Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB





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



DDLETB Community National Schools: Inclusive, Innovative, and Inspiring

Ardgillan Leinster Champions!

Two DDLETB Schools Awarded Champion School of Sanctuary

National ETHOS Symposium Professional Development Continues

Youthreach Making Waves

+ Much More!

NEWSLETTER EDITION 17 - MARCH 2025

ETB Week March 24th to 28th

ETB Week is just around the corner, running from March 24th to 28th, 2025, and we can't wait to celebrate!



#ETBWEEK2025 is an exciting week-long celebration of staff and learners across Ireland's 16 Education and Training Boards. Showcasing the incredible work of ETBs across the country and the education and training we provide to learners of all ages in our local communities: from Community National Schools and Community Colleges to Further Education & Training and Youth Services.

A highlight of the week is ETB Excellence Awards in Croke Park on Thursday, March 27th, where we will come together to recognise achievements, share experiences, and celebrate our vibrant ETB community. ETB Hero and RTE Newsreader Ray Kennedy will be the event MC and there will be some very special guests.

Key events during ETB WEEK include:

- ETB Excellence Awards recognising excellence, innovation and inclusion across all areas of education, training and youth services;
- ETB All Stars talent competition;
- · Launch of landmark publication about Ireland's Education & Training Boards;
- · Muintearas'25: A Celebration of Inclusion in Irish-medium ETB schools;
- · Events across ETBs for learners and staff; and
- · Campaign to promote ETBs accross national, local and social media.

We extend our best wishes to all our DDLETB award nominees and those participating in the talent competition—good luck, and enjoy every moment of this fantastic occasion!





Ardgillan College success at St Andrew's International Model United Nations.

Four students from Ardgillan College represented Iceland at the St Andrew's International Model United Nations (SAIMUN) conference for four days over the February mid-term. A first for Ardgillan College, Adam, Abbi, Cian and Catherine were honored to fly the flag for Iceland in the international affairs.

International Model United Nations (IMUN) brings young people together from around the world to learn and share ideas from a diverse set of experiences and backgrounds. The Executive board, International Press and International Delegates consolidate to learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.

In preparation for the event, the students put a huge amount of time into researching international policies, drafting resolutions, and honing their debating skills. Throughout the conference, they engaged in rigorous discussions, lobbying for support from other countries and passionately advocating for their resolutions in committee sessions and the General Assembly.

Serving as Iceland's ambassador, Adam led the team with confidence, ensuring that their stance on global issues was well-articulated and supported by strong arguments. Among the key topics debated were cyber security, the evolving role of Artificial Intelligence (AI), and climate action. The students collaborated with delegations from around the world, negotiating amendments, forming alliances, and gaining valuable insight into the complexities of international diplomacy.

Their hard work and commitment did not go unnoticed. The Ardgillan College delegation was awarded Highly Commended Delegation a testament to their teamwork, thorough preparation and diplomacy. Additionally, Catherine was honoured with the Distinguished Delegate Award, recognising her contributions throughout the conference.

Huge well done to all the team.







WELL DONE TO LEINSTER CHAMPIONS, ARDGILLAN COLLEGE!





The 7th February will be remembered as a historic day for Ardgillan College, marking a momentous victory for the Senior Boys GAA team.

All roads led to Darver, where the Ardgillan squad faced off in an intense battle to claim the title of Leinster GAA champions. The team's journey to this achievement was paved with dedication, resilience, and sheer determination under the guidance of their coaches, Mr. McBearty, Mr. Collins, and Mr. O'Shea.

In the highly anticipated Leinster Final, Ardgillan College went head-to-head with formidable opponents, Bush Post-Primary School. The Ardgillan team showcased their skill, teamwork, and unwavering commitment. Despite immense pressure from their rivals, the players remained resolute, demonstrating exceptional sportsmanship and a deep passion for the game. Every pass, tackle, and score reflected the countless hours of training and preparation invested by the squad.

The core value of Community was evident by the sheer number of Ardgillan supporters. Staff, parents/guardians, students, past-students and local GAA team members came out to cheer the lads on. Team captain Jack acknowledged how much this support meant on behalf of the whole team.

Following their hard-fought triumph, the team returned to Ardgillan College as champions, proudly presenting their well-earned trophy to Principal Ms. Ní Mhurchú as the latest edition to our trophy cabinet. Congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff for bringing home this remarkable achievement—Leinster Champions 2025!

DDLETB Engages with Global EdTech Leaders at BETT 2025

Members of DDLETB schools, colleges and centres recently attended the annual BETT Conference in London, the world's largest EdTech event, bringing together over 30,000 educators, policymakers, and industry changemakers from 130 countries. With more than 500 EdTech exhibitors and 300 expert speakers, BETT continues to be a game-changing event, highlighting the future of education through technology and innovation.

For **Team DDLETB**, BETT is always a **unique opportunity** to connect with global educators, explore cutting-edge educational technologies, and exchange ideas on best practices. The event showcased a vast array of advancements, from **Literacy and Numeracy supports** to **SEN and STEM**, **E-Sports**, **Interactive Learning**, and the transformative potential of **Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality** in the classroom.

One of the key themes at this year's conference was the role of AI in education, with thought-provoking discussions on how artificial intelligence can be leveraged to enhance learning experiences, provide personalised instruction, and support both students and teachers in efficient and meaningful ways. Similarly, Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) were highlighted as powerful tools for immersive learning, allowing students to engage with content in ways never before possible—whether through virtual science experiments, historical recreations, or simulated real-world problemsolving.

Another major focus was **EdTech solutions for Special Educational Needs (SEN)**, with a growing number of technologies designed to support differentiated learning and accessibility. From assistive reading tools to adaptive learning platforms, the emphasis was on making education **more inclusive** and ensuring that all students, regardless of their learning needs, have access to high-quality education.

BETT 2025 also provided valuable insights into the increasing role of **E-Sports in education**, with discussions on how competitive gaming can foster teamwork, strategic thinking, and digital literacy and often improve participation.



With many schools now integrating **E-Sports** into their curriculum and extra-curricular programmes, the conference explored ways to maximise its educational benefits while promoting student engagement and well-being.

