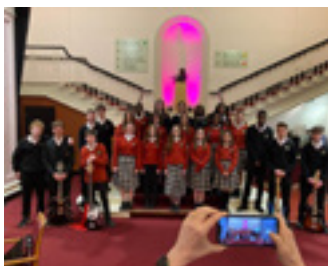


# Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB DEVELOPMENTS



NEWSLETTER EDITION 9 MARCH 2023



## FESTIVAL OF MUSIC

Back with a bang at the National Concert Hall.



## LEADERSHIP CONNECT

The **Leadership Connect** participants have been busy these past months.

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Youthreach LIFT Award

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Junk Couture

Comic Heroes

& More!





**Siobhan Lynch**

Director of Further  
Education & Training

## Foreword

Welcome to the Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB Developments Newsletter, Spring 2023. It has clearly been a remarkably busy year so far and there have already been many highlights including the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the establishment of Education and Training Boards in Ireland and the return of the DDLETB Festival of Music earlier this month.

ETB Week was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate and promote the excellent work carried out by ETBs across the country. DDLETB colleges, centres and schools and our team in Head Office were eager to participate and found some highly creative ways to mark the occasion. It was great to see our staff and learners having some well-deserved fun and we hope this will be the first of many ETB weeks and Excellence Awards in the future.

Thank you to everyone who gave a little “my ETB” quote for the DDLETB learner/staff videos. It was amazing how many of you were willing to contribute. The videos are inspirational and motivating and show how much the work you do every day means to our learners and how much DDLETB means to all of us.

A sincere thank you to our DDLETB Hero Jack McFadden and his family who participated in the ETB national promotional video and attended the event at Croke Park.

It is evident in all our newsletters that DDLETB places a huge emphasis on excellence, so it was lovely to have an opportunity to participate in these awards and it was not a surprise that DDLETB did very well on the day. I would like to congratulate Sharon Fields-Lockwood from Baldoy Training Centre on her winning staff video and Olga Walsh from the Adult Education Service Northeast who was runner up for ETB Staff Hero award.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, thank you to ETBI (Education and Training Boards Ireland) and all our staff and learners who contributed to making DDLETB’s 10th birthday and ETB Week a very enjoyable occasion.

The DDLETB Festival of Music returned to the national Concert Hall after a three-year absence due to the pandemic and it was a spectacular success. Congratulations to all students, teachers and staff who took part in the event. Their commitment, enthusiasm and talent were evident to all who attended on the evening, and it resulted in an extremely high standard and enjoyable performance.

As usual this newsletter is well worth taking some time to read as it captures some lovely examples of the transformative and creative nature of the work team DDLETB carries out every day to ensure our learners can learn, achieve, and succeed. There are more examples of leadership occurring daily across DDLETB. As always, thank you to the Development Team (Caroline, Frances, Janet, Mary and Suzanne) for their unwavering dedication to the development of DDLETB and for highlighting all the magnificent work taking place across the county. I would like to give a special mention to Jessica Sheekey and Janet Murphy for their work helping to make ETB week a success.

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I would also like to take the opportunity to wish you and your families a Happy Easter.



# ETHOS

This term in our values led calendar we have been reflecting on and celebrating the core value of excellence in education.

'The ETB school ethos establishes that excellence in education is underpinned by the core values of care, respect, community and equality. Excellence in Education encompasses outcomes, experiences and expectations for all members of the school community' (pg 10 ETBI Patrons' Framework Ethos)

A big thank you to Dr Mark Fennel who led the Ethos Network through an exploration of the LAOS 2022 document. We reflected on its implication for our work on ethos and in particular its relevance for the core value of excellence in education.

**CELEBRATE OUR ETHOS 2023**

WHAT IS IT LIKE TO BE A STUDENT IN A DDLETB SCHOOL?

**About DDLETB schools**

- State
- Co-educational
- Multi-denominational

**Core Values**

- Community
- Care
- Equality
- Respect
- Excellence in Education

**Competition Time!**

Using any medium of art, capture your experience of being a student in a DDLETB school

- Deadline is 17th April 2023
- Prizes: Vouchers & goody bags

**REGISTER NOW**

**ddletb**

State • CO-EDUCATIONAL • MULTI-DENOMINATIONAL

Excellence in Education

Care

Community

Equality

Respect

State • COMHOIDEACHAS • ILCHREIDMHEACH

Excellence in Education

Care

Community

Equality

Respect

Our student competition 'Celebrate our Ethos' finishes this term. Winners will be selected and announced next term. Best of luck to all who have entered!



# Rath Dara Community College Careers Speed Event

On 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023, Rath Dara CC held a hugely successful “Future Pathways Careers Speed Event”.

This event represented over 40 different career paths. Ninety exhibitors volunteered their time and expertise to inspire and raise the expectations of our students at Rath Dara CC. Our exhibitors included large multinationals, local SME’s, further education providers, business owners, community organisations, public representatives, and the public sector.

We were delighted to welcome back many past pupils, who happily agreed to and enthusiastically participated in this event. We were immensely proud to see the diverse and successful pathways our students had followed. Pathways including accountancy, multinationals, childcare, the armed forces, Gardai, pilots, business owners, zoology, education, and contractors. This was a fantastic opportunity to reconnect with our alumni. The event was opened by Minister Roderic O’Gorman, who participated in this event along with local TD Paul Donnelly and local councillor Mary Mc Camley. DDLETB’s Director of schools, Nichola Spokes headed up a contingency from the DDLETB Development Support Team.

This was a fun event where pairs of students spent 4 minutes at a selection of the 40 stations, talking to exhibitors. For the last 15 minutes of the event, we allowed free time for students to visit exhibitors that they may have had an interest in. Most exhibitors brought promotional gifts, which of course went down a treat!

This event we hoped, would open our pupil’s eyes to their own career potential. The driving force behind this event was to guide students towards different career pathways and raise their expectations. We wanted to provide a setting for our pupils to engage with relevant careers and an opportunity to build their own self confidence. We hoped that meeting former pupils would allow our students to see the possibilities of what they can achieve and inspire them to work hard to achieve their full potential.







