teacher Kevin Langan. Looks like they had great fun discovering their divergent thinking process and creativeness with the aid of a camera!



Kerry College Monavalley Campus

Kerry College Monavalley Campus celebrates in excess of 3,000 learners in 2019

Kerry College Monavalley Campus is the largest provider of skills based training, upskilling & apprenticeship provision in the county. Monavalley Campus offers an extensive array of full time, part time & apprenticeship course options. Our delivery eco-system is designed to build confidence, knowledge & work ready skills. Review of 2019 activities demonstrates that Kerry College Monavalley Campus welcomed in excess of 3,000 students/learners/apprentices. This is a significant level of provision and is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of our Instructing, Administrative and Supporting Teams.



Say hello to our new cut and carved stone signage - with thanks to our Stonecutting & Stonemasonry Apprentice Emmet Farrell who crafted this wonderful piece of work under the guidance of his Instructor Tom Little. Emmet is employed by the OPW at Dromahane in Leitrim.

Students celebrate GOLD at the IMRO National Radio Awards



Graduates of our Radio Broadcasting & Digital Journalism course had reason to celebrate on the National Stage after winning the Gold Award at the National Radio awards in Kilkenny.

Congratulations to our fantastic students and inspiring Tutor Eoghain Fitzgerald of Radio

Kerry Training for their wonderful short feature 'Cluas Chiarraí'.

The series, about the sounds and soundscapes of County Kerry, was inspired by our students Barry O'Donnell and Dara O'Cinneide - who are both visually impaired and who successfully completed our programme this year.

Here's one of the pieces - featuring Killarney journalist and author Breda Joy

<https://www.facebook.com/radiokerry/videos/735884573507513?sfns=mo>

EAFA VET Awards & CATEX Competition



Kerry College Monavalley Campus celebrated in tandem with the Strand Hotel, Limerick and their Commis Chef Apprentice - who was nominated for a European Vocational Education and Training

Award as part of European Vocational Skills Week 2019. The Strand Hotel also picked up the VET Excellence Award in the SME Category. Jose Mara (Commis Chef Apprentice pictured above) was also one of two Commis Chef Apprentices that won GOLD at the Junior CATEX competition.

Advanced Certificate Craft Graduates 2019.



Congratulations to our Advanced Certificate Craft Graduates 2019. Picture taken on Friday 1st November at the Advanced Certificate Craft Presentation held in The Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork

Awards Night December 2019

It has been another busy year for Kerry College's Monavalley Campus. Their second graduation event of the year took place December 2019 in the Rose Hotel, Tralee with 550 certificates issued to graduates who attended on the night with their families and friends.

Graduates from 40 full and part time courses in ICT, Business Management & Office Administration, Engineering and Construction, Hairdressing, Barbering and Beauty, Healthcare and Childcare, Sales and Marketing, Professional Driving, Sports, Recreation and Exercise, Security, Tourism and Hospitality.



A joint special award was presented to Digital Journalism and Radio Production students Barry O'Donnell and Dara Ó Cinnéide - who are both visually impaired and who inspired the class group to produce a short feature 'Cluas Chiarraí' about the

sounds and soundscapes of County Kerry – which won the Gold Award at the IMRO National Radio Awards

Broadcast Production students shoot a comedy pilot.

Broadcast production students under the stewardship of Instructor Brian Nolan, shot a 30 minute comedy pilot called TX. This pilot tells the story of a lady who inherits a TV Studio from her late father; but not is all straight forward in the Studio when her lack of experience leaves openings for others to exploit!!

Students worked alongside some of the most recognisable names in the industry including;

Mr. Mo Flam (The English Patient, I am Legend, Spotlight),
Ms. Andrea O'Connor (Blue bloods, CSI NY, Sex & The City),
Mr. Noel Quinn (Vikings, Tudors, Michael Collins) and
Ciaran Tanham (Red Rock, Love Hate).