In addition to exploring the latest advancements in technology, DDLETB representatives had the opportunity to network with global experts, attend interactive workshops, and discover best practices from leading education systems around the world. As education continues to evolve, the insights gained at BETT will help shape the future of learning within DDLETB, ensuring our schools remain at the forefront of innovation, accessibility, and excellence.

With so much inspiration and knowledge to take away, we look forward to seeing how these cutting-edge developments can be implemented within DDLETB schools, colleges and centres in the coming years.

Greenhills Community College at BETT UK: Empowering Inclusive EdTech

Greenhills Community College's AEN Coordinator attended the annual BETT UK event in London this January - a global forum dedicated to technological innovations and inclusion in education.

At the event, Mr. Stone presented on the newly established SEN stage. delivering the presentation entitled "Inclusive EdTech: Empowering All Students Through Thoughtful Innovation." His talk underscored Greenhills CC ongoing commitment to enhancing student wellbeing and academic attainment through its inclusive model.

Complementing this perspective, Ciaran addressed the growing demand for special class placements both in Ireland and globally. He emphasised that an inclusive approach not only benefits students across all levels but also offers a timely solution amid a worldwide teacher shortage.

Greenhills Community College continues to set a benchmark in inclusive education through several best practices. These include a progressive and inclusive timetable, L2LP programs designed for real-life and engaging learning, a positive rewards system, practical use of technology in SEN and mainstream classes alike, and innovative STEM workshops—such as the Retro Arcade Machines.

Educators from diverse backgrounds warmly received the presentation, praising its practical insights and universal relevance in inspiring inclusive practices.







SUCCESS OF DEANSRATH COMMUNITY COLLEGE TY STUDENTS AT THE ADVENTURES IN CYBERLAND AWARDS AT UCD

November 2024 was a hugely successful month for TY students Emily Pesak, George Hurst and Piotr Zawierta, who submitted their project "The Lost Soul: Revealing Hidden Depths in Cybersecurity" for the Adventures in Cyberland Awards, organised by Marelle Rice of Cyberwise under the leadership of Dr. Rachel Farrell.

Cyberwise, under the UCD Centre for Cyber Resilience Education, enhances cybersecurity education across Ireland. Over 300 students attended the awards at O'Reilly Hall, University College Dublin, on December 10, 2024. The event celebrated advancements in cybersecurity education, promoting inclusivity and challenging gender bias.

The students' project showcased a brilliant, from-scratch animation and included a thoughtfully written piece exploring addiction to cyberspace and its profound impact on our mental well-being. For their fantastic work, they were awarded the Gold Medal of the prestigious UCD Centre for the Advancement of Wellbeing in Education Award and won the Best Presentation Award.

The event featured experts from Microsoft, the National Cyber Security Centre Ireland, and leading universities, giving students a chance to connect with their peers from other schools as well as with potential mentors and industry leaders.



HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE STUDENTS:

What made you choose to explore the link between cybersecurity and mental health in your project?

Emily: Mental health is one of the most important topics of our current age and another one is the internet/cybersecurity. Both of these topics are massively debated and have many overlaps and relations that made it easy to explore as a topic. Because the internet is still quite new - and it's not something we as a species were designed for - we are witnessing and studying the effects the internet has on the human psyche in real-time. What we have found is that the internet can bring addiction and grief to many. Addiction is a very misunderstood topic in my opinion, and we are seeing now more than ever (thanks to the addictiveness of the internet) that it's a pitfall anybody can fall into. We felt that was a topic worth exploring - even briefly.

How did you work together as a team to create your project, and what part did each of you play?

Piotr: It all began with brainstorming. Discussing stories, tales, recalling fables we were told as children. We wanted to raise awareness through these stories that we were so invested in, the ones that really resonated with us. We then discussed mythology, and we settled on the perfect choice, the Myth of Narcissus. And that's where it really got up and running. We began creating storyboards, concept sketches of the characters while also figuring out how we will shape the story to fit our themes and topics we wanted to portray. We settled on roles; I worked on Narcissus, how to bring him to life and how to picture his health deteriorating as his addiction grew. George worked on the art of Psyche and how to illustrate her change in emotion. And Emily, who I believe worked the hardest as she was not only our background designer but also our animator! But I think the most important part of working together was communication, looking out for each other, giving each other help, suggestions, and support all throughout the process of bringing this project to life.



What do you hope other students and teachers will learn from your project about the effects of cyberspace on mental health? George: We hope they learn that while having

an escape from reality is perfectly okay, losing yourself in these escapes can become dangerous and lead to harm, either physically or mentally. This is illustrated in the perspective of Narcissus, as time passes, he deteriorates more and more until he's nothing but a husk. Of course, this is exaggerated to fit the story, but the meaning is still present.

What advice would you give to teachers who want to encourage their students to participate in the Awards in the future?

Emily: I want teachers to encourage students to use their unique skillsets for their projects. We were very lucky that one, we were all artists and fans of animation and two, that our teacher was so supportive of these interests. Had we just written an essay or made a PowerPoint we would've been bored to death. Yeah, we would've still put the effort in, but the fact we were given the opportunity to use our own skills made it a more enjoyable experience and resulted in a more memorable project. Also, let the students explore their own ideas! Teachers should be allowed to pitch in and help point in the right direction, but students should pick their own themes and a topic they're interested in. Again, it just makes for a more memorable project that had love and passion put into it, rather than a project that felt more like a mountainous task than anything else. Obviously, the student still must stay within the guidelines and themes of the competition, but you get what I mean. Let students express themselves and their interests.

Well done to Emily, George and Piotr for their hard work and dedication to the project.

Donabate Community College Named Champion School of Sanctuary

By Nikolai Polnis-Borzyk (Student Donabate CC)

On Tuesday February 11th the Donabate Community College School of Sanctuary club gathered with 9 other schools from around the country for a national award ceremony in T.U.D. Grangegorman, where all 10 schools officially received their "Champion School of Sanctuary" award.

DCC students presented a poem about sanctuary and how this is valued in our school. DCC student Nikolai Polnis-Borzyk spoke on behalf of Medina Salihovic, who could not be there on the day and talked about the lessons and values that inspired the posters which are on the corridor walls. One poster entitled 'EVERYBODY IS WELCOME' celebrates diversity and inclusion. It was inspired by Medina's belief of creating a space where everybody is equal and valued. The second poster entitled 'ANTI-RACISM' highlights the importance of activism in the ongoing fight against racism. Medina is very passionate about this subject and sees her art as a way to showcase her message of inclusion.