Preparation for the event included students researching the exhibitors, their companies, and their career paths. Students collaborated with the project team to create questions. The project team worked closely with our SEN\EAL students to create teams and personalised questions that would enable full participation in the event.

We wanted to re-engage with our local community and promote our school. This event afforded us an opportunity to strengthen and develop, fruitful and lasting partnerships with local business and our community.

We hope that our exhibitors enjoyed meeting our pupils. The atmosphere on the day was electric and was captured by our digital leader and the DDLETB support team. Our always supportive local radio station, Phoenix FM 92.5 FM not only did a radio piece, but they also exhibited at the event. The feedback from exhibitors and participants was positive and hugely encouraging. Due to participation in this event, some of our Transition Year students were offered work experience placements.

[Phoenix FM 92.5 FM section 34:48 mins](#)

We would like to thank the project team and our whole school community for pulling together and getting behind this project, from helping to prep our students to prepare the school premises for the event and for their enthusiastic engagement. Thanks also to all the school ambassadors who looked after the front of house coordination and refreshments.

Our school motto “**Nil neart go cur le chéile**” was never more evident than on this day.

Thank You to all our exhibitors: Amazon AWS, eBay, Microsoft, Google, Intel, Accenture, Airtricity, Johnson and Johnson, TU Dublin, Dunboyne College of Further Education, Solas, Teagasc, Way to Work, Westend Barbers, RTECH, Ger Conroy Fitness, Prison Service, Aer Lingus Pilot, Gardai, Dublin Zoo, Peter Cramer Plumbing Contractor, Foroige, Fingal County Council, Phoenix Fm, Armed Forces, Tusla, Ladybird Driving School, Salon 22, Aon Insurance, Minister Roderic O’Gorman, Paul Donnelly TD, Councillor Mary McCamley, GE Capital, SNA Danu, Post Primary Principal, Glanmore Foods, Senior Nurse.

<https://www.mixcloud.com/925PhoenixFM/d15-today-27-02-23-1000-1200/>



# Leadership Connect

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## Leadership Connect Programme

The **Leadership Connect** participants have been busy these past months. On January 17th participants attended an online session with Dr. Laura Lundy. Laura led a discussion around Student Voice and her internationally recognised 'Lundy Model' for promoting student voice.

Dr. Joe O'Connell provided participants with an insightful session on "Understanding Conflict and Conflictual Situations" in February.

Both sessions were very well received, and we thank Laura and Joe for their time and for sharing their expertise and knowledge.

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## Teacher Leadership Programme

A big thank you to Michael Flynn, Principal of Ériu Community College who facilitated the third general learning session for TLP. This was an extremely practical and informative session which explored the competency-based interview.

The fourth and final general learning session will be hosted by Fingal Community College and will be facilitated by Principal Martina Donnellan. This final session will look at leading school development and offer participants an opportunity to reflect on their own context as well as reflect on the contribution their TLP projects make. We are looking forward to seeing all TLP participants at the session. A big thank you to Martina and Fingall CC.

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## Middle Leadership Connect

MLP participants attended a thought-provoking session with Mr. Michael Flynn, Principal of Ériu Community College on Wellbeing and Self-Care in February. This was a very enjoyable and worthwhile session and promoted lots of chat around strategies for wellbeing and maintaining positive mental health.

Thank you so much to Michael for participating in MLP and TLP again this year.

We look forward to meeting our participants in-person again on March 23rd at our next session Head Office which will be facilitated by the Leadership Team from Lucan CC. Thank you to Diane, Stephen, Aisling and Gráinne in advance, for sharing their knowledge and experience with us again this year.

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# Child Protection and Online Safety Event

DDLETB, Tusla, An Garda, and Webwise Team Up to support Principals and SPHE coordinators.



In today's digital age, children are exposed to various online risks such as cyberbullying, online predators, and exposure to inappropriate content.

It's essential to educate students, school staff and parents/guardians about the importance of child protection and online safety.

We were delighted here in DDLETB to join forces with Tusla, An Garda Síochána, and Webwise to provide a comprehensive presentation on child protection and online safety as part of our Post Primary Principal's meeting in January.

We were joined by Glenda Mc Cormack a Principal Social Worker from Tusla, Ireland's Child and Family Agency, Detective Sargent Cathy Curtin from an An Garda Síochána's Online Child Exploitation Unit, and Jane McGarrigle project worker from Webwise the Irish national internet safety awareness centre.

Throughout the morning the different speakers highlighted for school leaders and their SPHE coordinators, the potential risks that students may face while using the internet, how to go about reporting a concern, the importance of safeguarding, and crucially the resources and training that is available to support teachers in delivering comprehensive Online Safety programs as part of SPHE/RSE and Wellbeing programs in their schools.



Safer Internet Day

2023 | Tuesday  
7 February

SHARE YOUR  
PLANS FOR  
#SID2023







## Webwise Supports

The team at Webwise has put together many internet safety teaching resources addressing a range of topics including cyberbullying, image-sharing, social media, online safety and more. **Internet Safety Resources: Get free lessons on cyberbullying (webwise.ie)** they also highlight the **STAR SEND Toolkit | Childnet** which supports the teaching of online safety to students with special educational needs and disabilities.

These resources including advice, lessons, videos and presentations are available to teachers, schools and organisations for free and can be used to help young people learn all they need to know about using social media and the internet in a safe, secure and positive way. **Teachers - (webwise.ie) Advice for Teachers Archives - Webwise.ie**

Webwise also provide comprehensive up to date information and supports for parents who have a vital role in the education, protection and welfare of their children. It's important for parents

and guardians to have open and honest conversations with their children about online safety and especially the emerging trend in self-generated imagery, online predators, exposure to inappropriate content and the potential risks associated with these.

