

FOREWORD

Welcome everyone to the sixth edition of the DDLETB Development team Newsletter. Where does time go? Welcome back to a new academic year without facemasks and social distancing. 2022/23 is going to be a good year. A special welcome to all our new members of staff. You chose well! We are happy to have you join #TeamDDLETB.

In this edition, you will find a review of DDLETB's 10 years as an Authorised Cambridge English exam centre. This review is timely, as we look forward to welcoming Ukrainian and many other refugees to our schools. It is a good time to take stock: What is the state of language support in DDLETB post primary schools and what is in place to support both students and teachers?

We do things very differently in DDL: We have worked hard over the years to put robust systems in place for some of our more vulnerable learners and to support you in the work you do.

In this edition, you will find an overview of the numerous supports and professional development opportunities available to all across our schools, offered by myself and my colleagues Caroline, Lorna, Janet and Frances – **The Development Team. There is something for everyone:** Middle Leadership, Leadership Connect, UDL training, CLIL and ELT training. Please get involved in what is on offer and attend network events where you can, so we can continue to build community and to link in across our 31 post primary Community Colleges, 10 Community National Schools, Youthreach, Adult Education and Further Education centres.

This is our strength as an organisation – our people, our community. I look forward to seeing you in your schools in the coming weeks.

Mary Kenny, ESOL Development Officer.



Mary Kenny,
ESOL Development Officer.



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Oiliúna Éireann



EAL AND ESOL SUPPORT IN DDLETB

DDLETB IS A CAMBRIDGE ASSESSMENT ENGLISH AUTHORISED EXAM CENTRE.

DDL is the only ETB (of 16) which is an Authorised Exam Centre and has been for 10 years alongside UCD, UL and UCC. We are celebrating our 10th anniversary as an exam centre and looking back at some of the memorable moments.

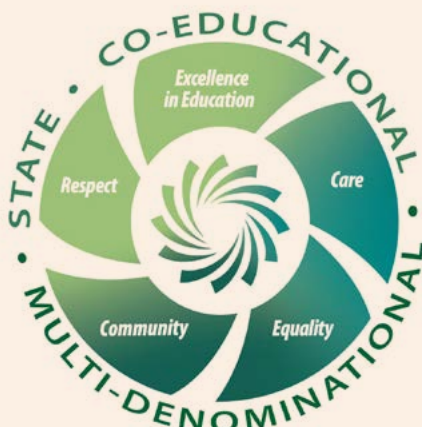
What impact has this relationship with Cambridge Assessment English had on the work we do in ESOL and EAL in DDL?

- The work done in EAL reflects and contributes to UNESCO Sustainable Development Goal 4



By 2030, all boys and girls complete free, equitable and quality education that responds to and reflects the multilingual nature of the society (SDG 4; UNESCO 2017).

- The work to support the language needs of EAL students and therefore their wellbeing, also closely reflects the ethos of DDLETB – in particular, excellence in education, equality and care:

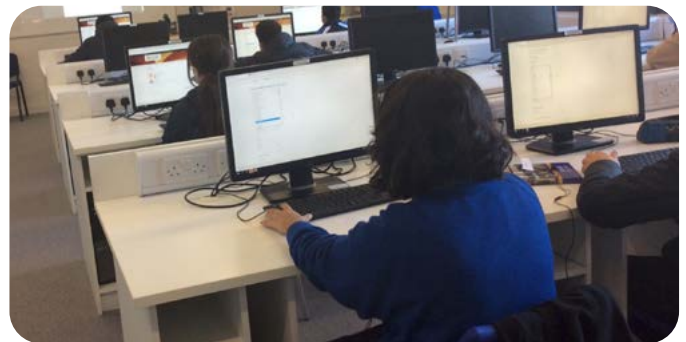


Cambridge Assessment
English

Authorised Exam Centre

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH PLACEMENT TEST.

We assess approximately 700 post primary students a year who have English as an additional language in our post primary schools. We track and monitor their improvement in language skills over time, to identify who needs and is entitled to language support, to ensure we have a sufficient teacher allocation for EAL across our schools, to ensure subject teachers are aware of the needs of students in their classes and most importantly, to give students and their parents feedback on their English language and literacy skills. Over lockdown, we were able to measure the impact of school closures on our most vulnerable students' language and literacy development. Hence the DDLETB reading competition was born!



Assessment for Learning. Students in Kishoge CC doing the adaptive Cambridge English Placement test online Oct 2021.

