

Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB NEWSLETTER

EDITION 18 - MAY 2025



[Priory Youthreach](#)

[Provision Mapping](#)

[CNS Quiz Quest](#)

[Ethos Ambassador Programme](#)

[MUINTEARAS'25](#)

[DDLETB Digital History](#)



Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúnaí Dublin and Dún Laoghaire
Atha Cliath agus Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board



Celebrating ETB Week 2025: A Showcase of Excellence and Community Spirit

ETB Week 2025 (March 24th – 28th) was a fantastic celebration of the growth and achievements of our learners, as well as the dedication and passion of our wonderful staff and communities from all 16 ETB's.

DDLETB were delighted to participate and witness the incredible events happening across our schools, colleges, and centres, along with the other 15 ETBs around the country. This special week highlighted the strength of our educational network and the transformative impact of education and training in communities nationwide. From engaging workshops, events, and creative showcases to inspiring stories of personal growth, ETB Week truly embodies the spirit of lifelong learning.

Dublin & Dún Laoghaire ETB was especially proud to have 3 shortlisted entries to the prestigious ETB Excellence Awards which took place on March 27th in Croke Park. Scooping a national award, a runner up prize and the judges praise, we certainly enjoyed the celebrations!

Two students from Coláiste de hÍde scooped the national 2025 Excellence in Irish language Education Award for an after-school Irish language club they set up in a Tallaght primary school where 40% of the school population was born outside of Ireland. Greenhills Community College Teacher and AEN Co-ordinator, Ciaran Stone was a runner-up in the Excellence in Equality category for his project to further

support students with additional needs and former Adamstown Community College learner and human rights activist Grace Oladipo was also shortlisted for the ETB Hero award and praised by the judges.

The Awards, hosted by former ETB learner and RTE Newsreader Ray Kennedy and featuring a special musical performance by former ETB student and singer-songwriter Tolú Makay, highlighted learner and staff excellence across primary, secondary, further education & training, and youth services.

Opening the event and addressing over 200 staff and learners from across Ireland's ETBs, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD said: ***"Congratulations on winning an ETB Excellence Award. Your dedication reminds us that education is not just about what we learn, it is about what we become. It is about pushing limits, breaking barriers, and striving for excellence every single day. My department is committed to removing barriers to education and ensuring that opportunities are available to all—regardless of background, age, or circumstance. Education changes lives, and through your efforts, we are ensuring that more people in Ireland have access to learning opportunities that empower them to reach their full potential. True excellence can only be achieved when everyone has an equal chance to succeed."***



#SEACHTAIN ETB

24-28 Márta 2025



The Excellence Awards were the flagship event for ETB Week 2025, which also included the launch of a landmark book on ETBs edited by former Education Editor of the Irish Independent Katherine Donnelly: *Education & Training Boards: Shaping the Future, leaving no one behind*; Muintearas'25: a groundbreaking event bringing ETB Irish-medium schools together for the first time to celebrate and commit to inclusive Irish medium education; and many events across the 16 ETBs to promote their services.

Education & Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) also highlighted the sectorial core values of equality, community, respect and care throughout the week. Speaking at the awards, Paddy Lavelle, ETBI's General Secretary stated: ***"These core values are not a given in today's world, indeed they are increasingly contested. ETB Week and these ETB Excellence Awards provide an opportunity for us to champion them:***