School of Sanctuary

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INFORMATION AND INTERPRETATION AND INTERP

We were presented with the award from the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Emma Blain who gave a short speech on the values and importance of sanctuary in schools and the wider community. She stated that "These Champion Schools of Sanctuary are beacons of hope for the whole country, now and in the future. I commend the students and teachers for setting standards of excellence in their commitment to welcoming and including newcomers and minority groups, and I look forward to seeing more and more schools learning from their shining example." Another guest speaker was woman's empowerment and health campaigner, Aishah Akorede. While the public might know her best for her appearance on Dancing with the Stars or her victory in Miss Universe Ireland 2023, In everyday life Aishah dedicates much of her time to her efforts to fight discrimination and promote diversity.

Alihah believes that the ceremony "is about recognising the impact that motivated students can have on creating school cultures that celebrate and champion inclusivity. It has been a real pleasure to get know some of these creative and empowered students and I look forward to celebrating their day with them".

We had a wonderful day celebrating our Award and we were delighted to bring it back to Donabate CC and display it proudly for our school community.









Rath Dara Community College Awarded Champion School of Sanctuary

Rath Dara Community College was thrilled to be awarded Champion School of Sanctuary status at a ceremony held at TU Dublin, Grangegorman, in February.

At the ceremony, nine students showcased a unique cultural fusion, blending performances of bodhrán, African drums, Irish dancing, and a group dance incorporating elements from five different countries. Additionally, 19 students contributed to a video that was featured during the ceremony.

A 3rd-year student captured a stunning aerial shot of the school with a drone, while 12 students greeted the audience by saying 'hello' in various languages and six students each recited a stanza from a Séamus Heaney poem in their native language.

This event was a true reflection of our ETB Core Values and the spirit of our school motto, 'ní neart go cur le chéile' ('there is no strength without unity'). We are immensely proud of all the students and staff who contributed to this whole-school initiative.





FAI/ETB Player Development Academy Course Cabra: A Dual-Career Focus

Baldoyle Training Centre's renowned FAI-ETB Player Development programme enables interested learners to train full time while availing of a sport themed education. The FAI/ETB Player Development Academy Course in Cabra is transforming how young footballers in Ireland balance their athletic and academic pursuits. This program is designed to help League of Ireland players develop their football skills while also focusing on their education, ensuring a well-rounded approach to their future careers.

Dual-Career Development: Football and Education

Participants in the course benefit from a dual-career focus that combines top-tier football training with academic achievements. The full-time training environment provided by the course allows players to develop their talents and secure contracts with League of Ireland clubs. Simultaneously, they complete a QQI Level 5 Sports & Recreation certificate, which provides them with valuable qualifications and opens doors to further education and career opportunities.

Pathway to Higher Education

Many course graduates progress to third-level education, often with scholarships to various universities and colleges. This dual-career focus ensures that players are well-prepared for life both on and off the pitch, equipping them with the skills and knowledge needed for success in any field.

Success Stories from the 24/25 Course

The 2024/2025 Player Development Cabra course has already seen impressive results. Twelve players have made their first-team debuts, with several securing first-team contracts. Players have gained first-team experience with clubs such as Bohemians, Dundalk, Drogheda, St. Patrick's Athletic, Shelbourne, Bray Wanderers, UCD & Wexford. Additionally, one learner has become a regular in the Northern Irish League with Glenavon.

The FAI/ETB Player Development Academy Course Cabra is a testament to the power of combining sports and education, creating well-rounded individuals ready to excel in all aspects of life.

Official Opening on Wednesday 26th February of Baldoyle Training Centre's new high tech test centre.

Baldoyle Training Centre were delighted to welcome Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Brian McDonagh to officially open our new high tech test centre on the 26th February. This marked a significant milestone for our Training Centre.

This state-of-the-art facility was established to provide learners with convenient access to a wide range of professional certification exams from various awarding bodies, including City & Guilds, ICDL, MOS, and IMI. The test centre also serves as a support resource for the recruitment of our mainline courses. The room consists of 14 PC's monitored via a secure invigilation system, with the monitoring feed sent directly to the Test Centre Administrator's PC.



In November, Baldoyle Training Centre successfully became an accredited Pearson VUE test centre. Pearson VUE is the largest international purveyor of online examinations, offering exams in various fields such as IT, Legal, Management, and more. This new test centre will become a valuable resource for individuals seeking to enhance their professional qualifications. As the second Pearson VUE Test Centre in Dublin, it will further support the growing demand for testing services in the region.

For further information, please email <u>blrecruit@ddletb.ie</u>

Baldoyle Training Centre were delighted to host the Launch of the Fingal Skills Strategy 2024 – 2029.

Mayor of Fingal, Councillor Brian
McDonagh, formally unveiled the Future
Fingal: Fingal Skills Strategy 2024 - 2029,
a comprehensive initiative designed to
enhance the skills and employability
of the local workforce. The launch
event, held at the Baldoyle Training
Centre, convened community leaders,
educators, and industry representatives
to deliberate on the future of skills
development in the region.

The Fingal Skills Strategy represents a collaborative effort among the Baldoyle Training Centre, Fingal County Council, and industry, Further Education, Higher Education and Training providers. This initiative seeks to identify and address the challenges and future needs of the job market in the Fingal area. The Baldoyle Training Centre is prominently represented, with Aidan Owens, Area Training Manager, serving as the Co-Chair of the Implementation Group, and Sharon McCarthy, Assistant Manager, participating in numerous strategy sub-groups such as construction sector, green skills, service sector and transport sector.



To date, the Fingal Skills Strategy has facilitated engagement between numerous businesses and the Baldoyle Training Centre to deliver targeted training for example Leadership and Project Management training, resulting in the upskilling of workers. These courses have been meticulously designed to meet the specific needs identified by the participating companies.

Celebrating Success: Beauty Learners Graduate from Blanchardstown Community Training Centre

A wonderful milestone was reached as a group of passionate and talented beauty learners graduated from Blanchardstown Community Training Centre. After months of dedication, hard work, and skill-building, these learners are now equipped with the knowledge and expertise to take on the beauty industry.