Webwise's resources provides advice on how to talk to children about these sensitive topics and how to minimise the risk of them creating or sharing self-generated imagery and what to do if they have a concern. **Guides for Parents on Cyberbullying, Filtering and more (webwise.ie) Parents - (webwise.ie)**

To highlight the need for parental involvement and support parents, schools may wish to use Webwise's free internet safety presentations designed for parents at primary and post-primary level. These are available to access below along with an accompanying script. **Supports for Parents - (webwise.ie)**



# EAL in DDLETB



**This term we are celebrating the Excellence in Education Core Value of our ethos.**



Learning can only happen if ALL students feel included and feel that they belong in our school communities. This climate of belonging allows for Excellence in Education. The image below depicts inclusion “Walk a mile in my shoes” focussing on empathy and tolerance – a project carried out this year in Skerries CC. Also, their display spelling out what Diversity means in their school.



Valuing essential aspects of our students' identity shows they are welcome and belong in our school communities. Visual displays featuring other languages spoken by our school communities are important, so students don't feel they have to leave who they really are at the door of our schools. See the project to the right, which took place in Griffeen CC to mark European Day of Languages 26th Sept.



## In the classroom:

If all subject teachers did the following, it would support students from a migrant and refugee background to reach their potential in every classroom, in every one of our 31 post primary schools. These 3 initiatives support Excellence in Education where a students' first language is used not only to support their learning of the language of schooling but to support the academic lifelong learning of their home language:

1. Using PowerPoint Live (2022) to support EAL students in mainstream classes  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyrok\\_UBpyl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyrok_UBpyl)
2. Creating Multilingual Keyword lists  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwFuFzy8jPI>
3. Translating subject-specific websites  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iQgCn4HO4NA>



## Excellence is evident across DDLETB post primary schools when we work to support students from a refugee or migrant background in the following ways:

- The assessment of 780+ EAL students each academic year across DDLETB schools. This generates valid and reliable computer-generated data to know who needs support in their learning of mainstream subjects. This data also enables our schools to provide Excellence in Education in every DDLETB classroom. Who needs support in YOUR classroom? How are you helping them?
- We share examples of Excellence in Education from our schools at our Network meetings. We learn from each other.
- The reading competition shows students' Excellence in Education. The competition is based on tracking effort and improvement in language skills from one academic year to the next. It identifies and showcases our students' active learning.
- We ensure teachers who teach EAL have access to internationally recognised certification so our students can reach their lifelong learning goals and have choices in relation to career paths when they leave our schools. We have high expectations for ALL our students to achieve.
- We ensure subject teachers have access to training (CLIL training - Content and Language Integrated Learning. European Language Label 2011) to allow them to support the language and literacy development of all students in their classrooms.



## Cambridge English exams in May 2023

For those teachers who are busy preparing students for Cambridge exams in May 2023, here are the dates and deadlines for registration:

**Cambridge exams 17th and 31st May 2022 in Head Office, Tallaght.**

These exam sessions are for TY, 5th and 6th year students. Students are funded to sit Cambridge exams at CEFR levels A2, B1 and B2 – pending capacity. Please register your students as soon as possible to allow for planning as demand is high this year. The deadline for registration is Thurs 30th March or sooner.





DDLETB and Colaiste Pobail Setanta presents

# Our ETB Hero

## Jack McFadden



**“ Training started at 5 am, five days a week, and then I had galas at the weekend. I was always aiming to beat my personal best. But I always managed to balance my swimming commitments with my academic work ”**

Jack was a student in the Croi ASD class for 6 Years in Colaiste Pobail Setanta and graduated in May 2021. Jack is on the ASD spectrum and also has Dyslexia.

Jack accessed all his classes in Croi for the 1st three years of his post-primary education. With the support of the School leaders, staff and students and in particular his SEN Coordinator Frances Shannon and his SNA. He then attended Transition Year in mainstream and went on to sit 6 Leaving

Certificate subjects with the additional difficulties of the recent pandemic.

Jack graduated in May 2021 and is currently a student at Trinity College Dublin.

Jack is a prime example of how our students over time progress from intense scaffolding in the Croi classroom (or support classrooms) in their earlier years to mainstream in Senior Cycle supported by SNA and SET hours.



Jack is a dedicated swimmer and not only did he excel academically, but he also excelled in his sporting endeavours. Jack's dedication and hard work took him to the 2019 Special Olympics in Abu Dhabi, where he went on to win two Gold medals and one bronze medal for the 100m and 200m breaststroke.

Jack began swimming when he was four years old and joined the Special Olympics club Phoenix Flyers in Coolmine, back in 2014. He believes that swimming has taught him the benefits of life, how to deal with failure and setbacks, and how to be part of a team.



“All of these things that I have achieved were with the help of my family, friends, teachers, school community, teammates and peers”.

“

**For me, I have seen my confidence grow, and I have developed resilience and independence through my hard work and dedication to the sport**

”

The entire DDLETB community is very proud of Jack's academic and sporting achievements.

On March 3rd at ETB Day celebrations Jack was celebrated as 1 of 5 chosen ETB Hero's.

Jack embodies Colaiste Pobail Setanta's 3 Core values of Brod, Misneach and Meitheal and is a wonderful ambassador for our ETB core values.

**We are delighted and proud to present our ETB Hero, Jack McFadden.**



# ETB Day – Croke Park, Dublin

## Celebrating 10 years since the establishment of Education and Training Boards

DDLETB joined 15 other Education and Training Boards across the country, to celebrate 10 years since their establishment. To mark the milestone, a national 'ETB Week' was coordinated by Education and Training Boards Ireland, which ran from 27th February – 3rd March.

DDLETB communities joined the national ETB Week celebrations, by hosting a variety of activities across County Dublin and Dún Laoghaire, including: a Literacy for Life Coffee Morning and Quiz, Staff Tea Parties, our DDLETB Festival of Music at the National Concert Hall, Youth and Sports Development Fun Day, a Community National School Quiz Quest, Staff and Learner competitions and various other celebrations and events through-out our individual schools and centres.