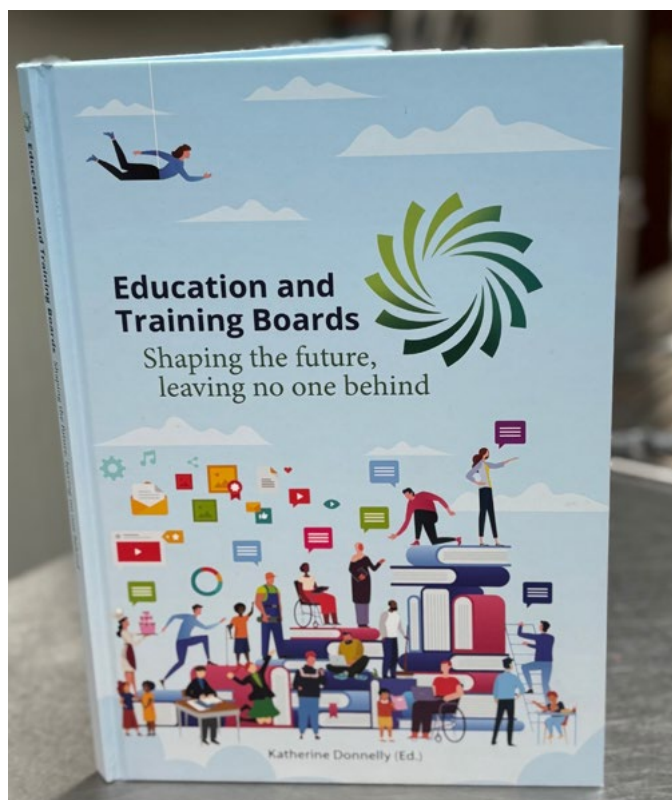
we're proud of our inclusive approach to education which reaches beyond the ordinary, and brings teaching and learning into communities, to people of all ages and abilities, including the most marginalised groups in society."

Don't forget you can purchase the newly released book by ETBI:

Education & Training Boards: Shaping the Future, leaving no one behind is available for sale on independent Irish owned book marketplace <https://www.buythebook.ie/etb>

The achievements of ETB Week and the many events during the week reflect the commitment, talent, and passion of our ETB learners and educators and the wonderful community that we have created together.

We congratulate all involved and look forward to even more inspiring moments in the future.



Gradam Sármhaitheasa sa Ghaeloideachas

Comhghairdeas ó chroí le hEibhlín Ní Bhroin agus Saoirse Nic Cárthaigh, daltaí idirbhliana Choláise de hÍde agus buaiteoirí an Gradam Sármhaitheasa sa Ghaeloideachas ag na Gradam ETBI le déanaí. Tá pobal Choláiste de hÍde an-bhródúil as an obair atá ar siúl ag na cailíní an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn ina gceantar.

Bhunaigh Eibhlín agus Saoirse club iar-scoile i dTamhlacht darbh ainm 'Na Doirse Oscailte' mar chuid de thionscnamh idirbhliana agus é mar sprioc fhoriomlán acu feiceálacht agus úsáid na Gaeilge i dTamhlacht a mhéadú. D'aithin Eibhlín agus Saoirse go raibh teifigh agus inimircigh in aois bunscoile ag streachailt i mbunscoileanna na hÉireann mar nach raibh aon teagmháil acu leis an nGaeilge ná leis an gcultúr Gaelach roimhe seo. Thapaigh siad an deis spás a chruthú dóibh siúd a tháinig go hÉirinn le comhtháthú i dTamhlacht agus mothú muintearais ar bhealach spraíúil agus neamhshrianta. Bhunaigh Eibhlín agus Saoirse an club iar-scoile i mbunscoil áitiúil inar rugadh 40% de dhaonra na scoile lasmuigh d'Éirinn. Cheap Eibhlín agus Saoirse cuspóir féintreoraithe don club, ag díriú ar fhoghlaim trí spraoi agus spreagadh le cluichí teanga agus foghlaim chinéiteach, seachas béim ar ghramadach agus ar chruinneas sa Ghaeilge. Tá dhá club iar-scoile anois oscailte acu i gColáiste de hÍde le béim ar aistriú ón mbunscoil go dtí an meánscoil agus caidreas sa chéad bhliain. Comhghairdeas leo arís ar a ngaisce, tá sé tuille go mór acu, agus bunluachanna an chúraim, an mheasa, an phobail agus an chomhionannais ag croílár na hoibre ag Eibhlín agus Saoirse.

Comhghairdeas ó chroí le hEibhlín Ní Bhroin and Saoirse Nic Cárthaigh, Coláiste de hÍde TY students and winners of the Gradam Sármhaitheasa sa Ghaeloideachas at the recent ETBI Awards. The school community is very proud of the work the girls have done promoting the Irish language in Tallaght.