From makeup artistry to skincare, their journey has been one of growth and achievement. Today, we celebrate not only their qualifications but their perseverance, creativity, and the bright futures that lie ahead.

Congratulations to all the graduates – we can't wait to see where your talents will take you!

For more information on FET Courses visit Course Finder at www.ddletb.ie





Is féile Ghaeilge idirnáisiúnta í Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia, atá ar an gceiliúradh is mó dár dteanga agus dár gcultúr dúchais a bhíonn ar siúl in Éirinn agus fud fad an domhain gach bliain.

Cuireadh tús le Seachtain na Gaeilge in 1902 agus an branda sin aitheanta go forleathan i measc mhórphobal na hÉireann. D'imigh an fhéile ó neart go neart le blianta beaga anuas, agus mar sin beartaíodh an fhéile a shíneadh amach go tréimhse coicíse ach níor athraíodh an t-ainm mar go n-aithnítear an t-ainm go forleathan.

Tugtar deis do gach éinne sult a bhaint as an nGaeilge tríd a bheith páirteach san fhéile, idir chainteoirí dúchasacha, fhoghlaimeoirí agus lucht an chúpla focal araon, trí fhéilire imeachtaí siamsúla agus spraíúla a chur ar fáil do gach cineál suime agus gach aoisghrúpa.

Is grúpaí deonacha agus pobail, comhairlí áitiúla, scoileanna, leabharlanna, agus eagrais cheoil, spóirt, ealaíne agus chultúrtha a eagraíonn imeachtaí ina gceantar féin do Sheachtain na Gaeilge.

Is iad na BOO an soláthraí is mó
Gaeloideachas in Éirinn, i DDLETB, táimid
inár bpátrún bródúil ar 4 Ghaelcholáist
agus Aonad Lán Ghaeilge amháin. Cuirfear
imeachtaí agus gníomhaíochtaí ar siúl an
tseachtain seo, mar sin bí gníomhach i
do scoil, coláiste, ionad oideachais nó i do
phobal agus bí páirteach inti.

Is le gach duine an Ghaeilge, is le gach pobal Seachtain na Gaeilge le Energia – Bain Triail Aisti – Surprise Yourself!

Táimid ag tnúth le fáilte a chur roimh dhaltaí Ghaelcholáistí DDLETB chuig Oifig DDLETB le haghaidh tráth na gceist ar an 12 Márta

Tabhair cuairt ar <u>www.snag.ie</u> le haghaidh tuilleadh sonraí.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 1 Márta - 17ú Márta 1 March - 17 March

Seachtain na Gaeilge is an annual international celebration of the Irish language and culture, taking place from 1st to 17th March around the world. It encourages people of all ages and abilities to use and embrace the Irish language in a fun and inclusive way.

Originally established in 1902 as a one-day event, it has since grown into a two-week festival featuring activities such as language workshops, poetry competitions, traditional music, céilí dancing, sporting events and social media challenges. The festival promotes confidence in speaking Irish and highlights its importance as a living language. Whether fluent or just learning, everyone is encouraged to get involved and celebrate the richness of Gaeilge. #SnaG

As the proud patron of 4 Gaelcholáistí and 1 Aonad Lán-Ghaeilge, DDLETB are delighted to participate in Seachtain na Gaeilge each year. We aim to celebrate an promote our Irish language and culture all year round, but these weeks of Seachtain na Gaeilge are a particularly fun and special time for our staff, learners and communities.

From tables quizzes, sporting events, music, games and more, there will be lots going on, so join in at your school, college, centre or in your community from 1st - 17th March to celebrate our wonderful language and culture!

Try out your cúpla focal Listen to traditional music Take part in fun activities

Whether you're fluent as Gaeilge, or just know a few words, everyone is welcome to get involved and promote and celebrate our Irish Language and Culture.

We look forward to welcoming our DDLETB Gaelcholáistí learners to DDELTB Head Office for a table quiz on March 12th.

Visit www.SnaG.ie for lots of ideas and activities to help make your Seachtain na Gaeilge go iontach!



A Flourishing Future: Sustainability in Floristry

SCFE's Professional Floristry course is a prime example of sustainable education in action. Students are taught to create stunning floral arrangements while minimizing their environmental impact.

Students in SCFE are actively encouraged to consider the environmental impact of their creations by reducing the use of plastic and packaging, reducing waste, using Irish grown flowers and foliage when possible and reusable materials while maintaining the highest standards of design and creativity.

For instance, during Halloween, students produced 11 breathtaking displays using only sustainable and reusable materials. The use of floral foam was prohibited throughout the installations. Floral foam is a plastic product which does not decompose but instead degrades into tiny pieces known as microplastics which pollute the earth and water systems. The result when everything was dismantled was just one tiny bag of waste. Flowers and foliage were dried ready to be repurposed for use in future creations

This commitment to sustainability extended to Christmas as well, with students crafting stunning decorations using foraged materials and handmade ornaments like dried apples and oranges, twigs, Irish foliage etc,

Students are now working towards their end of year Floral Wedding Exhibition which will take place on 2nd April in Sallynoggin College. Here students will have the opportunity to apply all of the knowledge and techniques they have learned over the year to create stunning displays.





A lucky group of students from Sallynoggin College, Fashion Styling courses, started the new year with an exciting February 2025. Through participation in the Erasmus programme, they had the opportunity to enjoy all the culture, sunshine and carnival experiences of working in Tenerife.

While there, they worked on stunning costumes for the Carnivals, that are the second biggest in the world after Rio! Under the direction of designer David Hernandez, they learned about working on large scale projects and were able to participate in the process of developing his spectacular costumes. As part of

the design team, they learnt how to interpret and follow the designers' vision for a theme, gaining many valuable teamworking and practical skills throughout the production.

During their work placement, not only were they working in the designers' studios, they also were invited to attend press conferences for the finale carnival and were even formally welcomed by the Santa Cruz City Mayor. By attending some of the Gala queen competitions for different age groups, they got a flavour of the wonderful diversity evident in these events.

They were also provided with the muchcoveted backstage access to the Gala finale, so that they could experience the full drama and excitement of getting the Gala Queen entrants prepared for the show.

These different experiences all provided our SCFE Fashion students with opportunities to see the many different perspectives involved in presenting such magnificent events. Working on costumes and learning about how the events are promoted gave them many practical experiences. While experiencing and learning about the design and creation of these costumes also gave them an insight into the cultural and global importance of these Gala events.