"It was a wonderful event for DDLETB and indeed for all 16 ETBs. It is an opportunity to highlight the positive learning, teaching and support work that happens in our schools, centres, and head office every day and also demonstrate the strong connection, community and collaborative spirit which exists at DDLETB". Caitríona Murphy, DDLETB Chief Executive.



**"At DDLETB our vision is to transform lives through learning, development and support enabling our learners to succeed in an ever-changing world. The learner is at the heart of everything we do"**

Caitríona Murphy

## ETB Excellence Awards

ETB Week celebrations culminated in the ETB Excellence Awards, which took place in Croke Park on 2nd March. The Excellence Awards recognised individuals, initiatives and groups in ETBs across the country, that have had a significant impact on their community, and are going above and beyond to embody the ETB ethos.

Over the past month, ETBs across the country were invited to submit entries to several categories, including 'ETB Hero', 'Excellence in Education Award', and 'Excellence Award for Equality', amongst others. The winners will be announced at the upcoming awards ceremony.





DDLETB was proudly represented on the day by our ETB Hero, Coláiste Pobal Setanta past-learner Jack McFadden. Jack was chosen as 1 of 5 ETB Heros to represent the ETB celebrations nationally. DDLETB staff and learners were also shortlisted for 4 awards, and we were delighted that our team was so well represented at the event. A huge well done to those who submitted entries to competitions and all our nominees, and congratulations to our successful entrants and nominees:

### **‘Your ETB’ National staff competition:**

Runners up: Gavin Lowndes DM Tutor BCTC, Conor McCabe BCTC, Ryan Dennedy BCTC.

Winner: Sharon Fields, Assistant Manager, BTC

The ETB Hero Award runner up: Olga Walsh. AES Balbriggan & Swords

Nominee:

@CFEDundrum’s Monica Alvarez and Brian Burke, shortlisted for the National ETB FET Excellence award for their work in creating a greener campus

**“This year marks 10 years since the establishment of Education and Training Boards across the country – which is an extremely important milestone for us. The 16 ETBs operating across the country play a vital role in providing a route to education for people within their community – no matter what stage of their education journey they are on.**

**“As we reflect on 10 years of ETB education provision, we are delighted to be able to celebrate some of the people and groups across the country that are doing exemplary work at our upcoming ETB Excellence Awards, and we are looking forward to recognising all the achievements of our ETBs across the week.”**

Paddy Lavelle, Chief Executive of Education and Training Boards Ireland.

It was a wonderful, positive week of celebrations for all our ETB community, and we look forward to marking future milestones.





# Anyone for tea?





# CNS Quiz Quest



On Friday, March 3rd we hosted our very first CNS Quiz Quest (Table Quiz) in DDLETB Head Office.

We were delighted to welcome learners and teachers from 6 of our Community National Schools to this event. The quiz was opened by Director of Schools for CNS, Nichola Spokes, who was delighted to welcome the teams, teachers and SNAs.

Each school was represented by 2 teams. 1 team of 3rd and 4th class students and 1 team from 5th and 6th class students.

There was an air of excitement from the learners and the Development Support Team who organised the event.

The event was a huge success and great fun for all who attended and participated. Students were well fed, thanks to Glanmore Foods and the winning teams took home a trophy for their school and medals for themselves.

The pupils were totally engaged, their sense of competition palpable.

**“I had such a great experience going to the ETB quiz. It was good fun collaborating with other schools that participated in the quiz to complete the puzzles . . . .I hope that the schools will continue to get involved in the quiz” (Farrah O Connor).**

The Quiz teams were extremely well prepared.



**“It was a fantastic occasion, to not only celebrate ETB week, but to also celebrate the meeting of children from the Community National Schools around Dublin. This is the first time that these students have had a chance to realise they are part of something bigger, a community of schools with a shared vision. The quiz celebrated all that is great about the CNS, Excellence, Community, Respect, Equality and Care. We hope that this event will go from strength to strength each year” (Mike Byrne)**







Prizes were awarded by Caitriona Murphy, CEO, who was thrilled to meet some of our young learners.

Nichola Spokes, Director of Schools CNS said

**“this event epitomizes what it means to be an ETB school. Aside from the core values that our schools celebrate and share, the sense of unity that permeates through our CNS schools is reflected here today.**

**More importantly, this event is about our learners, not just feeling part of something bigger, but knowing that their ETB is here for them, celebrating their success and supporting them as they progress to the next stage of their educational journey within DDLETB.”**

Thank you to Mr. Michael Byrne, Principal of Citywest and Saggart CNS who presented the idea to Nichola Spokes, Director of Schools and the Development Team.

We are really looking forward to making this an annual event.







## ETB DAY BFEI

10 years of the ETB was marked by a week of celebrations and for everyone in BFEI this culminated in a packed and fun-filled day on Friday 3rd March. The tone of the day was set by staff and students being encouraged to wear denim from top to toe in support of “Denim for Dementia” day. There were some great looks swanning around the college in double and triple denim ensembles.

BFEI began the day’s events by hosting a beauty competition like no other! Students and staff were invited to enter a Beautiful Bake-off, with their bakes judged on aesthetics and visual appeal alone. The fact that they tasted delicious was a bonus. The winning cake was a mouth-watering white chocolate flavoured cake with a delicate green icing, coloured naturally using spinach leaves. Hidden talents abound in BFEI.

Winners of 1st, 2nd and 3rd place each walked away with a voucher to acknowledge their achievements. Following the competition and ensuring everyone had the opportunity to taste some bakes, there was a tea-party for all staff and students, hosted by the college.

Coffee and tea were consumed in vast quantities from quirky mugs dug out from the back of kitchen cabinets or off the top shelf, and dusted down. The buzz around the cafeteria was infectious and everyone joined in.



At 11am a dramatic and colourful balloon drop was released by Tina Reddin, the College Principal and Adrian Flynn, Director of Schools at DDLETB. Caught on phones and circulated widely this made for a dramatic moment of celebration.