The script was written by a group of former students from 2017/18 and mentored by acclaimed Los Angeles based writer Andy Cowen. Andy has been a writer and story consultant on many famed shows such as Cheers, 3rd Rock from the Sun & Seinfeld.



It is initiatives like this that make Monavalley Campus special; we take a group of students who have a desire to excel in their chosen field, we develop their skill set and then bring the training to life – while affording them opportunities that they could not get anywhere else.

As we look to 2020 Kerry College Monavalley Campus is committed to shooting further episodes of TX. The feedback to date on this pilot is that, Kerry College Monavalley Campus has 'something' here. Something that has the potential to be 'picked up' by a broadcasting house and shown to literally millions of viewers.

IrelandSkills Live



Allanagh O Sullivan, Beauty Therapy student at Kerry College of Beauty enjoyed National success in March having won IrelandSkills Live Beauty Therapy Competition. Allanagh went on to represent Ireland on the International Stage at WorldSkills Live in Russia. Huge congratulations

to Allanagh and her Instructor - National Expert Tara O Halloran on this outstanding success. Tara O Halloran also had other reasons to celebrate in recent months, having won CIBTAC-BABTAC Beauty Tutor of the year 2019.

WorldSkills

Congratulations to Patrick Twomey, Metal Fabrication Apprentice from Cork who completed his Phase 2 training at our campus under Instructor Chris Foley. Patrick won a medallion at the World Skills 2019 in Russia.

Open Week March 2020

Kerry College Monavalley Campus welcomed hundreds of 2nd level students to our Campus as part of Kerry College's Open Week campaign.

Following a brief presentation on our Monavalley Campus offering, students were given a guided tour of our facilities with opportunities to speak to instructors and learners on course. As Kerry College Monavalley Campus is a geographically dispersed campus, students were taken by shuttle bus to workshops & professional skilling areas in our suite of satellite campuses, including our NEW KERRY COLLEGE OF BEAUTY.

Other activities scheduled for open week included;

- Build Your Own PC Workshop
- Stonecutting/Stonemasonry/ discussions & Tours
- Construction Job opportunities discussions & Tours
- Apprenticeship Information Evening
- Craft & Course Specific tours
- Daily General Campus Tours



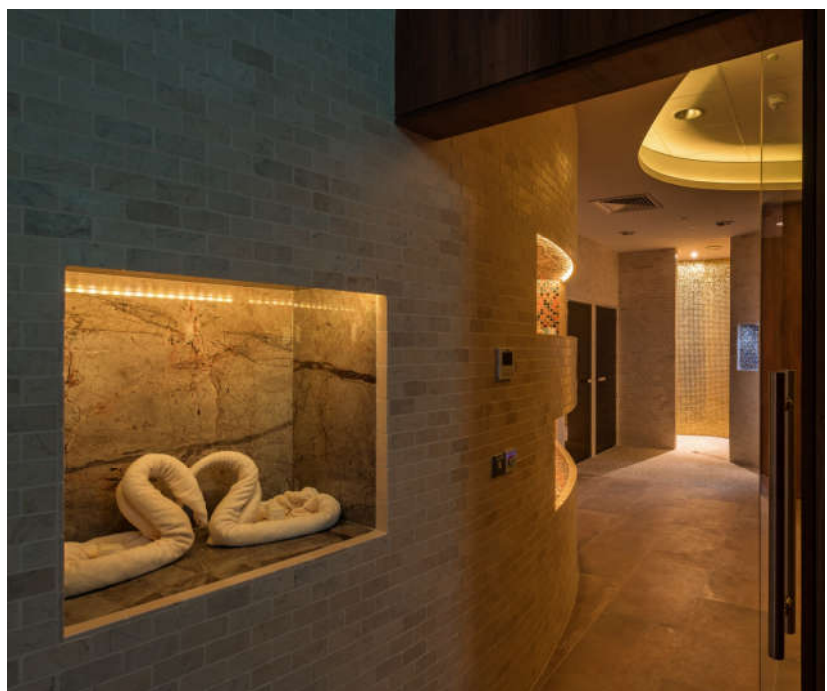
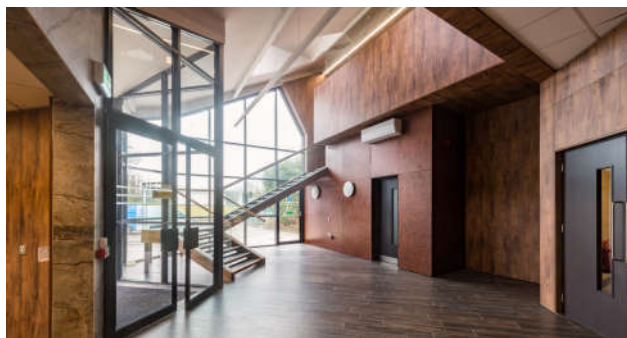
Our Apprenticeship Information evening, now in its second year, was an incredible success exhibitors from all over Kerry were joined by exhibitors from Cork, Monaghan & Sligo. In excess of 600 persons visited on the night.