THE DDL READING COMPETITION

Using valid and reliable data generated by online testing (using the Cambridge English Placement test), we were able to identify 15 students out of 700 EAL students whose reading scores had improved significantly from one year to the next during lockdown. This achievement was celebrated across our schools. Prizes were drawn at the principals' meeting before the Christmas breaks in 2020 and 2021. See some of the finalists below from different DDL schools:



Student receiving her cert from Principal David Anderson, Adamstown CC Dec 2021



Student from Lusk CC with Principal Pat Cole Dec 2020



Students with their Teacher John Kenny, Adamstown CC Dec 2021

Not only is the online Cambridge English Placement test used in post primary, it is embedded in practice across our organisation - in our Adult Education Service, our Colleges of Further Education and in Youthreach. We can accurately determine the language skills of students who are accessing our FET courses – especially where there is a language requirement to get onto the course.

English Language Teacher training leading to internationally recognised certification - Cambridge English TKT Module 1 (Teaching Knowledge Test): Every year since 2005, we have run a teacher training course intensively over a week in June **for post primary teachers who want to work with EAL students.**

This training is bespoke to DDLETB and not replicated outside our organisation. This course and ongoing mentoring of teachers through the EAL network and school support visits, ensure DDLETB has a highly trained cohort of teachers leading EAL support in our schools. As an organisation, we were therefore able to hit the ground running when Ukrainian students joined our schools: Systems were already in place to ensure Quality Education and a whole-school response to their needs and to the needs of all EAL students equally. Likewise, supports were already in place for adults looking for ESOL classes through our FET service.



Teachers from 24 different schools attending a week of intensive teacher training leading to certification from Cambridge English, June 2022.

Extracts (Testimonials)

From written feedback from teachers who did the training, June 2022:

- “The course was fantastic. M was very organised and made the course very structured and easy to follow. All the handouts and worksheets were excellent. I feel much more prepared to teach EAL. I know how to do assessments, testing, planning. I look forward to going back to my school in September and share what I have learned with my department” Sarah
- “I’m much more aware as a subject teacher of the difficulties EAL students face... I found all aspects useful but particularly the work that put me in the shoes of the students and made me think about their challenges” Collette
- “The course has helped me massively in terms of my teaching EAL” Eoin B
- “It was really insightful and helpful especially as I have no experience of EAL so will be well-equipped and knowledgeable in September” Anonymous
- “Practical advice and resources. Clear guidance on how to support EAL students... Feeling confident and inspired.. Thank you” Caroline
- “I feel I have learned how to run an EAL department (including documentation, assessment, resources, policy etc. It was an extremely practical course, and I am leaving with many actionable tips” Keeva F.
- “I have learned some useful teaching methods which are really practical” Tina
- “I liked when we talked about real students, our experiences. I found it VERY interesting all the resources we were given” Maria
- “I loved learning about what resources I can bring to my school... I would love to work on giving presentations to bring to the school to give information” Seán

Teacher training for subject teachers leading to Cambridge English TKT CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning).

This training, for all subject teachers who wish to support the language needs of students in their class, first started in 2009/10 in Luttrellstown CC followed in 2010/11 by 46 teachers from Adamstown CC, Lucan CC and St Kevin's CC. The next group was a group of teachers in Fingal CC/ St Finians followed by a group in Greenhills College. In 2011, the project won the The European Language Label. The jury comments were as follows:

"This project is meeting the needs of learners in post primary schools for whom English is not their first language....The approach is supportive of students with EAL needs across the range of subjects. It should also motivate teachers as student outcomes improve.... There were clear objectives and the teachers who availed of the training reported that the training has helped them considerably in their work..... A further application was the use of this training for teachers in the Irish medium schools in Co. Dublin VEC.... Very relevant in the context of mobility across the European Union... The progress and success experienced by the teachers who have undertaken the course should ensure sustainability".



16 SCHOOLS HAVE HOSTED CLIL TRAINING:

Luttrellstown CC x 2, Adamstown CC x 2, St Kevin's CC, St Finian's CC, Greenhills College, Ardgillan CC, Balbriggan CC, Riversdale CC, Lusk CC, Collinstown Park, Firhouse CC, Deansrath CC and Donabate CC as well as sessions in the Plaza Hotel, Tallaght and a course for PDST, courses for PME's in Maynooth University.

In 2013 and 2014, 48 teachers did training in CLIL as gaeilge (in collaboration with NUIG) from Coláiste de hÍde and Coláiste Chilllain.

Both training and exams were held in each school's premises. To date, all exam fees have been funded for DDL staff to ensure the biggest impact in each school.



Some of the teachers from Donabate CC who attended CLIL training Jan to March 2022



Teachers from Lusk CC who attended CLIL training in their school 2016. Where are they now?

Some 13 years later, 600+ teachers have been trained in CLIL across different DDL post primary schools. Teachers have been trained to be more aware of the language of their subject and to know how to support students who don't have English as a first language.

This year, in partnership with KWETB, teachers from **FET services** in both ETBs will have the opportunity to participate together in a blended online CLIL course leading to certification from Cambridge Assessment English. As the European Language Label jury forecast in 2011, this is indeed a sustainable project.