'Na Doirse Oscailte' is an after-school club in Tallaght established by Eibhlín and Saoirse as part of a transition year initiative with the overall goal of



increasing the visibility and use of the Irish language in Tallaght. Eibhlín and Saoirse acknowledged that refugees and immigrants of primary school age were struggling in Irish primary schools as they had no previous contact with the Irish language or culture. Eibhlín and Saoirse took the opportunity to create a space for those who had newly come to Ireland to integrate into the community in Tallaght and to feel a sense of belonging in a playful and unrestricted way. Eibhlín and Saoirse founded the after-school club in a local primary school where 40% of the school population was born outside of Ireland. Eibhlín and Saoirse devised a self-led ethos and objective for the club, focusing on learning through fun and motivation using linguistic games and kinetic learning, rather than emphasis on grammar and accuracy in Irish. The girls have since opened two after-school clubs in Coláiste de hÍde, with emphasis on transitioning from primary to post-primary school and friendships in first year. Congratulations again to Eibhlín agus Saoirse on their award, it is well deserved, and the core values of care, respect, community and equality are at the heart of their work.

Ciaran Stone Shortlisted for ETB Award for Equality



Over the past few years, Greenhills Community College in Walkinstown, Dublin 12 has made remarkable progress in creating a truly inclusive and supportive environment for all students.

Guided by Principal Noirín Lannon and Deputy Principal Geraldine Leahy, the school has enhanced its facilities with updated Support Rooms (Rooms 8, 9 and 11), a fully equipped Sensory Room and a Games Room featuring two PlayStation 5 consoles and an annual FIFA tournament. The newly improved Kitchen now supports the practical L2LP Cooking for Life programme, and a Polytunnel allows students to grow and cook their own produce.



A new AEN Locker Room helps students organise their days with personalised timetables and provides support whenever needed. The dedicated Reading Room, part of the school's DEIS initiatives, nurtures literacy skills and fosters a lifelong love of reading.

The AEN Support Team, led by AEN Coordinator Ciaran Stone and comprising Louise Scully, Iona Brady, Cian Dunne, Sophie Whelan, Liadan O'Riordan and Samantha Finn, ensures that students with additional needs receive specialised assistance and remain integrated in mainstream classes. All teachers at Greenhills Community College demonstrate a deep commitment to student wellbeing, working closely with the SNA team, whose invaluable support helps maintain a positive atmosphere for learning and personal growth. Ciaran was nominated by his colleagues for the ETB Award of Equality and was shortlisted by ETB and independent judges. The work of Ciaran and the team at Greenhills Community College is a true example of our ETB Ethos in Action and our strong commitment to supporting excellence in education for all students. Huge well done to Ciaran and the entire team at Greenhills CC.



Special Recognition for Adamstown CC Past-Learner

Meet Grace Oladipo: A Trailblazing Social Entrepreneur and Human Rights Advocate

Grace Oladipo is an award-winning social entrepreneur, international speaker, and human rights advocate. Her journey from Nigeria to Ireland is marked by determination and purpose.

Arriving in Ireland at age eight, Grace attended Adamstown Community College, where she took on leadership roles, including Head Girl. After her Leaving Certificate results shifted her away from studying Medicine, she pursued a Bachelor of Civil Law at UCD's Sutherland School of Law.

At UCD, Grace embraced leadership as the International Students Campaign Co-ordinator and Auditor of the Livingstones Christian Society. She co-founded the university's first Gospel choir and Jamie's Friends, an initiative supporting Dublin's homeless community. Their "Party for the Homeless" event gained significant recognition in 2019.



Grace received the Arthur Cox Contribution to University Life Award and the UCD President's Award. During a year abroad at the University of Sheffield, she developed a project creating school shoes from banana fibers for Nigerian children, winning the 2019 Unilever UK Individual Purpose Award. Her dissertation on female imprisonment further demonstrated her commitment to social reform.

After graduating, Grace joined PwC as a Tax Trainee before earning a Fulbright and George Moore Scholarship to pursue a master's in International Human Rights Law at the University of Notre Dame. She graduated in 2022 with multiple academic honors and served as the LL.M. Representative in the Student Bar Association, while also anchoring the university's ND Sunrise TV station.



She later attended The Hague Academy of International Law on scholarship and interned at the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, where her education video on human rights reached over 100,000 viewers.

