



**Noel Kelly**  
(Director of Schools,  
Community National  
Schools.)

## FOREWORD

As we approach the February midterm break, I am delighted to introduce the third edition of the DDLETB Development Team Newsletter for this academic Year.

As those of you who follow the DDLETB social media platforms will have observed the month of January focused our minds on whole school approaches to wellbeing and positive mental health. It was fantastic to see our Community National Schools, Post Primary Colleges and Centres of Further Education echoing the core value of Care which is central to the ethos of the whole organisation.

The opportunities for staff and school development through the Middle Leadership Programme and Teacher Leadership programme, over the past few weeks and into the coming months, are detailed in this edition of the newsletter. The TLP School Ecology project demonstrates how school-based initiatives, SSE projects, DEIS Targets, UDL, leadership programmes and the work of staff and students don't just operate in isolated silos but work in tandem to create the rich and vibrant school environments which exist in DDLETB.

On Friday 4th February, An Taoiseach Micheál Martin launched the #DEISconnect programme in St. Kevin's Community College. The whole school community came together to celebrate the launch of this hugely innovative programme. The #DEISconnect programme will support the digital literacy of students for years to come. You can read more about this initiative as we shine a spotlight on St Kevin's achievements.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff and students from across the organisation for their tremendous work over the last few months, so much has been achieved.

Kind Regards,

**Noel Kelly**  
Director of schools

The #DEISconnect programme will support the digital literacy of students for years to come



## DDLETB DEIS CONNECT BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

“Do what you love, because  
it will lead somewhere”

**An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin.**

On Friday, February 4th an Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. visited St. Kevin's Community College to officially launch our DDLETB DEIS Connect Project.

DEIS Connect 'Bridging the Digital Divide', is a bold and innovative approach to enhance digital capacity for all learners in St. Kevin's Community College.

The College has become the 1st DEIS school in the country to provide digital devices to every student. They have also become among the first schools in Ireland to receive the Digital Schools Award status. An EU-wide initiative, which recognises and celebrates best practice in digital education.

Following extensive school funding through DDLETB (DEIS Connect and Digital Connect Initiatives) and their partnerships with Microsoft, Power2Progress (UCD/Zurich), Digital Wealth Project (ReThink Ireland), Clondalkin Access Network, St. Vincent de Paul and the Trinity Access Programme, St. Kevin's CC is now able to provide a digital device to every student in its school. They are also rolling out training for parents to support them with their digital literacy.

The launch was a great success, and it was wonderful to have an Taoiseach Micheál Martin T.D. there to highlight the importance and value of this initiative for the school and its learners. We are extremely proud of the hard work and dedication that has gone into the DEIS Connect programme and we would like to congratulate the team at St. Kevin's CC and the DDLETB Digital and DEIS Connect Teams for their unwavering commitment and achievement.

“The DEIS Connect initiative is a clear demonstration of DDLETB's commitment to delivering a high-quality learning experience for all of our students and school teams. We are very proud of St. Kevin's CC's achievements in leading the path in embracing the best of what technology enhanced learning has to offer. We look forward to further developing this initiative throughout the DDLETB DEIS network.”

**Mr. Adrian Flynn,**

Director of Schools at DDLETB.

St. Kevin's CC are not only addressing the digital divide but also enhancing inclusion in their school and, most importantly, bringing alive a creative solution that addresses the priority targets of all of its students and teachers.





**LEADERSHIP  
CONNECT**  
PROGRAMME

Our Leadership Connect Programme is going from strength to strength. We are delighted with the progress and feedback for both the Teacher Leadership Programme and the Middle Leadership Programme.

The next Leadership Connect session will take place on Wednesday, March 2nd and although our Leadership Connect collaborative sessions are optional, this session is a must for all participants. The wonderful **Ms. Jacinta Kitt** will facilitate the session and will discuss Conflict Management and Conflict Resolution. Jacinta is highly regarded in her field and is a lecturer/researcher and Organisational Advisor.