Thanks to all colleagues who made Open Week 2020 a great success and in particular colleagues in Kerry College Course Recruitment for making it all possible!

Kerry College of Beauty

January 2020 saw our current three groups of Beauty Therapy Students and our team of four instructors commence training and instruction from Kerry College of Beauty. This state of the art facility includes three practical therapy classrooms, stunning reception area and 'High Street' customer area incorporating Sauna & Steam room. An impressive and modern Nail & Makeup room is located on the first floor along with two modern and fully equipped computer rooms, canteen and staff room.

Our flagship (56 week) Beauty Therapy course has always proved incredibly popular attracting learners from all over Kerry and neighbouring counties. This course offers learners the opportunity to attain Internationally recognised qualifications from the industry's premier certifying bodies; namely, CIBTAC, ITEC, & CIDESCO.



Quality Assurance (QA)



Great Engagement in QA Consultation Process

Thank you to all those who took part in the recent consultation processes on the Kerry ETB Assessment Templates and Assessment Procedures. It was heartening to see good engagement and consideration by staff in the development of 11 assessment procedures and assessment templates. This involvement helped develop procedures and templates that are fit for purpose across the Further Education and Training Provision in Kerry ETB.

The process was led by the QA Unit on behalf of the Kerry ETB Quality Assurance Governance Board and the Assessment Working Group. FET staff were asked in June 2019 and in November 2019 to share their views on assessment templates and procedures. The consultation process included a number of focus groups and 19 Briefing Information Sessions where issues and concerns were documented for the consideration of the Assessment Working Group. Forty four written submissions were received and considered. All feedback was considered, changes were made and amended procedures and templates were adopted by the Quality Council. All procedures will be reviewed over the coming years.