The flamboyance and drama of the carnival show in Puerto de la Cruz, and the Gala Queen Finale Carnival in Santa Cruz, were an exciting and eye-opening experience for all. Our student Laura, captured her experience in a television interview with Canaria Television, reporting on the Gala Queen Carnival;

"As a Brazilian, it's really interesting to see the differences of the Carnivals, and it's an amazing opportunity to work with incredible designers!"

Other quotations about the Erasmus experience from our SCFE Fashion Styling students:

"I'd say the main thing I learned about culture in Tenerife is how important carnival is to the local people in Tenerife. We saw all the cities of Tenerife come together to celebrate their most important event of the year."

"I think this opportunity has given me great bragging rights for my CV, little 21-year-old me got to work with a designer on THE Carnaval. I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity and I'm looking forward to bringing all the skills I learned into the future with me."









ERASMUS ACCREDITATION

DDLETB has received Erasmus Accreditation (Second Level Schools) for 2025-2027. This means that we are guaranteed funding for members of secondary schools in DDLETB to participate in Erasmus Mobilities between 1st June 2025 to 31st December 2027.

The accreditation is based on four objectives:

- · Increase participation levels in our DEIS Schools.
- Increase participation levels in our Gaelcholáistí.
- Increase participation levels in our schools who currently are not involved in Erasmus.
- Enhance Digital Literacy Skills.

We are putting a call out for expressions of interest to all secondary school staff and students for mobilities between 1st June 2025 & 31st August 2026.

We are offering places for the following:

- 20 Job Shadowing Mobilities
- 14 Courses
- 30 Student Mobilities (France, Germany & Greece)

If you are interested in participating in Erasmus, please fill in the Microsoft Form below or contact priscillakirwan@ddletb.ie on/before 11th April 2025.

Priority will be given to schools who do not currently have funding.







Let's hear from some of our Team DDLETB Colleagues.

Claire McGoldrick, Teacher in Coláiste Pobail Setanta

I began my journey with DDLETB working as a Special Needs Assistant in 2016 where I supported students' Primary and Secondary care needs for six years in a Post Primary School setting. Working as an SNA mad me realise just how passionate I was about education and how much I enjoyed working with children and in particular those students with additional needs.

During my final two years as a Special Needs Assistant, I engaged with further education, completing my BA Hons in Montessori Education on a part-time basis. The BA Hons in Montessori Education focused on the primary school curriculum, ages 6-12, with a particular emphasis on the use of concrete learning resources to ensure students can fully understand new concepts, concretely, before transitioning to abstract thought.

Once I completed my BA I left my role as a Special Needs Assistant to commence my first year teaching in a DDLETB Community National School and I completed my Droichead training in the Community National School during that academic year.

I loved teaching in the primary school setting and gained valuable experience, but when a Special Education Teacher position became available in the Post-primary school where I had previously been employed as a SNA, I followed my heart and applied.

I was successful in acquiring the position as a Special Education Teacher in the schools Autism Special Classes, supporting students with complex needs in mainstream.

My BA Hons in Montessori Education has been invaluable to me professionally to support students in the autism special class and students with mild general learning difficulties and complex needs in mainstream accessing Level 1 and 2 Learning Programmes in the post primary school setting.

I am now 9 years working within different settings in DDLETB (Primary and Post-Primary) schools and I have been consistently supported throughout my career journey to further progress in areas that I once believed would not be achievable. I am truly grateful for the journey and the support and I look forward to a long career with DDLETB.



Nessa Davey,

Teacher of Geography and Politics and Society in Firhouse Community College and AP 1 Year head to second years

I have always been passionate about education. My love for geography and politics first inspired me to teach, but beyond sharing knowledge, I wanted to inspire the next generation of geographers, politicians, and, most importantly, caring and engaged adults. To me education is about more than just facts—it's about shaping young minds, fostering curiosity, and preparing students to engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

One of the greatest joys of being a teacher is being part of a community—a network of students, colleagues, and leaders all working toward a shared goal: excellence in learning. I have been teaching at Firhouse Community College for 25 years, and I have always felt supported by my school's management and DDLETB. Their commitment to care, respect, and equality has created an environment where both students and teachers can thrive.

What makes Firhouse Community College truly special is its collaborative atmosphere. Teachers work together, share ideas, and support one another to ensure the best possible learning experience for our students. This sense of teamwork creates a positive and dynamic teaching environment, making it a truly great place to teach.

As a Year Head to 2nd-year students, I see firsthand how a strong school community helps young people grow, not just academically but personally. It is also vital to build relationships between parents, students, SNAs, teachers and school management. Beyond the classroom, I also coach the school basketball teams, which has been an incredibly rewarding experience. Coaching allows me to connect with students in a different way, strengthening our relationships and fostering teamwork, resilience, and confidence.

My deep love and interest in geography not only led me to the classroom but also to writing. I had the opportunity to co-author a new Junior Certificate Geography book, Our World, alongside my former Firhouse Community College colleague, Kate Fortune. The book, published by the Educational Company of Ireland, is an exciting way to bring geography to life for students across the country. Being able to contribute to geography education beyond my own classroom has been one of the most fulfilling aspects of my career.

I believe in lifelong learning, not just for my students but for myself as well. Teaching is a journey of continuous growth, and DDLETB has provided incredible opportunities to support me to develop my skills. Through their Teacher Leadership and Leadership Connect Programmes, I've been able to enhance my leadership abilities, furthering my commitment to guiding and mentoring students both academically and personally.

Education is one of the most powerful tools for creating a fairer, more inclusive society. As a teacher, I strive to promote equality by ensuring that every student—regardless of background and ability—has access to knowledge, encouragement, and opportunities. Respect is at the heart of everything I do: respecting different viewpoints, cultures, and experiences so that students learn not just from textbooks but from each other.

I feel that teaching is more than a job, it really is a vocation, it's about igniting curiosity, fostering discussion, and guiding students to see the world from different perspectives. Every day brings new challenges, but also new rewards—seeing students grow in confidence, tackle complex ideas, and develop into thoughtful, engaged citizens.