She is a former primary teacher and now lectures in Trinity College on the M.Ed. programme and in Marino Institute of Education on the B.Sc. and B.Ed. programmes. Jacinta is also famous for promoting The Positive School Environment and her Outside the Box Learning Resources.



On February 15th our participants took part in an engaging session on the 'Board of Management and Record Keeping', facilitated by **Mr. John Cronin**, Principal of Castleknock Community College @CastleknockCC. A very informative and interesting session with knowledgeable advice for post-holders around Board of Management functions, objectives and communication as well organisation and requirements for record keeping.

Thank you to our esteemed colleague Mr. John Cronin for facilitating the session for our participants.

As you all know, the Middle Leadership Programme session scheduled for January 18th was postponed in order to relieve some of the stress and pressure that our schools, management and teachers were feeling during the first few weeks of this term. The session will now take place on March 10th and is sure to be a huge success. Thank you so much to the wonderful management team of Lucan Community College @lucancc1, for accommodating and facilitating this session. We are looking forward to an interactive and engaging session. requirements for record keeping.

The following MLP session will take place on **March 24th** and will be facilitated by **Mr. Noel Kelly**, Director of Schools at DDLETB. Noel will focus on Successful and Appropriate Timetabling.



**ETHOS: CARE**

In an ETB school, care is about the welfare, wellbeing, and safety of all members of the school community. It is exemplified in meaningful relationships, connectedness, and empathy, alongside support and solidarity.

**ETBI Patron's Framework on Ethos, pg 13**



**Coláiste Po...**  
Plenty of activities to try out on the Friendly February calendar for Friendship week in CP Fola



**Collinstown Park CC**  
A new mural in our TY block. It was painted by some of our TY students, portraying the diverse and inclusive nature of our school



**Skerries CC**  
Quotes gathered by the SCC Diversity Committee and decorated on our #diversitystairs #inclusion #diversity #diversityteam #celebratedifference #respect @ddletb @Skerries



**Skerries CC**  
Mr. K McLoughlin brought his best friend, Max to SCC for Friendship Week @ddletb @SkerriesNews

The #Teamddletb #Ethosinaction has really been seen this term with many of our schools running Friendship and Wellbeing Weeks. The core value of care is an integral part of the experience of our communities.



**TEACHER LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

A big thank you to Adrian Flynn, Director of Schools, for his input at the TLP Team planning session. Participants were given a glimpse into a school leader's detailed planning for school improvement in action.

The third TLP General Learning Session took place and was facilitated by John Cronin, Principal of Castleknock CC. This engaging session offered participants an opportunity to reflect on the importance of understanding school culture. Thank you to John for this session.

**TLP SPOTLIGHT:**

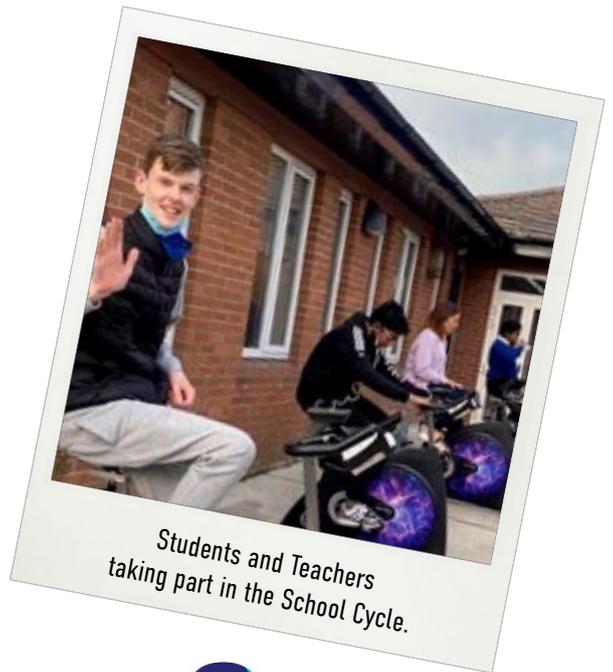
TLP Team Rath Dara have been working very hard on their TLP project. Their project focuses on student and teacher wellbeing. A wellbeing month has just concluded where various activities took place; a sponsored cycle to raise funds for Suicide Awareness in Dublin 15, a whole school walk to promote positive mental health, a wellbeing survey with all students along with various other activities.