For those who still had energy in the tank there was an 8km cycle to Sorrento Park with a picnic overlooking the panoramic views from Dalkey Island all the way around to Howth. The hot tea and treats at the summit were well deserved and fuelled the cycle home.



# Music Generation Fingal with Rivervalley CNS

ETB week got off to an exciting start on Monday 27th Feb when Music Generation Fingal hosted a very special recording session for Rivervalley CNS Swords.

Fourteen very talented 1st and 2nd class pupils, along with their teacher Rebekah Lawless and principal Anne McArdle, attended the technology room in Castlemill Education Centre, where they recorded their very own composition called 'Grow Together'.

The song was written by the children of Rivervalley CNS, in collaboration with Luan Parle (Songwriter/Performer). It perfectly captures the transformative effect that day-to-day life in an inclusive, supportive and creative educational environment (like that of Rivervalley CNS) can have on children.

The track was produced and engineered by Shane Latimer, who is an integral part of the Music Generation Fingal Musician Educator team. The children were thrilled to experience a professional recording setting and learned a lot along the way too. Special thanks to the Music Generation Fingal team of Lucy Coady and Damien Byrne for coordinating the project.

**"Growing like a great oak,  
all the knowledge we will soak."**



## The DDLETB Literacy Awareness Quiz

Have you ever wondered how Rugby scores are worked out? Or have you ever helped someone use a new piece of technology? Or have you wondered whether you should start, begin, commence or initiate a task? Well, if you have done anything like this you have engaged with literacy learning.

Questions on rugby scores, using Google maps and statistics were all asked and answered at the DDLETB Literacy Awareness Quiz hosted in Head Office. Literacy is now much broader than reading, writing and numeracy. To get along in life we need to be developing our literacy skills –some activities that are second nature to some people and are a real challenge for others which can lead to exclusion and inequality.

Through the #AdultLiteracyForLife Strategy, DDLETB is working to increase awareness of literacy, numeracy and digital inclusion, including in the workplace.





# Youth & Sports Development - ETB DAY

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Well done to Stephen Bates (Palmerstown Sports Centre) and the Team at DDLETB Youth & Sports Development Services for organising a Fun Sports Day at Firhouse Community Centre to celebrate ETB Week.



It was a really enjoyable event and included attendees from various Youth Service Departments. Teams competed in games such as “The Floor is Lava” and Boules and their creativity and ‘physics smarts’ were tested in “No Smashy the Egg”, it was great craic!

Follow the team on social media (Instagram) [@ddletbyouth](https://www.instagram.com/ddletbyouth)



# A Wonderful Return For The DDLETB Festival of Music

After a 3 year absence our DDLETB Festival of Music returned with a bang!



Organisers, Performers and the DDLETB Choir ensured that this Festival of Music was a momentous occasion for all involved and those in attendance. We were delighted to welcome again, **Ms. Liz Nolan** from Lyric FM, who presented this year's concert and showed great enthusiasm for the musical acts performing.

We commend all the students who took part in the event. Their commitment, enthusiasm, talent and hard work produced an extremely high standard of performance and created a delightful atmosphere against the backdrop of the historic National Concert Hall.

This was the 22nd year of the Festival of Music and it was a particularly moving event as we paid tribute to our colleagues, friends and founders of the Festival, **Mr. Paddy Scarlett** (Riversdale Community College/Rath Dara CC) and **Mr. Michael Stanley** (Riversdale CC, Donabate CC and Castleknock CC), both of whom have sadly passed away since our last Festival in 2020. It was the creativity, dedication and tireless commitment to the development of the Arts among the student body of Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB that saw them ultimately showcase their abilities in the prestigious venue that is the National Concert Hall.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Paddy and Michael. Their vision, determination and personal attributes offered our students the once in a lifetime opportunity to perform in a national venue and take with them memories that will last a lifetime.

The musical life of our schools and colleges and the Festival of Music would not be possible without the ongoing dedication and support of the music teachers and those who continue to devote so much time to the production and organisation of the Festival of Music.

We would also like to thank all those involved in this year's production, and in particular the Festival of Music organisers and directors **Mr. Paul Kingston** (former Principal, St. Mac Dara's Community College), **Ms. Carmel O'Neill** (Deputy Principal, Castleknock Community College) and **Ms. Aoife Staunton** (Music teacher, Castleknock Community College) for their unstinting work and enthusiasm. Thank you also to **Ms. Vanessa Butler** in her role as Musical Director for this year's Festival.

Thank you also to all those talented students who auditioned for the Festival and those who performed on the night and thank you also to the parents who supported students in taking part in the event.



# COLÁISTE DE HÍDE MURAL



The community of Coláiste de hÍde recently undertook a project to explore their school identity and values.

On the 18th of January, thanks to funding from the Tallaght Fund/Síol Foundation, a wonderful mural depicting these values and identity was launched.

The importance of community was the driving energy of this project.

A whole school committee was formed which applied for successful funding from the Tallaght fund/síol foundation. Last year's Transition Year students took part in a series of workshops on street art and graffiti design with Creative Connections and the talented artist Kevin Bohan.

There was extensive planning and discussion regarding the theme and the collaboration between the artist and the students was paramount in creating the magnificent piece in the heart of the school. The full year group were involved in the conceptual stages of idea-generation and design development. The three school values Meas – Bród – Comhar (Respect, Pride and Teamwork) are illustrated magnificently through the mural. The emphasis on our language and the pride the school community has for the Irish language is to the fore in the mural.





At the launch on the 18th of January, the students celebrated the mural and invited guests came to listen to the students tell their story regarding the mural; the journey from applying for funding to the finished piece. Principals and staff members from the local Gaelscoileanna, Scoil Santain, Scoil Chaitlín Maude and Gaelscoil na Giúse were present along with representatives from the Tallaght Fund/Síol Foundation and our school patron DDLETB. Speeches were made from the principal, Conchubhair Mac Ghloinn, the project co-ordinator, Méadhbh Ní Mhórdha, students, Natasha Ní Néill, Callum Ó Murchú and Aisling Ní Dháibhí and the artist Kevin Bohan. A timelapse video was shown to everyone which incorporated the workshops, planning and creation of the mural. The launch finished with photographs and refreshments.