Through the core values of community, excellence in learning, care, equality, and respect, I am reminded why I love what I do. I am grateful for the unwavering support of Firhouse Community College and DDLETB, which has allowed me to develop both as a teacher and a mentor. The collaborative spirit among teachers makes it a truly great place to teach, and I feel privileged to be part of this incredible team.

Cuala Sports & Social **Integration Project**

The Cuala Sports and Integration Project is a project that is funded through DDLETB's UBU funding. The project targets over 70 young people weekly aged between 10-24 years and the current focus is on integration, since they received DDLETB's Integration Grant last

With an influx of misplaced minors in the DLR catchment area, the Integration Grant allowed the project to strengthen its focus with providing a service for these young people. The project linked with external agencies to ensure all IPA and Ukrainian centres where targeted. Many young people who have accessed the project had benefited hugely from education support, employability, integration into youth services, sports clubs and much more. This year the project has had one of its biggest success stories.

Damian who is the project Coordinator met Shawn Gobodo in March 2004 while Damian was doing outreach in one of the new IPA centres. The project runs a gym programme in Cuala GAA club house every Friday morning. This programme is offered to all IPA young people to help increase their mood, provide a social outlet and have a focus on fitness. Shawn Gobodo got involved in the gym programme and Damian noticed that he was very enthusiastic about sport. After only a few weeks Damian felt that he could rely on Shawn and asked him if he would volunteer some time at the summer camps in Cuala GAA.

After having some meetings with Shawn, Damian realised just passionate Shawn was for soccer. He advocated on Shawn's behalf with the local soccer club to give him football trials. The football club agreed to included him in their senior team and it was agreed that his membership would be waivered.

The impact of participating in sports spans much wider than fitness for Shawn. He has made lots of friends in the project and Cuala GAA club. Through his friendships, he followed the Cuala players on their journey to the All-Ireland finals and as part of the project Shawn and other IPA young people have travelled to places like Newbridge, Cavan and Croke Park following the Cuala GAA team. Shawn has also begun to volunteer/help in the project, the club and in the community.

Shawn recently took part in trials for a college place in America through GSR (Global Sports Relations) and succeeded in earning a full soccer scholarship to Texas or California – the choice he is! This will change his life forever and shows you what integration and DDLETB funded projects can achieve.









Hear from Shawn in his own words how his time in the DDLETB UBU/Integration funded project has impacted his life, journey and future.

My name is Shawn Gobodo, I am 18 yrs old, and I am South African. I came to Ireland in February early last year with my mother and two of my siblings and got an accommodation in Blackrock under IPAS.

After a only month here, I had a free gym membership from Cuala GAA club house in Dalkey, this opportunity was given to me by **Damian Byrne** (Project Manager of the Cuala Sports and Social Integration Project). Little did I know that this was just the beginning of a life changing opportunity for me.

Damian Byrne also gave me an opportunity to help run summer camps in Cuala GAA club. I got into Dalkey United and started my soccer dream. Since then, I have had a great relationship with Damian, he became my Irish grandfather, he took me to the Cuala football games with the other IPAs and I watched them win the all-Ireland final. In that same week I got trials for a scholarship to play soccer in America. My experience in Ireland has been really positive thanks Cuala GAA, Damian and UBU. My advice to migrants such as me, is to talk to people, get to know people and have a very strong work ethic and success shall follow.





Youthreach Living Our ETB Ethos: Community and Care in Action Through Fundraising

As part of their QQI Level 4 Teamwork module, Priory Youthreach learners Caitlin Hawkins, Julie Clare O'Brien, Molly Finnerty, and Rebecca O'Sullivan organised a fundraising event as part of their project work.

They chose to support the Simon Community, recognising that Christmas is a crucial time to assist those experiencing homelessness. With increased hardship during the festive season, donations help provide essential services such as hot meals, warm clothing, and safe shelter.

With the support of their peers and staff, the team successfully raised €250. These funds contributed to both immediate and long-term support, including personal care kits, mental health services, and educational programs. The team purchased Christmas Star personal care kits, warm recovery beds, winter clothing, and a six-month art program, making a meaningful impact on those in need.



Youthreach Rush: Making Waves

Youthreach Rush students successfully raised an impressive €750 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI), in Skerries.

Through their hard work and commitment, they organised various fundraising activities, demonstrating their passion for supporting this vital cause. The funds raised will contribute to the RNLI's mission of saving lives at sea, providing essential resources and training for their courageous volunteers.

We are incredibly proud of our students' efforts and their contribution to making a difference in the community. Thank you to everyone who participated and supported this wonderful cause.

One of our students, Hannah, shared their thoughts on the experience: "It was amazing to see everyone come together for such an important cause. Knowing that our efforts will help save lives is incredibly rewarding."





DDLETB Community National Schools: Inclusive, Innovative, and Inspiring

DDLETB is the proud patron of 9 Community National Schools (CNS), 1 Community Special School (CSS), 1 Community Hospital School and 3 Detention and High Support Special Schools, providing high-quality, inclusive, and student-centered education at primary level.

But what exactly is a **Community National School**, and what makes it unique?

Community National Schools (CNS) are state, co-educational, multi-denominational primary schools that embrace children from all backgrounds, cultures, and beliefs. Founded in 2008 to reflect Ireland's evolving diversity, they create an inclusive, respectful, and welcoming atmosphere where every child feels a sense of belonging.

CNS schools are committed to providing high-quality education in a supportive and responsive learning environment. They ensure equal opportunities for all students within their communities and are managed by the designated Education and Training Board in each region.

What is the CNS Ethos?

At the heart of every CNS are the 5 ETB core values of Community, Care, Excellence in Education, Respect and Equality. CNS are committed to:

- Inclusive Education Recognising and celebrating the identity of every child.
- ♦ Respect for All Fostering an environment where every belief and culture is valued.
- ♦ Excellence in Teaching and Learning Providing high-quality education for all students.
- Community Working alongside the community and encouraging parental involvement in all aspects of school life as well as benefit from the support and expertise of the wider community
- ♦ Democratic and Student-Centered environments Encouraging student voice, wellbeing, and active citizenship.

The CNS Ethos ensures that all students are equally respected and included, regardless of their faith or non-religious backgrounds.





What is Goodness Me, Goodness You! (GMGY)?