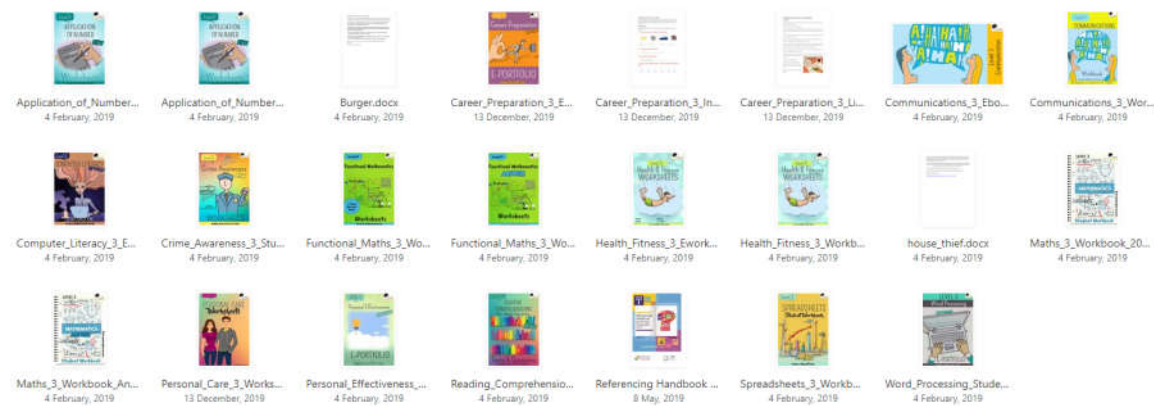
The QA Assessment Working Group

This is a good opportunity to thank staff for their effort and generosity in sharing their time, knowledge and expertise on the QA Assessment Working Group.

The Assessment Working Group was a subcommittee of the Quality Assurance Governance Board which met ten times between October 2018 and December 2019 to develop Assessment Procedures and Assessment Templates for FET provision. There were 13 members of the Assessment Working group representing Kerry Colleges, BTEI, FET Centres, Adult Literacy and Basic Education, Youthreach, VTOS, TUI. Members took a very active role in debating, questioning, offering views, identifying consequences and examining issues with the aim of developing procedures for use across Kerry ETB Further Education and Training (FET) provision. In addition best practice from across FET was shared.

In December 2019 the Assessment Working Group recommended the approval of a number of assessment procedures and assessment templates. These are available to staff on Kerry ETB SharePoint and on the Kerry ETB website.

SharePoint QA Site



Check the QA SharePoint site for the most up to date versions of templates and procedures. There are also some helpful resources. To access the QA SharePoint site go to Kerry ETB SharePoint Policy/Quality Assurance

Professional Development

In the Autumn term the following professional development opportunities are planned:

- Integrating Literacy QQI Level 6 will be delivered by Waterford Institute of Technology
- TESOL QQI Level 6 will be delivered by Waterford Institute of Technology

Both of these modules form part of the NFQ Level 6, 120 credit Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development or the NFQ Level 6, 120 credit Higher Certificate in Arts in Adult and Further Education. The Integrating Literacy module also forms part of the new NFQ Level 6, 30 credit minor award Certificate in Adult Literacy Studies.

Valuing the Learner Voice - Student Views being sought



In 2019 Kerry ETB did a survey of students attending Kerry ETB Further Education and Training courses. Of those that responded here is what they said:

- 96% of students who attended courses in 2019 in Kerry College Clash Campus would recommend the course to somebody else.
- 100% of students attending Adult Literacy classes in November and December 2019 found that the course materials were useful. 98% would recommend their course to another person.
- 360 learners in Kerry College Monavalley Campus rate their courses very highly (94%).

To build on this in April 2020 Kerry ETB Further Education and Training provision will be seeking views on-line from learners across all courses. It is really important to us that we find out what is important to you. In Kerry ETB we want to be assured that what we deliver is relevant to you and is of value. Tell us what we can do better. Tell us what we do well so we can continue to do that for you and for learners who will join us in the future.

Corporate

Kerry ETB Staff Day

The Kerry ETB head office staff day took place on Friday 28th February 2020, with a trip down to the Kenmare Further Education and Training Centre. Following a warm South Kerry welcome with teas, coffees, scones, etc. the staff were sent off to their morning activities, which included:- Yoga, Cooking, Horticulture, Art and Pottery.



Staff members getting a tour of the gardens



Simon Regan, Commis Chef Instructor talking staff members through the step by step process of baking brown treacle bread

Staff baked bread and made energy balls in the state of the art kitchen, others toured the organic certified garden, learning all about growing vegetables and there were plenty of cuttings and seeds supplied for any green-fingered enthusiasts!