Professional Learning in partnership with DDLETB and KWETB

CLIL

Gain an internationally recognised teaching award in Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL) from Cambridge Assessment English

Online course

September-December

Total commitment 3 hours per week plus TKT CLIL exam

ALISS

2021 European Language Label



Ready and waiting for exams to start, Tuansgate CC (DDL Head Office). Thank you to Christy, our amazing caretaker for his support over the years.

CLIL training for subject teachers and SNAs will take place in Swords CC for staff in schools in the local area starting 28th Sept. All are welcome. Training consists of 4 x 2 hour face to face sessions with reflection tasks to carry out between sessions. The mock exam (corrected in Cambridge) as well as the live exam will take place in Swords CC. The cost of certification from Cambridge Assessment English will be funded. To express interest and for any queries, please contact marykenny@ddletb.ie

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

**106 YOUNG TEENS WERE EXAMINED
IN HEAD OFFICE IN ONE DAY -
25TH MAY 2022.**

They sat Cambridge B1 Preliminary (PET) for Schools and B2 First for Schools. On the day, we had an unannounced inspection from Cambridge English but were again awarded the top rating:

Excellent. *"Congratulations on your centre being awarded the highest rating. We would like to take this opportunity to compliment you and your colleagues on this successful outcome and the positive contribution you have made to our high standards"* The inspector, Olena was Ukrainian and told us how well-known and sought after Cambridge English exams are in Ukraine.

Over the past 10 years (including during lockdown – Summer 2020 and Summer 2021), an average of 400 students a year have sat Cambridge English exams in May and June each year. Post primary students do not pay exam fees, which to date have been funded by DDL.



Seniors from Fingal CC receiving their Cambridge English certs



Students from Grange CC who, along with 2 teachers from the school sat Cambridge B2 First with their peers from other DDL schools (photo taken Sept 2022). Three students in the group scored C1 (the level above the level of the exam!) Well done to all, in particular their teachers Denise and Mary.

"They were absolutely delighted! Delighted we were able to offer them the opportunity". Denise B

DDL HAS WORKED HARD TO ENSURE ALL EAL STUDENTS IN OUR POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS RECEIVE THE BEST SUPPORT TO MEET THEIR LANGUAGE AND LITERACY NEEDS AND THEREFORE TO SUPPORT THEIR WELLBEING.

- 1 Cambridge English Placement test to track and monitor language skills
- 2 English Language Teacher training to train up new EAL teachers leading to Cambridge English Teaching Knowledge Test Module 1.
- 3 Teacher training for subject teachers leading to Cambridge English TKT CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning).
- 4 Cambridge English exams for TY students who don't yet have the language skills to reach their potential in senior cycle. B1 Preliminary for Schools and B2 First for Schools.



10
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

**HAPPY 10TH ANNIVERSARY
AS A CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAM CENTRE!**

**The next EAL network meeting will be face to face
(for the first time in 2 years) in Head Office on
Wednesday 5th October 1.30 to 3.30**



ETB ETHOS & CORE VALUES

'CHILDREN DON'T CARE HOW MUCH YOU KNOW UNTIL THEY KNOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE' -

John Maxwell

Our values led year begins this term with the value of care. This is the perfect start as schools welcome back staff and students after the summer holidays. We are really excited to share in this conversation with you all as we celebrate the many ways DDL schools hold care at the centre of everything they do.



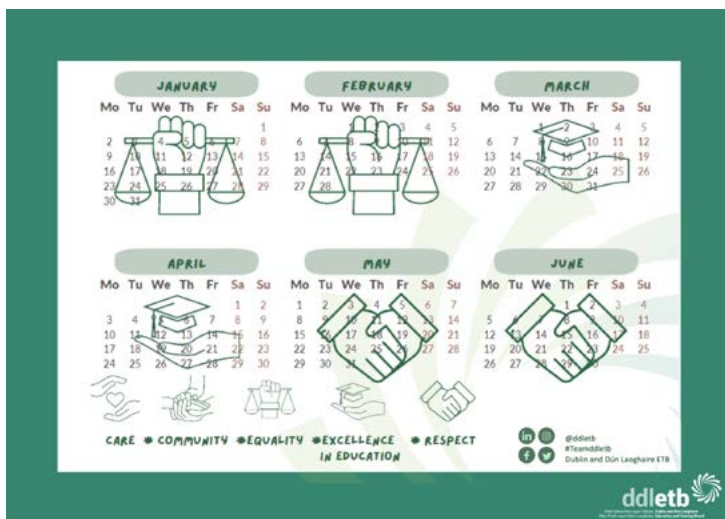
RETURN TO SCHOOL:

A big thank you to all the schools who engaged in the embedding ethos staff presentation. The short presentation below, offered an introduction and overview to the Patron's Framework and the supports for schools as they begin their work of embedding ethos.