A key feature of Community National Schools is the Goodness Me, Goodness You! (GMGY) curriculum. GMGY is a unique, ethical, multi-belief and values led education programme, designed to:

- ♦ Support children's moral and spiritual development
- ♦ Teach empathy, understanding, and respect for all beliefs and world views
- Encourage critical thinking and ethical decision-making

The programme was developed for Community National Schools in collaboration with children, parents and teachers of the schools, the local Education and Training Boards, the Education and Training Board of Ireland, the Department of Education and Skills and assisted by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. GMGY ensures that all children feel valued and represented, supporting their sense of identity while fostering a respectful, diverse, and inclusive school culture.



Why Choose a Community National School?

- ♦ A welcoming and inclusive environment
- ♦ Excellence in teaching and learning
- ♦ A strong focus on well-being and student voice
- Recognition and respect for all beliefs and cultures
- A balanced and modern approach to education

As a proud patron, DDLETB is committed to the continuous growth and success of our CNS and Community Special Schools, ensuring all children receive the best possible start in life.

For more information, visit www.cns.ie.

For a list of DDLETB CNS and CSS visit www.ddletb.ie





EXCITING LAUNCH OF THE ETHOS AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the DDLETB Ethos Ambassador Programme. A transformative initiative empowering our students to bring positive change to their schools and communities. This year, 24 schools have joined the programme, with 120 dedicated student Ambassadors stepping up to lead the way.

Through engaging workshops, these young leaders will explore the core values at the heart of their schools, gaining the tools and confidence to actively promote and embody them in daily school life. More than just a learning experience, this initiative is a movement—one that fosters respect, inclusion, integrity, and a deep sense of community.

As they put their learning into action, these ambassadors will lead projects, spark important conversations, and inspire their peers, staff, and school communities. Their commitment will help shape a stronger, values-driven environment where every student can thrive.

We look forward to seeing the impact of their work and celebrating their successes throughout the year. Stay tuned for updates as these ambassadors make a real difference!

We extend our thanks to the students and teachers for getting involved in the programme and a huge thank you to our colleagues at Baldoyle Training Centre for welcoming us to the centre and supporting the first session.

#LivingOurValues #EthosAmbassadors

Caroline Daly, DDLETB Ethos Coordinator





LAUNCH OF THE NEW PATRONS **CURRICULUM AT NATIONAL** ETHOS SYMPOSIUM

On Thursday, 13th February, the annual National Ethos Symposium in Portlaoise marked an exciting milestone with the official launch of the new Patrons' Curriculum: Identity, Multi-Belief, and Values Education (IMBVÉ). The event brought together 200 ETB teachers and leaders, all eager to explore this innovative approach to values-based education.

In her keynote address, Anne Marie Kavanagh from DCU praised the IMBVE curriculum, highlighting its role in fostering inclusion and representation in education. She emphasised that both IMBVE and GYMG "offer tangible opportunities for teachers to redress curricular imbalance, to communicate to students from all backgrounds that their knowledge, identities, perspectives, and experiences count, that they are valuable, that they matter."

DDLETB was proudly represented in the IMBVE Teach Meet by Damien Lee, a teacher from Greenhills Community College, who shared his experiences of teaching the curriculum. He spoke passionately about the positive impact IMBVE is having both inside and outside the classroom, helping students engage in meaningful discussions, reflect on their values, and develop a greater understanding of diverse perspectives.

This launch represents a significant step forward in promoting inclusive, values-driven learning experiences for students. We look forward to seeing the impact of this curriculum in classrooms across the country.





DDLETB Festival of Music Shines at the National Concert Hall

On March 4th, the talented students of DDLETB Community Colleges once again took to the spectacular stage of the National Concert Hall, Dublin, for the DDLETB Festival of Music 2025.

This much-anticipated event showcased the incredible musical abilities of our post-primary students, featuring bands, musicians, singers, choirs, and the renowned DDLETB Choir, which brings together students from all 31 of our Community Colleges.

It was a fantastic night, filled with unforgettable performances and a wonderful atmosphere. For students, their school communities, and families, it was a special occasion to see their children perform on such an iconic stage.

Each year, the Festival of Music is unique, and 2025 was no exception, with fresh talent and new performances making it a night to remember. The level of talent across DDLETB continues to amaze, and we already can't wait for next year!

Organisers, students, teachers and indeed parents work very hard to rehearse, prepare and host this event each year and we are extremely grateful to those who give their time, energy and expertise to this wonderful celebration.

On behalf of the entire DDLETB Community we thank you all.

A video and official photos will follow - stay tuned on our social media platforms and website!

Business in the Communitypartnership for MSCC

Mount Seskin Community College has partnered with Business in the Community Team (BITC) for almost two decades, building relationships with organisations including Tallaght Hospital, Unilever, Glanbia and most recently Uniphar - a global partner to pharma and medtech manufacturers based in Citywest.

BITC and MSCC partner on the 'World of Work' programme with Second Year students, giving students an opportunity to meet corporate volunteers from Uniphar and gain an insight into various roles in the workplace. Second years enjoy a site visit to see Uniphar in action, hear from different departments and reflect on their takeaways presenting to the company.

Ms Murphy, Pathways Coordinator said: 'We have seen how this programme inspires and encourages Junior Cycle students to think about the workplace and what they want for themselves, feeding into their pathways and career choices. It is a brilliant opportunity'.

This year, we are thrilled to have also introduced the BITC Mentoring **Programme** for **Fifth Years**.

The programme offers students a chance to connect and communicate on an adult level with professionals in the working world at Uniphar. Each student shadows and learns from their mentor once a month, helping to improve their confidence, communication, and social skills. Students are also benefiting from guidance on their CV and interview techniques.

Ms Ryan, Principal, said 'It was amazing to see students step into the Uniphar building and introduce themselves formally to their professional mentor - we can see how much this is going to prepare them for their next steps after the Leaving Cert. Thank you to Alison Norman and the BITC team and also to Hugh McDonnell and the Uniphar team for their support'.







Where are they now?

Adam Olaniyan, past student Mount Seskin Community College

Mount Seskin Community was honoured to have a visit from Adam Olanivan. World Youth Boxing Champion and past student of MSCC.

In October, Adam, who is a past student from Mount Seskin CC and super-heavyweight boxer, defeated Shakzod Polvonov from Uzbekistan to win the world title. Adam has worked hard throughout his early boxing career and previously gained the title of European Youth and Euro Schoolboys champion.