They have also unveiled an interactive and collaborative art piece to the school. The artwork invites students and teachers to engage in a sensory experience by reflecting on the positive aspects of themselves. This piece is entitled 'What Connects Us'. (see below) Well done to all involved.

“The work done by the staff at Rath Dara, who are participating in TLP, focused the whole school community on positive mental health. I think it is also fair to say that Rath Dara’s innovative and creative approach to interconnectivity drew in lots of positive attention online.” **Noel Kelly**, Director of Schools.



**Rath Dara CC TLP Team**  
Cycle for Suicide Awareness, Dublin 15.



Students and Teachers taking part in the School Cycle.

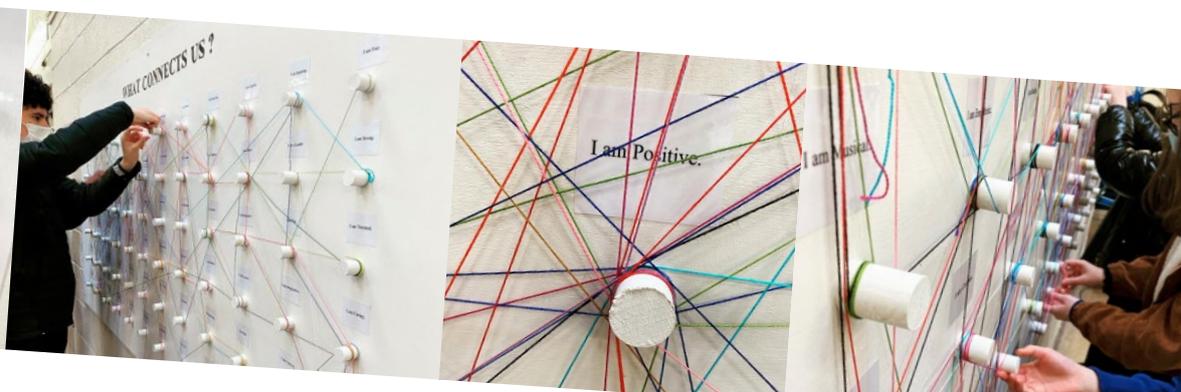


**Suicide Awareness and Prevention**

**WHAT CONNECTS US?**  
2022

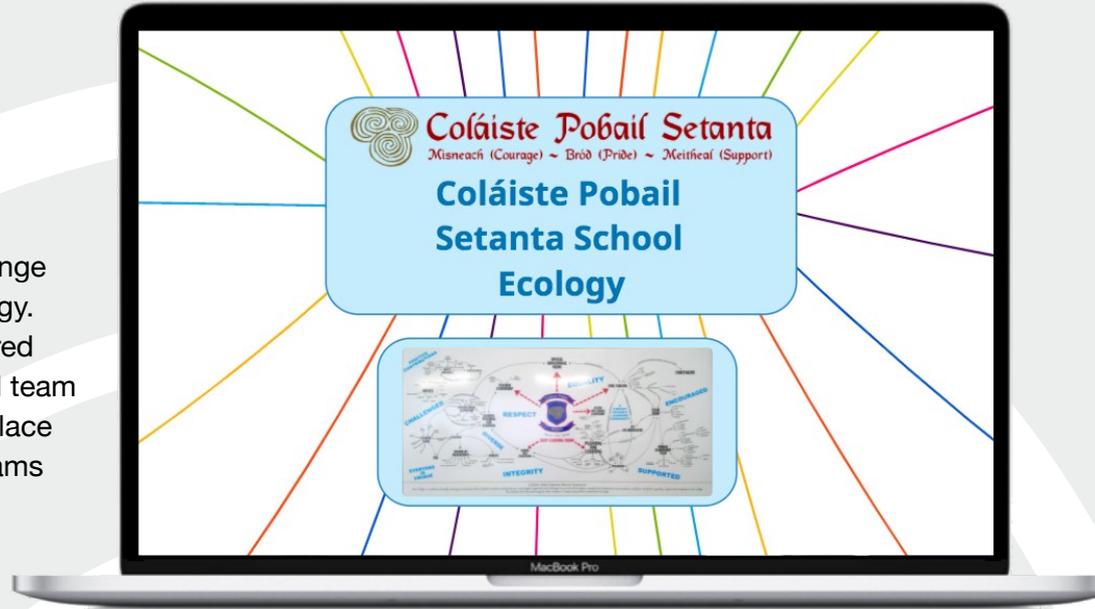
“What connects us?” Is a collaborative and interactive mixed media art work designed and created by the teachers and students of RathDara Community College. The artwork affirmations and connect with them by circling with coloured string. The piece then becomes a spiderweb of connections reflecting each person’s character while also becoming a colourful portrait of the school. It encourages students and teachers to reflect on the positive aspects of themselves as similarities that bring us all together.