A special thanks was given to Senator Lynn Ruane for her work in supporting the school in achieving the funding and sourcing Creative Connections and Kevin Bohan for the project.

We are all very proud of our school community in creating such a beautiful mural that incorporates who we are in Coláiste de hÍde.



Lig don mhaoiniú ón 'Tallaght Fund' seans do phobal Choláiste de hÍde iniúchadh a dhéanamh ar ár bhfeiniúlacht agus luachanna a raibh curtha in iúl go healaíonta ag seoladh an mhúrphictiúr ar an 18 Eanáir. Bhí an téama 'tábhacht an phobail' mar chroílár an tionscnaimh. Bunaíodh coiste uile-scoile a chur isteach ar an maoiniú. Ghlac lucht na hidirbhliana páirt i sraith de cheardlanna ar ealaín sráide agus dearadh grafitti le Creative Connections agus an t-ealaíontóir cumasach Kevin Bohan.

Bhí neart caibidile agus pleanála faoin téama agus bhí an comhoibriú leis an ealaíontóir agus na daltaí go mór chun tosaigh chun an saothar álainn a chruthú i gcroílár na scoile. Bhí an bhliainghrúpa ar fad páirteach sa chuid coincheapúla de chruthú téama agus forbairt dearaidh.

Bhí an trí luach scoile Meas - Bród - Comhar léirithe ar fheabhas tríd an mhúrphictiúr. Tá béim faoi leith ar an teanga agus an bród atá ag an

scoil phobail don Ghaeilge agus tugtar tús áite di ar an mhúrphictiúr.

Ag an seoladh ar an 18 Eanáir, bhí na daltaí ag ceiliúradh an mhúrphictiúir agus tugadh cuireadh do chuairteoirí teacht chun na scoile chun éisteacht leo faoin a scéal; an turas ó chur isteach don mhaoiniú go dtí a raibh bailchríoch air. Bhí príomhoidí agus foireann ó na gaelscoileanna áitiúla i láthair chomh maith le hionadaí ón Tallaght Fund/Síol Foundation agus ionadaí ón BOOBADL. Bhí óráidí ón bpríomhoide, ón gcomhordaitheoir, ó na daltaí agus ón ealaíontóir féin ar an lá. Taispeánadh físeán de na cheardlanna, pleanáil agus cruthú an mhúrphictiúir. Críochnaigh an seoladh le soláistí agus grianghrafanna. Gabhadh buíochas don seanadóir Lynn Ruane a thacaigh go mór leis an scoil sa tionscnamh. Táimid iontach brodíil as an scoil phobail tar éis mhúrphictiúr álainn a chruthú a léiríonn cé muid féin i gColáiste de hÍde.





# FOREVER DREAMING

Swords Community College's first ever Junk Kouture entry is "Forever Dreaming".

The inspiration behind the piece came from experiences that people share when they have lost a loved one. The designers wanted to portray a late evening sunset, which for many symbolises a time of peace.

Using soft pillow stuffing on the dress skirt represents rolling clouds you'd see as you gaze up towards the sky, it brings lightheartedness to the piece. The combination of the rosy pinks (died cotton pads) and recycled LED lights, illustrates a perfect late evening scenery, dotted with twinkling stars.

On the day of the photoshoot the designers were all excited and proud to bring all aspects of their piece together. After completing makeup and hair it was time to go around the school to take photos and videos for the submission. They chose to do the photoshoot in the school as it was a more sustainable option and allowed them to showcase their dress within the school community.

Designers are patiently waiting to hear who goes through to the next round.

The team behind this gorgeous creation is TY students: Amy Bayley, Alix Kelly, Nicola Lott with educator Oide Sarah Ryan

Photographer and Videographer is TY student Tadhg Daly who also runs his own content creation business The Daly Productions.



Instagram Page: [@foreverdreamingdublin](https://www.instagram.com/foreverdreamingdublin)



# Adamstown Community College

## BT Young Scientist 2023

AI - energy is a project initially created to take part at BT Young Scientists and Technology exhibition. The aim was to try to increase the efficiency of a new type of battery cell, an air-aluminium cell. This cell would use oxygen, water and aluminium as the fuel for electricity production.

The idea appeared after watching a video from the internet. Most modern batteries use rare earth metals in their construction whereas both air and aluminium are almost limitless resources. As a result of months of work, I was able to achieve my aims and find a way to improve this type of cell by using chemical and physical methods.

After all the effort put into the project I was delighted to win two awards in the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2023. The first one was the STRIPE student award for best project in Chemical, Physical and Mathematical category.

The second award was runner-up in the BT Young Scientist Individual Award. It would not have been possible to complete the project without external help. I am extremely grateful to my parents who supported me morally and financially through all that year.

Also I am thankful to my Principal, Mr. Dave Anderson and Adamstown Community College for materials provided and logistical help. Lastly I would like to express my gratitude to Mr. Sean O'Donnell, my physics and coordinator teacher and both Mr. Lynch and Miss. Halloran for their help and guidance during the work.

Even though the exhibition is over, it does not mean that the work on this idea has stopped. This project has grown far beyond initial boundaries.



**Adrian Dragomir- Winner of the 'Stripe' and BT Young Scientist, and overall BT Young Scientist Individual Runner up**

I have lots of ideas for future improvements and big plans. My first steps will be to attempt a third level education in order to increase my knowledge and then to move towards a PhD degree and continue with my research in the area of science.