In May 2023, Grace returned to Ireland as a UN Policy Officer at the Department of Foreign Affairs, supporting the UN Youth Delegate Programme, Ireland's engagement at UNGA High-Level Week, and the campaign for the Human Rights Council 2027–2029 term.

A published co-author of *Equity in the Workplace: Stories of Black Irish Women in Ireland*, Grace is an active voice for ethnic minority women. She is currently a Trainee Solicitor at Arthur Cox LLP and the Founder and Project Director of Audacity XX, an initiative breaking down professional barriers for women from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds. Selected for Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's Ideas Academy, Grace is committed to using her legal career to amplify marginalised voices and bring lasting change.

DDLETB were delighted to welcome Grace and her husband to the ETB Awards as a shortlisted candidate for the ETB Hero Award. Although Grace lost out to a very worthy winner, Sean Boyle from Donegal ETB, her story remains truly inspirational. Her journey is one of resilience, purpose, and impact, and we are incredibly proud of all she has achieved. Grace's work continues to inspire others and will no doubt leave a lasting mark on the world.

MUINTEARAS'25

A celebration of Gaeilge

Dírigh MUINTEARAS'25 ar an ionchuimsiú i ngach gné de shaol na scoile, ag ceiliúradh na héagsúlachta i scoileanna BOO lán-Ghaeilge. Chothaigh an ócáid comhráite agus comhpháirtíochtaí idir na toscaireachtaí de dhaltáí, múinteoirí, agus pobail scoile ar cheartas, chothromas agus féiniúlacht chultúrtha, chomh maith le tacaíocht agus rannpháirtíocht do dhaltáí a bhfuil riachtanais foghlama nó riachtanais bhreise acu. Deis a bhí ann naisc a chruthú agus oideachas a cheiliúradh mar eispéireas ionchuimsitheach do chách.

Ba cheiliúradh agus athdhearbhú é MUINTEARAS'25 ar thiomantas an ETBI do thimpeallachtaí foghlama ionchuimsitheacha agus tacúla a chothú. Agus an ócáid ag críochnú, rug na toscaireachtaí fíis chomhroinnte úr leo do thodhchaí na Gaelscolaíochta. Thug an Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG) tacaíocht don ócáid.

Chuir daltaí a gcuid oibre i láthair ag taispeáint conas a bhreathnaíonn ionchuimsiú ina scoil, roinn siad pleananna don todhchaí, agus ghlac siad páirt i bplé idirghníomhach le piaraí agus aoichainteoirí. Bhí scoileanna san iomaíocht le haghaidh duaischiste €2,000, a bronnadh ar na tionscnaimh is nuálaí agus is mó tionchair. Bhí ionadaíocht ag iar-bhunscoileanna lán-Ghaeilge DDLETB in Áth Luain agus bhuaigh Coláiste Cois Life an duais, tar éis dóibh a bpóstaer a chur i láthair ag an seisiún iomlánach.

Cé nár bhaineamar an duais, bhaineamar an-leas as an lá. Thug póstaer Choláiste na Tulchann léargas ar an gcaoi a gcruthaímid deiseanna ionchuimsitheacha chun rochtain ar an nGaeilge a mhéadú inár scoil, ar fud champas CP Luttrellstown agus i mBaile Átha Cliath 15. Leagadh amach ann na gníomhartha a dhéanaimid chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn mar theanga inrochtana, bheo, ábhartha a úsáidtear i gcomhthéacs uirbeach.

Leis na h-óráidí spreagúla, na díospóireachtaí painéil idirghníomhacha, agus an taispeántas póstaer, ba dheis iontach é MUINTEARAS'25 chun foghlaim ó scoileanna eile, inspioráid a fháil, agus ionchuimsiú san oideachas a cheiliúradh, agus as Gaeilge!



The focus of MUINTEARAS'25, which translates to "Community", "kinship", "friendship" in English, was on inclusion in all aspects of school life, celebrating the diversity within Irish-medium ETB schools (Gaelscoileanna and Gaelcholáistí).

The event, which took place during the ETB Week celebrations, fostered conversations and partnerships among students, teachers, and school communities on equity and cultural identity, as well as support and engagement for students with additional learning needs or disabilities. It was an opportunity to create connections and celebrate education as an inclusive experience for all.