The sensory experience has been unveiled in the school as part of a series of well-being events and activities to highlight the importance of mental health and promote inclusivity and positivity among the school community.

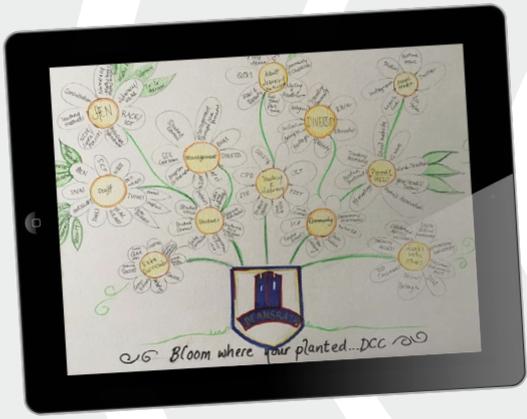


# TLP SCHOOL ECOLOGY

TLP Teams undertook a challenge to capture their school's ecology. These masterpieces were shared and reflected on at the second team planning session which took place in January. Well done to all Teams on engaging in this activity.



[Click to explore the mindmaps](#)



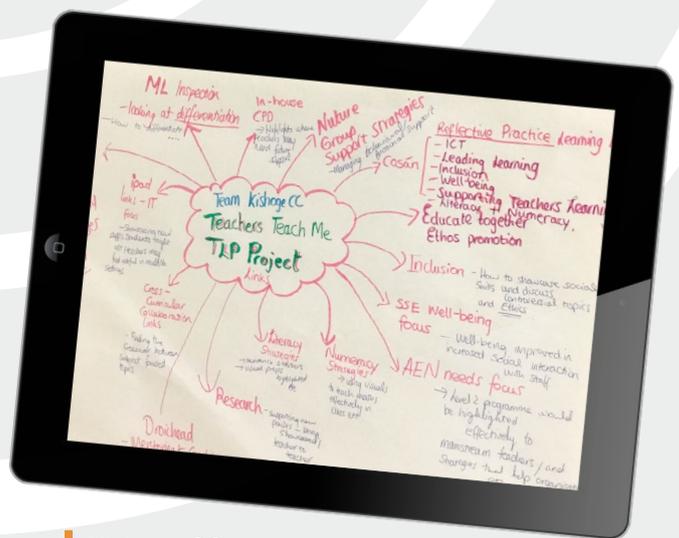
Deansrath CC



Kingswood CC



Scoil Ghráinne CNS



Kishoge CC

## ETBI Annual Principals and Deputy Principals' Conference 2022.

“Teachers are Superheros and teaching is just one of their powers”

**Dr. Niall Muldoon**, Ombudsman for Children.

The @ETBIreland Annual Conference took place on **Tuesday, February 8th**. Over 400 Principals, Deputy Principals and ETB delegates participated in the conference. The theme of this year's event 'A Focus on the Learner' reinforced our 5 Core Values (Care, Respect, Equality, Community and Excellence in Education) which underpin our ETB Ethos.