Simon's Brown Treacle Bread

2 X 1LB Load Tins

Ingredients:

- 226g Plain Flour
- 226g Extra Coarse Wholemeal Flour
- 55g Jumbo Porridge Oats
- 1 tsp Salt
- 55g Sugar
- 3 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 ½ Bread Soda
- 1 Whole Egg
- 600ml Milk approximately
- 2 Handfuls Walnuts
- 100ml Black Treacle

Method:

- Mix all of the dry ingredients together.
- Whisk milk and eggs together.
- Add milk, eggs, walnuts and treacle to dry mix and mix well.
- Grease your tin lightly and line the bottom of the tin with parchment paper.
- Place the mixture into the tin.
- Bake in a pre-heated oven at 160°C for approximately 50 minutes.
- Turn out on to a wire rack to cool.

The guest speaker for the day was Pat Divilly who is an author, speaker and high performance coach and is passionate about helping people reach new levels of purpose, passion and fulfilment through movement and mind-set.

Pat said "Stress in life comes from expectation or a story about how we feel things 'should' be. The narrower our story of what success, happiness, love, failure etc. look like the more we will suffer in life. If we can open our awareness to more possibilities and look for what we want instead of what we don't, life can become a lot easier. This isn't always easy and requires work but the impact it can have is profound."

Pat engaged all in some fun and enlightening tasks and gave everyone some food for thought with his talk and outlook on life.



Pat Divilly, Guest speaker with staff member Nora Corridon

After a lovely lunch, the afternoon activities kicked off with some Yoga, others creating their personal masterpieces in the art class and pottery class.



Staff members Leanne O'Shea and Karen O'Sullivan taking part in the art class

The staff thoroughly enjoyed their visit to Kenmare. Colm Mc Evoy, CEO said that he was delighted with the day and thanked the organisers and the staff of the Kenmare FET Centre for their hospitality and a wonderful day.



Corporate

Human Resources Department

Parental Leave

As of 1st of September 2019 parental leave was increased by an additional 4 weeks in respect of each child up to the age of 13 years or the age of 16 years in the case of a child with a disability and/or long-term illness. (This provision applies to a child in respect of whom a Domiciliary Care Allowance (DCA) is payable, or would be payable if the child satisfied the means test for the DCA. Further details relating to the DCA are available from Health Service Executive). For more information please see Parental Leave Policy located on the share drive. To access policy go to Kerry ETB Policy Sharepoint/HR Section/Parental Leave.

Illness Benefit

As of 1st January 2020, Kerry Education and Training Board introduced revised procedures in respect of the processing of illness benefit deductions for all staff members who pay Class A PRSI. Staff members who pay Class A PRSI are, generally speaking, staff members appointed after the 6th April 1995, however if you are unsure please refer to your pay slip. All staff are asked to please review the information in the letter sent out in November 2019 as it contains important information regarding the procedure to follow while absent on certified sick leave. The changes, in how payment will be processed while on certified sick leave, came into effect from 1st January 2020. All staff members are advised to familiarise themselves with the Illness Benefit process. It is the responsibility of each staff member to ensure that they submit the illness benefit claim within the deadlines set out by Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection (DES). For further information, please familiarise yourself with Kerry ETB Sick leave policy which is accessible through the Kerry ETB Policy SharePoint, HR Section.

Parent's Leave and Benefit Act 2019

From 1st November 2019 Parent's Leave entitles each parent to 2 weeks' statutory leave during the first year of a child's life, or in the case of adoption, within one year of the placement of the child with the family. You may also qualify for payment of Parent's Benefit during parent's leave from the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Please note that salaries of staff who avail of parents leave will not be topped up.

Single Public Service Pension Scheme

The Single Public Service Pension Scheme ("Single Pension

Scheme") started on 1st January 2013.

If you joined the public service for the first time on or after 1st January 2013 in a pensionable capacity, in general terms this is the Scheme that applies to you.

This Scheme is an occupational pension scheme for public servants. It means that your contributions are not invested in the stock market and the Exchequer supports Kerry ETB in paying your benefits under the Scheme.

It is a defined benefit scheme, with retirement benefits based on career-average pay (not final salary). This means that your retirement benefits (pension and lump sum) are based on a % of your pensionable earnings throughout your public service career as a member of the Scheme.