# FET News

## Air Corps Graduation

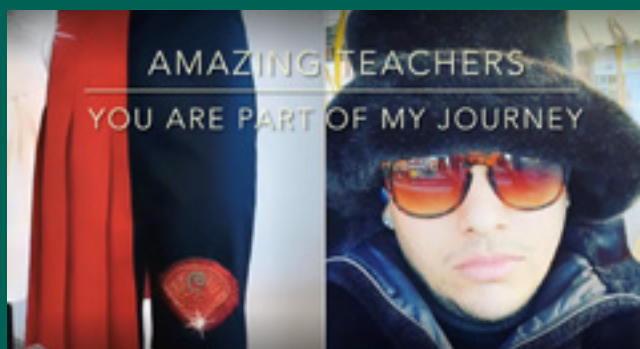
DDLETB Adult Education Service South West and the Air Corps celebrate QQI achievements and the end of a project!

Seven Air Corps personnel received their QQI certificates at a celebration event in head office on 21st February 2023. The group were the third and final group to take part in the Tobar RPL project here in DDLETB. Tobar was a national project in the recognition of prior learning involving the Defence Forces and 10 ETBs. It set out to provide a pathway to potential certification for DF staff members who had extensive on-the-job learning and experience but not the accreditation for it.

The Adult Education Service in Lucan partnered with the Air Corps to facilitate staff in their RPL applications, with support from the QA Unit. DDLETB congratulates the participants on their achievements. The project has provided valuable learning to inform RPL policy and practice in DDLETB.



Air Corps personnel receive QQI certificates. Pictured with DDLETB CEO Cairiona Murphy and Air Corps guests, are some of the project participants, Lorraine Mullally and Monica McGrath who acted as RPL mentors, and Fiona Fay QA Unit.



## Sallynoggin Student Video

Below is a link of a short video based on an Instagram post that one of Sallynoggin College's students posted recently about his project work.

His original post is on Instagram [@cvvgfashionstyle](https://www.instagram.com/cvvgfashionstyle)

He is a great ambassador for the college and the DDLETB.

From the day he set foot in the college, he has always been so positive about his experiences and his learning. He also recently received his Irish citizenship and is so proud of that too. He would be a really, really worthy entrant!



# Comic Book Heroes

## Balbriggan AES Literacy Team

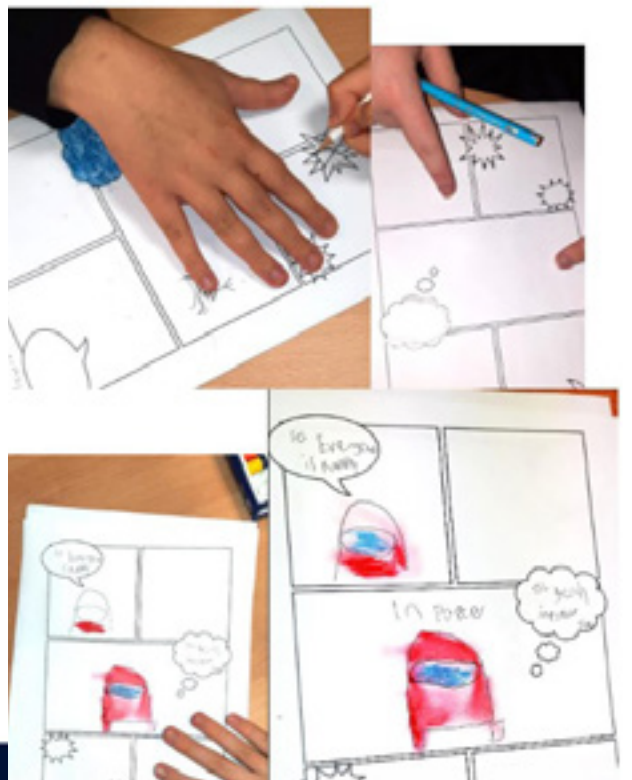
Our General Learning Level 2 group were all referred to us by an organisation, Prosper Fingal, who support those with intellectual disabilities. This group spent a year together, building their skills in literacy, technology and learning to learn.

Moving to a Level 2 programme that has learning outcomes and expectations can be challenging but this year supported them to get ready and set their goals.

Teamwork, collaboration and integration of modules and learning outcomes create a better learning environment for learners, especially for those with disabilities and through brainstorming, facilitation and looking at shared interests, the group decided to integrate the Reading, Writing and Listening and Speaking modules and meet the learning outcomes through the medium of art by creating a comic book.

The group brought in some old magazines and worked on a story board to support a comic book strip. It was a collaborative effort where; through words and imagery everyone was encouraged to add a piece.

To give an example of how they created their ideas, they were talking about their journey to our centre on the bus and the tutor used this idea to use hyperbole (exaggerating statements) by adding villains and heroes to encourage expansion of selective attention.







The tutor noted that there was a direct increase in focused thought, words and listening skills. This gave us more confidence that this concept would work as we could measure the progress while keeping the learning outcomes in mind. While using a creative approach to meet the learning outcomes, the learners progress showed focus, engagement and evidence of real transferrable skills. This benefits their daily living and independent progression giving them real opportunities to move forward in their lives and education.

The tutor, Gillian, used the comic book idea to look at both bizarre and everyday situations for inspiration and education with the intention of emulating a sense of well-being and safety among the learners, creating confidence in their individual learning abilities and personal growth.

Learning outcomes were integrated between the different modules and to gather the non-tangible aspects to the class, the tutor kept her own reflective journal which helped to address the outcomes of the Listening and Speaking element. The learners worked on different forms of writing which included research, journaling and reflection.

They used reading strategies to research narratives and ideas. They brainstormed regularly, creating posters and collages. They had discussions, formed opinions, listened to others, improved their focus and attention and looked at non-verbal communication. They had one-to-one informal reviews and peer group discussions to discuss progress.

Overall, the intention was to create briefs and tasks around a concept that would not overcomplicate their natural desire to learn but show their natural progression and individual development organically. To specifically meet the criteria and learning outcomes, the learners kept a weekly reflective journal which was both written and visual where they worked on their vocabulary, writing and spelling. They used technology to research ideas, images etc. and used relevant texts for reading purposes. They completed story boards, created posters and mind maps and recorded discussions and reflections.

Finding new and innovative ways of engaging our learners ensures diversity and inclusion and while we ended up with a wonderful comic book and three completed QQI Level 2 modules, the learning for both the participants and the teacher went far beyond this and will better inform our teaching and learning going forward.