Our DDLETB Director of Schools and Chair of the ETBI CPD Committee, Mr. Adrian Flynn opened the conference by welcoming participants and acknowledging the huge challenges faced by school leaders and communities in recent times.

“We have been tested and thrown into the unknown but we were not found wanting. This demonstrates our resilience and adaptability but more so, it demonstrates the commitment to what we hold most dear, and that is the learner.”

Participants were also treated to a wonderful discussion with Dr. Niall Muldoon, Ombudsman for Children and a presentation by Professor Laura Lundy, Professor of Children's Rights at Queens university, Belfast.

Dr. Muldoon recognised the importance of teachers and schools in society and highlighted the huge impact schools and school culture have on the lives of our children. He believes that this impact has become even more evident in recent years during the remote learning experience and cannot be underestimated.

The importance of schools and teachers cannot be quantified, the additional supports provided in schools help to safeguard children in our society”

**Dr. Niall Muldoon**, Ombudsman for Children.

CARE  
RESPECT  
EQUALITY  
COMMUNITY  
EXCELLENCE  
IN EDUCATION

CORE  
VALUES

Professor Lundy facilitated a thought provoking and insightful presentation into Student Voice and the Rights of the Child. Professor Lundy highlighted the important of involving students in the decision making process and allowing them to express themselves and their opinions freely.

“I don't want us to 'manage' students expectations – I want them to have amazing expectations, but we do need to be realistic about what is possible.”

**Prof. Laura Lundy.**

We are fortunate in ETB schools to have our core values and ethos lead how we can provide for the opportunity for student growth. This framework and culture will create the identity that our learners will discover in our schools. This is what differentiates our schools and it is what makes us stronger. #ETBStrongerTogether.



## SSE FOCUS GROUP

Work is continuing this term on our theme “Resetting the Clock”. Our Focus Group met with all SSE Coordinators before Christmas to look at how SSE can be supported in all schools and centres across DDLETB. The feedback from coordinators was very positive and a schedule for future meetings is being developed. If you are an SSE Coordinator and would like to be involved, please contact Lorna at [lornalavelle@ddletb.ie](mailto:lornalavelle@ddletb.ie)



## SOCIAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA

The DDLETB Digital Media Team have completed our Primary Market Research with our ddletb community. We have collated the results and compiled a report, which has been shared with the Digital Media Team and ddletb Senior Management.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our survey. The results of the research are helping us to develop a Digital Media Support Plan.

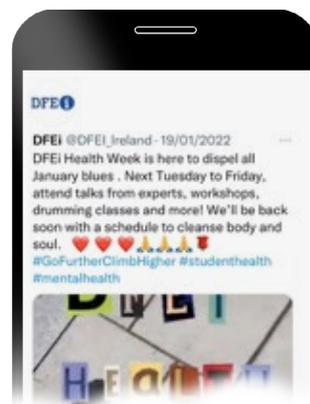
We have almost completed our new Digital Media Strategy and we are looking forward to sharing it with our Digital Media Leads in our schools and centres. With life returning to ‘normal’ we will soon be able to arrange training, support and guidance to our schools and centres around the area of digital media (social media, website design and content management).

We are extremely excited to start this journey with you all and we look forward to building our Digital Media Network.

You can connect with us on LinkedIn also at Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB.



from twitter for DDLETB



from twitter for DFEI and Coláiste Pobail Fola and Donabate CC



During the month of January, the social media team focused our posts on the theme of mental health and wellbeing. We hope that these posts provided you with some information and helpful tips around caring for your mental health.