For each pay period that you contribute to the Scheme, you build up an amount towards your retirement benefits. The total of these amounts at retirement, with some adjustments for increase in inflation for the amounts earned earlier in your career, determines what your retirement benefits will be.

The contributions paid by you on a fortnightly or monthly basis in relation to your pensionable service are: 3.5% of gross pensionable remuneration plus 3.5% of net pensionable remuneration.

The maximum compulsory retirement age in the Single Scheme is age 70.

For further details please log on to www.singlepensionscheme.gov.ie

Inspire Wellbeing at Work Counselling Service

If you find you need support, please contact the free confidential counselling service which is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

- 1800 817 435 - Contact number for staff other than Teachers and Special Needs Assistants
- 1800 411 057 - Contact number for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants.

Up to 6 face-to-face counselling sessions are available, to provide supportive and solution-focused care, based on the staff member's needs. Counselling is also available to family members who are over 18 years of age and living at the same address as the staff member. For more information, email workandstudy@inspirewellbeing.ie.

Kerry Adult Guidance and Information Service (KAGIS)

Kerry Adult Guidance and Information Service, also known as KAGIS, is the part of Kerry ETB, which offers a professional adult guidance and information service to eligible people in Kerry. The KAGIS team is based in Centrepont, Tralee, opposite the Train Station, but also meets with people throughout the County.

Workshops

In the course of their regular team reflective practice last year, the KAGIS team identified three reoccurring client needs, which could be addressed through small group workshops. The three workshops developed were:

- Future Steps – using a professional psychometric self-assessment to help one decide possible next steps in their career, education, or training needs;
- CVs and Cover Letters – what to consider; and
- Interview Techniques.

The workshops were developed by both the guidance counsellors and the information officer in order to ensure there was a guidance and information element in every workshop, and that the participants had a complete understanding of what KAGIS had to offer for any follow-up needs.

Each workshop was designed to be 'once-off' and no longer than half a day in duration, and delivered in the KAGIS Information Centre. They were originally marketed to people on the KAGIS waiting list for guidance appointments but are now also advertised through the Tralee LES and their networks.

For each of the workshops, there has proven to be more demand than places available so repeat sessions were scheduled, and more are planned for later in the year.

In total, since July of last year, eight workshops have been delivered - five of 'Future Steps', two of 'CVs and Cover Letters – What to Consider', and one of the 'Interview Techniques'.

All of these workshops have been held in the KAGIS Information Centre in Tralee however, KAGIS is planning to deliver sessions in other locations later in 2020.

In all over 50 people have attended the workshops so far, and all their feedback has been very positive (see some

examples below).

Some Participant Comments:

CVs and Cover Letters –what to consider:

"Helped me to understand more about doing my CV and the importance of how to do the cover letter"

"Workshop was very helpful and to the point."

"A great experience, learned a lot, opened my eyes."

Future Steps

"It helped me to decide what I can do to change my every day, my job, my future"

"It clarified what I always knew the direction I needed to go in"

"It was great to spend time focusing on the next steps I can take in my career"

"I learned how to prioritise and break down my career choices."

"I found it interesting to see my strengths and interests."

Interview Techniques

"I learned the answers to all the questions I've always wondered about."

"I learned what to ask and what not to ask in an interview"



Future Steps Workshop Participants -January 2020

For more information please contact KAGIS on 066 7121300 or email guidance@kerryetb.ie



Coronavirus COVID-19

Work Continuity in Kerry ETB during COVID-19

Update on work continuity in Kerry ETB Schools, Youth and Music *from Ann O'Dwyer, Director of Schools, Youth & Music*

"We would like to thank our school Principals, Deputy Principals, teachers and each and every member of staff in schools, youth and music for their assistance, goodwill and commitment over the past weeks. Kerry ETB is very proud of how our school teams have responded to this very challenging situation. Every school set about contingency planning immediately after the announcement by An Taoiseach of school closures on Thursday, 12th March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "

Kerry ETB was well positioned to move all classes online as the Digital Strategy with online-learning is embedded in the school culture. Thanks to the work of TEL Officer, Jeremy Wrenn and the ICT Co-ordinators in each school over the last four years.