# Spraoi'23 visits Coláiste de hÍde!

23 Eanáir– 23 Bealtaine, 2023

Tá sé mar aidhm ag SPRAOI'23 scoláirí iarbhunscoile na tíre a chur ag gabháil do ghníomhaíochtaí spráúla agus comórtais trí mheán na Gaeilge agus grá don Ghaeilge agus don chultúr a chothú agus go mór, mór féachaint ar an nGaeilge mar theanga bheo seachas mar rud atá i bhfolach i dtéacsleabhar i mála scoile!

Tá clár spreagúil imeachtaí deartha ag Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna Éireann le go spreagfaidh sé scoláirí spraoi a bheith acu leis an nGaeilge. Tá an clár oscailte do dhaltai in iarbhunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus lán-Bhéarla, agus bronnfar duaiseanna flaithiúla ar bhuaiteoirí ó scoileanna lán-Ghaeilge agus lán-Bhéarla chomh maith.

Toisc Boird Oideachais agus Oiliúna Éireann tiomanta don oideachas lán-Ghaeilge agus don teanga, tá cinneadh déanta againn go mbeidh SPRAOI'23 oscailte do gach dalta i nGACH iarbhunscoil, agus ní do hiarbhunscoileanna na mBord Oideachais agus Oiliúna amháin. Is é an réasúnaíocht atá againn ná go bhfuil an Ghaeilge ann do chách; agus ba chóir go mbeadh spraoi ag gach duine le Gaeilge agus leas a bhaint as rannpháirtíocht in SPRAOI'23. Tá an-áthas orainn tabhairt faoin tionscnamh seo.

Táimid thar a bheith buíoch go bhfuil maoiniú faighte againn ón gComhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) chun cur lenár gcumas an tionscnamh seo a réachtáil. Gan tacaíocht ó COGG, ní bhéimis in ann an méid seo deiseanna a chur ar fáil do scoláirí le duaiseanna iontacha, flaithiúla.

**#Spraoi23 #SpraoiLeGaeilge #SpraoiSanETB**

Má tá ceist agat nó tuilleadh eolais ag teastáil, cuir ríomhphost chugainn ag [spraoi23@etbi.ie](mailto:spraoi23@etbi.ie)

**Go raibh maith agat ETBI.**



**Spraoi'23 is taking place from January 23rd to May 23rd 2023.**

The aim of SPRAOI is promote the Irish language and to involve learners in fun activities and competitions through the Irish language. It also aims to foster a love for Irish and culture and to encourage learners to see Irish as a living language. The Education and Training Board Ireland has designed an exciting event program to encourage students to have fun with the Irish language. The program is open to students in both Irish and English medium post-primary schools, and generous prizes will be awarded to winners. Our learners and staff at Coláiste de hÍde had great fun getting involved in the promotion for Spraoi'23 with Spraoi Ambassador Aindriú de Paor - Craoltóir agus Láithreoir raidió le RTÉ 2FM.

Visit the website for more information  
<https://events.etbi.ie/SPRAOI23>.



# The Dominick Lewis Excellence in Leadership Award.



When people talk about leadership and leaders it's very easy to think immediately just about politicians and presidents, chief executives, and chairpersons. But in LIFT they know that great leadership can be seen anywhere. Because being a great leader is about being a positive influence on whoever is around us, in the way we lead our own lives.

It's about the kind of people we are, not what we do but the way we do what we do, how well we can listen to others, understand them, and empathize with them. It's about our courage to live with integrity and to be accountable for ourselves. LIFT recognise those people around us in our families, communities, and workplaces who every day are leading in a positive and real way and deserve to be recognised.



## The LIFT Programme

LIFT Ireland is a non-profit organisation and social enterprise aimed at increasing the level of positive leadership in Ireland. Founded in late 2017, the movement was officially launched in May 2018 at LIFT OFF, an inaugural event attended by some of Ireland's foremost leaders in business, arts, education, and sport. LIFT, which stands for 'Leading Ireland's Future Together', was built on a desire to change the country for the better by changing the way people view leadership. It aims to do this through its eight-part, group learning process. LIFT Ireland is a social enterprise aimed at increasing the level of positive leadership in Ireland.



Those considered for the **Dominick Lewis Excellence in Leadership Award** are all people who believe in helping others to reach their potential and grow. The requirements to be a nominee are that these people live the LIFT values, empower others, run LIFT roundtables consistently and think outside the box to embed LIFT to bring about change.

Dominick was a key part of bringing LIFT to life both in industry and the education sector. He continues to inspire all of the LIFT Ireland team. Everyone who knew him thought of him as an incredible leader who empowered others. He passed away too soon, and this award was created in his memory.



Youthreach Clondalkin introduced the LIFT program in 2019 and have been using it continuously since then. It is incorporated into our Language, Literacy and Numeracy plan.

All of our learners participate in the weekly sessions called Round Tables. LIFT looks at ten different values which include Listening, Positive Attitude, Respect, Competence, Determination, Empathy and Understanding, Resilience, Accountability, Honesty & Integrity and Innovation & Adaptability.

The program allows for analysis and reflection in each of the values as well as deriving strategies to improve on these values. In 2021 LIFT was imbedded into our Teamwork Level 4 QQI module and our Customer Services Level 4 module, which have both been successfully Externally Authenticated by QQI.

Youthreach Clondalkin was awarded the Living Lift Award in 2020 and again at The LIFT Ireland awards ceremony on Thursday 9th of February 2023. This award is given in recognition of Living LIFT and strengthening leadership in our organisation. We are also a recognised partner of LIFT Ireland.

Centre Resource person Antoinette Nolan was nominated for The Dominick Lewis Excellence in Leadership Award and was shortlisted and as one of the final three possible recipients.

At the Awards Ceremony on February 9th, 2023, Antoinette won this prestigious award. We are delighted for Antoinette and congratulate her on her well-deserved achievement.



# ddletb



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

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