It was great to see so many of our schools and centres running mental health and wellbeing programmes and activities in January too. Well done to you all!

Focus on your Mental Health and #FindYourBalance in 2022. Don't forget that we follow you all on social media and we love to share your events and images. Please make sure to tag us @ddletb #Teamddletb. We also have two new twitter pages dedicated to sharing your achievements and news @ddletbColleges and @ddletbCNS.

## SOCIAL MEDIA:

@ddletb

#TeamDDLETB

Don't be afraid to comment or share your thoughts, we love to hear your feedback. If you would like us to mention/promote events taking place in your school/centre or if you require assistance, advice or have any questions regarding social/digital media please get in touch [janetmurphy@ddletb.ie](mailto:janetmurphy@ddletb.ie).

## EAL FOCUS

### EXAM DATES AND DEADLINES FOR CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

Dates have been set for Cambridge English exams to take place in May and June 2022.

- B2 First for Schools will take place for seniors (TY, 5th and 6th years) on Thurs 19th or on Wed 25th May in Tuansgate, Tallaght. Please note that speaking exams to be held in Kishoge CC on the previous Saturdays: 14th or 21st May. **Entry Closing Date is Fri 1st April.**
- B1 Preliminary for Schools will take place on Wednesday 25th May in Tuansgate, Tallaght. **Entry Closing date is Fri 1st April.** Please note that speaking exams will take place in Kishoge CC on Sat 21st May.
- A special sitting of A2 KEY for Schools will be held on 19th May for students requiring special arrangements.
- There will be a B2 First exam session for any member of staff in DDLETB on Tues 7th June in Tuansgate, Tallaght along with students from Blanchardstown AES. **The entry closing date is 29th April.** There is also an option to sit this exam in Balbriggan with students from Balbriggan AES on the same date (7th June), if it is more convenient.
- There will also be an adult version of B1 Preliminary for any member of DDLETB staff who wishes to gain certification of their language skills on 9th May in Balbriggan. **The entry closing date is 29th April.**

Please contact 2 weeks in advance of these deadlines if special arrangements (Reasonable Accommodation) are required. Finally, please support staff in your schools (caretakers, cleaners, canteen staff etc.) to improve their English language skills. This would be a significant investment in their lifelong learning and their ability to progress and fulfil their goals.



Thank you to **Niall Hare**, Principal for agreeing to host Cambridge speaking exams in Kishoge CC.



### CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH SPEAKING EXAMINERS

Thanks to all who applied to be trained up to become a Cambridge English Speaking examiner for DDLETB's exam centre. The deadline has passed (Fri 4th February) and those who met the Minimum Professional Requirements set by Cambridge English will be called for interview in the coming days. DDLETB is the only ETB in Ireland that is an Authorised Cambridge English exam centre – along with UCD, UL and UCC. This year we are celebrating 10 years of examining students across our organisation from unaccompanied minors, refugees, EAL students in post primary, Youthreach students and adults in our organisation as well as from other ETBs.

Happy lifelong learning to all! Here's to having choices and for English language skills not being a barrier to fulfilling dreams!



### SUMMER COURSE EAL

Each Summer, DDLETB runs a week-long intensive course for subject teachers (including PME's) hoping to take on EAL hours in our schools. This bespoke teacher-training course leading to certification (Cambridge TKT Teaching Knowledge Test Module 1) is open to all teachers on a first come first served basis. The exam will take place on Fri 19th August.

The cost of this 32 ½ hour course plus exam fee to Cambridge English is €100. The course starts Monday 20th June 9 to 4pm. Please apply early to reserve your place.