This was a challenging time for all, in particular for the examination students who due to the unforeseen circumstances had to wait until early May for clarity in relation to the assessments/exams in 2020. We wish to assure them that their hard work and engagement this year before and after the lockdown will always benefit them in whatever future studies or career they embark on.

Student Support Teams have met weekly to provide support for students who may be experiencing anxiety and stress during these uncertain times. In our six DEIS schools, school meals are being provided with the support of school meal providers and An Post.

Teachers across the scheme are creating video and sharing tutorials and online resources. We are hugely grateful for the ongoing support and assistance of our parents/guardians.

PE teachers are sending out weekly exercise programmes and tutorials to staff and students. Schools have provided extra-curricular remote activities such as bake-off competitions, online quizzes, art competitions, student engagement competitions, virtual lunch breaks and even a virtual sports day.

Mike O'Sullivan of Coláiste Gleann Lí, Tralee deserves special recognition. The engineering teacher, utilising the school's 3D printer and having sourced local material and additional equipment, has been working tirelessly over the last number of weeks producing much needed facial protection for local front line workers in the battle against the spread of COVID-19. To date, Mike has produced 2,500 visors for healthcare providers and has been supported by school management and colleagues.

Community National Schools

Our three Community National Schools meeting virtually every week to share resources and ideas on how to effectively work remotely. Homework assignments are shared via Aladdin Connect to parents/guardians with video resources to assist at-home teaching and learning.

Creative Youth

The Kerry Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP) has established an online suite of creative activity resources for young people. Short creativity videos highlighting a world of creativity can be viewed via the ETB website www.kerryetb.ie or via YouTube. Online live tutorials can now be provided by Creative Tutors from the Kerry ETB Tutor Pool. Short experiential videos have been commissioned encouraging young people to look at the work of creative professionals, seeing artists, designers and performers at work in their studios across Kerry. Online workshops are targeted at vulnerable young people especially, and in association with local youth service and youth group providers.



Coronavirus COVID-19

Music

The Co-ordinator of Music Generation Kerry, Deirdre Johnson, has been actively engaging in social media working on numerous initiatives such as ukulele tutorials, singing workshops etc. Twenty five Musician Educators were inducted remotely to the teaching pool using Zoom on 1st May 2020 and are being tasked with creating video content in a variety of instruments for Music Generation Kerry's social media channels and YouTube. Exciting news is that Music Generation Kerry is partnering with Tralee IT to deliver music technology as parts of a virtual Technology Summer School to be held mid-summer.

"As we follow the Government plan and roadmap to tackle this pandemic, the message that we continue to relay to our staff, students and learners and their families is that as we are asked to come together by staying apart, it is important to remember that life endures, we will endure and our values of kindness and community support will also endure."

Update on work continuity in Kerry ETB Organisation Support and Development (OS&D)

from Maria Brennan, Director of OS&D

The unique and extraordinary circumstances of the current situation has required significant modification, to the way we operate, in order to maintain service delivery. Kerry ETB staff have shown great commitment and ingenuity in adapting, in a very short time period, to remote working.

ICT staff have achieved, what a number of months ago would have been thought impossible, in moving complex administrative functions off site, utilising VPNs and providing technical support.

Staff in the FETS Department and the Monavalley Campus have ensured that trainees, learners and apprentices continue to receive payments on a weekly and fortnightly basis.

HR and Finance staff have continued, as if on site, to administer and oversee contracts of employment, pay administration and payment of staff on fortnightly, and monthly payrolls. HR continues to workforce plan and even to recruit. Finance staff have ensured that all submitted invoices have been paid, so Kerry ETB can, in some small way, lessen the impact on companies and individuals supplying goods and services to Kerry ETB. The Financial Statements for 2019 were completed and submitted with Board Approval.