Adam was a fantastic student with strong attendance and commitment throughout his time at Mount Seskin Community College. He is an incredible role model for all of our young people, and we were proud as a school to welcome him back.

Adam had a warm welcome from the staff team who met him with a standing ovation. He welcomed students in through the school gates after lunch to much excitement and generously toured the school giving students a chance to see his prestigious gold trophy and medal.

Adam also reminded students of the importance of attendance bringing to a close our Attendance drive: 'Attend Today, ACHIEVE TOMORROW!' and he drew out winners for the attendance raffle rewarding students who came in this week with prizes including vouchers, hampers and a delicious cake.

A huge thanks to Adam for his giving time to visit the school and congratulations on representing our school. Jobstown and of course Ireland so well in all that he does.

DDLETB would like to thank Adam and wish him the very best of luck with his future endeavours. We are extremely proud of his journey.







Teacher Leadership **Programme:** Final Learning Session & **Exciting Showcase Ahead!**



As the Teacher Leadership Programme reaches its final general learning session this month, we celebrate the incredible progress made by our participating educators. Throughout the programme, teachers have engaged in meaningful collaboration, developed innovative projects, and strengthened their leadership skills—all with the goal of making a lasting impact in their schools.

With their projects now in full swing, great work is already being seen across classrooms, fostering positive change and inspiring both students and colleagues. As we approach the much-anticipated Showcase Event, teachers are preparing to present their initiatives, share key learnings, and reflect on their leadership journeys.

This showcase will be a fantastic opportunity to recognise their hard work, exchange ideas, and celebrate the collective achievements of this inspiring group. Stay tuned for more details—we can't wait to see the impact of these projects unfold!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT **CONTINUES IN DDLETB**

Professional learning and collaboration remain at the heart of DDLETB, with a range of programmes and networks supporting staff across the organisation.

The Leadership Connect programme is in full swing, providing valuable engagement opportunities for teachers and middle leaders. TLP projects are progressing well, with participants benefiting from both facilitator-led and general learning sessions held at Head Office, Adamstown CC, and Castleknock CC. We look forward to showcasing completed projects in May at the Leadership Connect Graduation and Showcase.

The Year Head Programme has delivered three excellent sessions so far, equipping year heads with key strategies and insights to support their students effectively. Final sessions take place in April and May, and participants will then join colleagues from TLP to celebrate their achievement and commitment to the programmes.

Across the wider community, SEN Network members and 24 schools have engaged in Provision Mapping discussions, while Principals, Deputy Principals, Ethos Leads, SSE Network, DEIS Network, SPHE teachers, RSE teachers and Digital Leads have participated in dedicated network sessions.

A recent online pop-up session on Positive Behaviour Strategies was particularly well received, highlighting practical approaches to fostering positive school environments.

Our FET team have also been busy this academic year with various development opportunities. All information is available on PD Hub which DDLETB employees can access here PD FET Hub



Another new exciting opportunity this year for all staff are our **DDLETB Digital Connect Learning Labs**

The Digital Connect Learning Labs programme aims to enhance the digital skills of staff within our organisation by providing a series of technology themed CPD and training sessions, both in person and online.

Mission

Our mission is to foster a culture of continuous learning and innovation. Through Digital Connect Learning Labs, we aim to:

- Maximise and support the use of technology in our everyday work practices to improve teaching and learning outcomes.
- Encourage collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst staff in our network.

Proposed Benefits

- Enhanced Digital Competence: Staff will gain greater proficiency in various digital tools and platforms.
- Professional Growth: Participants will have the opportunity to advance their skills through targeted training sessions and growth through sharing their knowledge with others.
- Collaborative Learning: The programme will facilitate networking and collaboration among staff, fostering a supportive learning community.
- Innovation and Creativity: By staying updated with the latest technological trends. staff will be better equipped to innovate and implement creative solutions in their roles.

Overview:

The programme will commence with several pilot sessions in the coming months. Certificate of participation awarded.

March 2025 - First Sessions

March 6th - Maximising Learning and Reducing Teacher Workload with the iPad. Jean Kelly and Lyndsey Balfe. In person session - Tallaght Training Centre -4.30pm-6pm.

March 19th - Essential Excel - Shirley Archer. Online Webinar. 4pm-5.30pm.

March 25th and 27th - DDLETB and Wriggle: 1-1 Schools, New Parent info. Webinar. The same session will be repeated over two evenings. 7pm-8pm.

Contact: deirdredunne@ddletb.ie to register for any upcoming events.



Important Dates:

Differentiation CPD by NCSE (Half day)
Co-Teaching CPD delivered by NCSE (Half day)

Date: Thursday 13th March 2025

Time: 9.30-3.30pm

Location: Green Room, Head Office, D24X62W.

Open to SENCO and one teacher per DDLETB Post Primary school.

Register using link: https://forms.office.com/e/6fu5A6uwkK

RELATE Training delivered by NCSE (2 hour session)

Date: Thursday 10th April 2025

Location: Green Room, Head Office, D24X62W.

Open to 4 members of staff (SLT and Teachers) per DDLETB Post Primary school.

Registration link and further details will be emailed to Principals in mid-March 2025.

NCSE Relate is a **comprehensive resource to support school staff to understand and reframe behaviour**. It places relationships at the heart of all support and takes a regulation first approach in understanding and supporting students.

March 13th – Bí Cineàlta – The Plaza Hotel, Tallaght.

March 20th – Digital Media and PR Leads CPD - – DDLETB Head Office

March 26th - CNS Quiz Quest - DDLETB Head Office

May 1st – Inter-Schools Debating Final – DDLETB Head Office

May 2nd – inter-Schools Chess Tournament Final – DDLETB Head Office

May 8th – Leadership Connect Graduation and Showcase - – DDLETB Head Office

May TBC – Transition Year and Programme Coordinator Showcase

Keep an eye on your emails/Teams for further dates and events!

DDLETB remains committed to continuous professional development, ensuring all staff have access to meaningful learning experiences that enhance both leadership and student outcomes.

For information on Networks, Professional Development and Communities of Practice within DDLETB please contact devteam@ddletb.ie for schools and aleksandarstevancevic@ddletb.ie for FET.





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