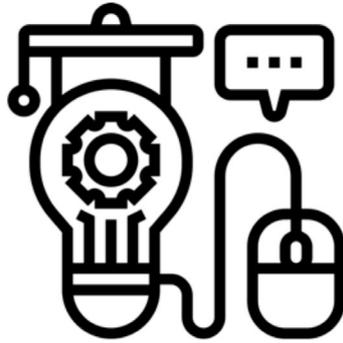
#### EAL Network meeting.

Guest Speaker Narrell Byrne new PDST advisor for EAL.

## UPDATES

### UDL Badge

Our UDL Leaders are working on their Redesign Activities for the UDL Badge 2021/22

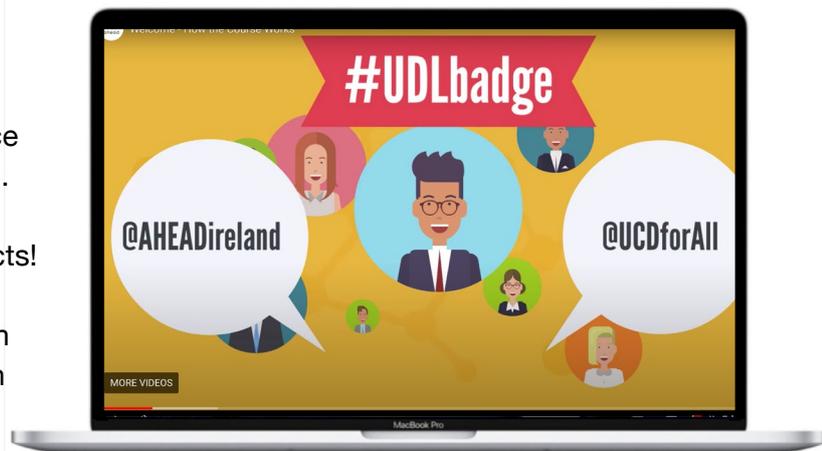


Created by Eucalyp



Remember, the Plus One Approach – let's add "one more way" that students can access content, demonstrate what they know, and/or connect to the why of learning to reduce barriers and increase their opportunity to learn.

Wishing everyone best of luck with their projects! Drop-in on Thursday at 4pm to share ideas or chat about progress to date Click [HERE](#) to join the UDL Badge Drop-In For further information please contact [francesgibson@ddletb.ie](mailto:francesgibson@ddletb.ie)





## DDLETB PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT SERVICES.

The Psychological Support Service works to support the mental health of staff and students of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB. Our most recent offering is a mental health initiative called 'Changing Minds'.

Within this initiative we provide both a personal development programme to all adults across the scheme, as well as a separate training to equip teachers to deliver an 8-session youth mental health module to their students.

Participants have the opportunity to learn about cutting edge findings in Psychology and Psychotherapy, giving us:

- (i) fascinating insights into both the central role of our early relationships in our mental health across the lifespan and
- (ii) examples of how we can significantly change and improve our mental health.

We learn that making change happen in our mental health, often begins with increasing our awareness of problematic patterns of coping with emotions, thoughts and behaviours. Only once we become more aware can we hope to intervene. This can be challenging as we have most likely been repeating these patterns for many years leading to automatic and ingrained ways of living. However the story is hopeful! We now understand that change is always possible, whether we are 9 or 90 years old, as research points to the fact that our brains retain plasticity over the entire lifespan. We look forward to welcoming participants in Autumn 2022 when we will again be offering 'Changing Mind's'.

Keep an eye on your DDLETB email for future communications and information from the Psychological Support Services Team.

### SOCIAL MEDIA

-  @ddletb
-  @ddletb
-  #TeamDDLETB



## KEY DATES:

**Leadership Connect with Jacinta Kitt**  
Wed, March 2nd

**MLP Session**  
**Teamwork and Team Leadership**  
Thurs, March 10th

**TLP Facilitator's Training Day**  
Tues, 15th March

**EAL Network meeting**  
Wed, 23rd March

**MLP Session - Timetabling**  
Thurs, March 24th

### DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT TEAM:

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