The CS&CD Department with the assistance of our Health and Safety Contractors continue to consider the Safety requirements of the organisation. The CS&CD Department also ensure that building projects continue to be progressed and insurance implications monitored. All regulatory reporting requirements continue to be adhered to by all Departments.

Executive Support continues to develop policies, procedures and internal controls, two Board Meetings have been conducted remotely, with the large volume of work associated with these meetings being completed offsite. The 2019 Kerry ETB Annual Report is on track to be submitted in line with our statutory requirements.

Staff have achieved all of this, and much more, with incredible grace and compassion for each other while resourcefully meeting the practical and psychological challenges the current crisis presents.



Coronavirus COVID-19

Update on Work Continuity in Kerry ETB Further Education and Training (FET)

from Owen O' Donnell, Director of FET

Since the official announcement that colleges and centres would close on March 12th 2020 all Kerry ETB colleges and centres have embraced remote teaching & learning. Our Teachers/Instructors & Tutors have engaged on platforms such as Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Skype to continue all our learners journey towards certification. YouTube videos have been prepared by many instructors & teachers to support learning. It must be noted that this change to our practices was further facilitated by the dedication and commitment of our staff across Further Education & Training. All individual staff in each centre have ensured a coordinated approach was developed across staff teams to avoid student overload and a balanced approach to assignment submission. Our learner support staff and student support teams have provided continuous support and guidance to learners. Centre managers and staff have supported learners through the provision of laptops and learning packs to ensure continuity during closure. The weekly reports from the Kerry College Campuses, Adult Education centres, Youthreach, VTOS & ABE testifies to the myriad of innovative ways learner needs are been met across the county.

Our Quality Assurance unit has worked with QQI, City & Guilds and other certifying bodies to meet the needs of learners through the planning of alternative assessments. This intervention will ensure learners who wish to progress for CAO applications will do so in June.

Our Admissions team have continued to advise potential applicants remotely on our courses across Kerry ETB. The full range of courses is available with a comprehensive programme available on our website and social media platforms.

Kerry ETB is proud to be able to be part of the national & regional response to the COVID-19 pandemic by providing its facilities on Clash road. Kerry College provided the use of buildings to the HSE following a call-out from Kerry County Council and the health service provider for suitable buildings to support the COVID-19 testing process. The building has been in use since late March by the HSE for testing purposes and the professional services teams based in the building also have access to the onsite canteen, toilets and showering facilities. A number of contact tracing teams work from the building, while testing continues from pods outside the main building.

Kerry ETB are supporting Tralee Chamber business members and their staff with eCollege professional development courses at no cost so that they can upskill during their downtime. The chamber is working with eCollege & Kerry ETB on a series of online courses which can be completed in approximately 10 hours per week, which includes online contact time and self-directed learning at home.

Kerry College Monavalley campus has been leading in the transition to online learning with the development of modules in Infection prevention & Control and an introduction to the use of PPE. These courses have been sought by the HSE and the wider community. New courses responsive to the needs of Business.

The Apprenticeship chefs from Monavalley campus have been using the kitchens on Clash road to prepare meals for HSE staff. The culinary team and apprentices at Kerry College's Monavalley Campus in Tralee are working with the HSE to provide



Coronavirus COVID-19

healthy, fresh nutritious meals to the hard working members of the Civil Defence, Ambulance Service and staff of the COVID-19 Test Centre in Tralee.

Kerry College Clash & Denny Street campuses have continued to engage with its student councils during the closure on a weekly basis to ensure continuous support for all its students. Individual workshops on CV preparation and interview techniques have also been arranged to support students seeking employment. Online meditation sessions have been enthusiastically welcomed by students to support mental health & wellbeing.

Kerry College Listowel Campus have ensured additional learner needs are prioritised with its "virtual" open learning centre in full operation. Assignment support has been given to learners via teams, email and phone. This has ensured all learners have the support mechanisms in place to succeed.

Government Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business





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