[Return to School Presentation as Gaeilge.pdf](#)

[Return to School Staff Presentation in English.pdf](#)

The start of this new academic year marks an exciting time for DDL as the Ethos network begins its work in engaging with the ETB Ethos Framework and focus on embedding ethos in our school communities. The network will be made up of ethos leads from across our post-primary schools and will meet for the first time on September 27th.



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.' ETB Patron's Framework, pg 16.



Griffen CC
@GriffenCC

We had a full house for our assembly with first year students today. They enjoyed a great induction program with their tutors and got to meet with their new class groups.
#caringforeachother #care @JigsawYMH @ddletb

Castlenock CC
Great morning exploring our Ethos @CastlenockCC with fantastic engagement from our entire staff
@ddletb #etbethos #teamddletb



Fingal Comm College
A very small snapshot of the hard work and effort that our staff are putting in to creating positive, supportive learning environments for all our students
#excellenceineducation #collaborationinaction



SNA SUMMER PROGRAMME



It was a real pleasure to have so many of our SNA teams at this year's Summer CPD Programme. Such an enjoyable and engaging session with Joseph Lynch on Supporting Positive Behaviour. Our SNAs are so critical to the inclusion of students with additional needs, it was terrific to share experiences and hear about the great work being done in all of our schools. Best of luck to everyone for this year!



SCAN ME
TO REGISTER

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

There will be a meeting in Head Office (Green Room) for newly appointed SENCOs on the 13th September. We'll look at student planning for 2022/23. Use the QR Code to register. There will be more information to follow by email.

DEIS NETWORK

The DEIS Coordinators Network will meet on **11th October, Green Room, Tuansgate**. We'll look at 'Setting the Clock for 2022/23', our priorities and plans. More information to follow by email.

SENCO NETWORK

Our first in-person meeting will take place on **13th October in Head Office**. We'll look creative strategies for meeting the needs of our students, in particular those following L2LP. More information to follow by email.

UDL BADGE AUTUMN 2022

Registration for the next UDL Badge is now open. Universal Design for Learning seeks to provide all students regardless of ability, with opportunities to learn to the best of their abilities. The framework offers teachers a guide for creating flexible goals, methods, materials and assessments that work for everyone.

Universal Design in
Teaching and Learning



UDL FRAMEWORK AS INCLUSIVE PRACTICE

The 3 Principles of UDL include:

- Giving learners different ways to acquire information
- Giving learners different ways to demonstrate what they've learned
- Tapping into learners different interests, challenging them appropriately, and motivating them to learn

The UDL Badge is a 10 week online course (25 hours in total, 2.5 hours per week) that offers teacher an introduction to the principles and the opportunity to use the framework to start developing UDL practice in their classes.

[Click here to register](#)

Registration will close on 22nd September for the **course to commence on 27th Sept 2022**.

If you have any queries please contact francesgibson@ddletb.ie



THE TEACHER INDUCTION PROGRAMME IS DESIGNED TO WELCOME NEW DDLETB TEACHERS AND TO SUPPORT THEM IN OUR ORGANISATION.

It consists of:

1 x 3 hour session which will be held in DDLETB Head Office. The session aims to provide our new colleagues with a background to DDLETB, our Ethos and Core Values. It is also a vital opportunity for our new colleagues to visit Head Office and meet members of our Senior Management and Development Support Team.

This year the session will also include practical approaches for teaching and learning as well as caring for ourselves and our learners. Participants will be provided with a certificate of attendance for this programme. To register for the Teacher Induction Programme please speak to your Deputy Principal who will share the registration link with you.

WELCOME TO #TEAMDDLETB.



THE TEACHER INDUCTION PROGRAMME TAKES PLACE ON
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2022.

SOCIAL/ DIGITAL MEDIA

IT WAS LOVELY TO VIRTUALLY MEET OUR SOCIAL MEDIA LEADS FROM SCHOOLS AND CENTRES IN MAY.

Thank you to all those who attended. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect and begin our Digital Media Network. We are in the process of planning our support and training schedule for 2022-2023 and we will be in touch with you all shortly. In the meantime please keep an eye on our Team for updates and resources.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to get in touch janetmurphy@ddletb.ie

As always we will be following our schools and centres closely across all social media platforms. Please make sure to follow us @ddletb and tag us #ddletb #Teamddletb in all posts.

Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) and make sure to list us as your Employer www.linkedin.ie/dublinanddunlaoghaireETB

Also remember to use your DDLETB email for all CPD registrations and communications. If you have any issues connecting to your email or Office365 please contact itsupport@ddletb.ie



Connect with us on [LinkedIn](#) at
Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB

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