MUINTEARAS'25 was not just a celebration but a reaffirmation of the ETB's commitment to fostering inclusive and supportive learning environments. As the event concluded, attendees left with a renewed sense of community and a shared vision for the future of Irish-medium education. The event was supported by An Chomhairle um Oideachas Gaeltachta agus Gaelscolaíochta (COGG).

Students presented their work showcasing how inclusion looks in their school, shared future plans, and participated in interactive discussions with peers and guest speakers. Schools competed for a prize fund of €2,000, awarded to the most innovative and impactful initiatives. All of DDLETB's Irish-medium post-primary schools/ Gaelcholáistí were represented at the event in Athlone and Coláiste Cois Life won a prize, after a lively, engaging presentation of their poster at the plenary session.

Coláiste na Tulchann's (Aonad Lán Gaeilge, located on the Luttrellstown CC campus) poster presented an insight on how we create inclusive opportunities for increasing access to Gaeilge in our school, across the Luttrellstown CC campus and in Dublin 15. It outlined actions the school engage in to promote the Irish language as an accessible, living, relevant language that is actually used in an urban context.

The inspiring speeches, interactive panel discussions, and the poster exhibition, made MUINTEARAS'25 a fantastic opportunity to learn from other schools, gain inspiration, and celebrate inclusion in education, and as Gaeilge!



Community National School Quiz Quest 2025

– A Celebration of Fun, Friendship and Fantastic Facts!

The annual Community National School (CNS) Quiz Quest returned during ETB Week 2025 – and what a spectacular success it was! Hosted at DDLETB Head Office, the venue was filled with the sounds of laughter, music, and cheers as students and teachers from across our CNS community came together for a truly memorable day.

This much-loved event saw each participating school bring two teams of students from 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th classes, all eager to take part in a day of friendly competition and connection.

A Warm Welcome to Start the Day

The day began with a warm and tasty breakfast treat, giving students a chance to settle in and prepare for the fun ahead. To help break the ice, students from different schools worked together on a jigsaw game based on our ETB Core Values, fostering teamwork and helping everyone get to know one another in a relaxed, engaging way.

Let the Quiz Begin!

With the ice well and truly broken, it was time for the main event – the table quiz! This year's competition featured five rounds of ten questions, including two fast-paced Kahoot! rounds on iPads, which always adds a bit of extra excitement.

To keep energy levels high and smiles wide, each round was followed by a dance break – a firm favourite among students and staff alike. Some pupils even came dressed for the occasion, adding extra sparkle with party beads and accessories. The fun was infectious, and the atmosphere electric – the roof of 1 Tuansgate was well and truly lifted by the joy and laughter echoing throughout the building!



Wrapping Up in Style

After the final round, students were treated to a plentiful and delicious lunch while our hardworking judges (members of the Development Team) tallied up the scores. As the day came to a close, every student left the building with a DDLETB goodie bag, treats to enjoy, and a well-earned smile.

Thank you to our CNS Teachers and Leaders for supporting another year of Quiz Quest and a huge congratulations to all the teams who took part — your enthusiasm, teamwork, and positivity made the event incredibly special and fun. And of course, a special well done to this year's Quiz Quest champions* — we're proud of you!

The CNS Quiz Quest 2025 was another brilliant example of what makes our schools and DDLETB community so unique — a place where learning, fun and friendship come together.

We're already looking forward to next year!

This year's champions:

3rd and 4th classes: Lucan CNS (runner-up) and Citywest and Saggart CNS (winning team)

5th and 6th classes: Scoil Gráinne CNS (runner-up) and Scoil Choilm CNS (winning team).





Coláiste Pobail Setanta Celebrates International Women's Day 2025

This year Coláiste Pobail Setanta celebrated International Women's Day for the third year in a row. International Women's Day takes place every year on March 8th, a day to celebrate women and promote gender equality. Our celebrations are funded through our grant from World Wise Global Schools to educate our school community on gender inequalities that exist for women and girls.

This year we held workshops titled, 'Women in STEM' and 'Women in Sport'. These workshops aimed to promote our female students to investigate, and possibly pursue, careers in STEM and to feel empowered through physical activities and sport. The three workshops held were a great success and we are very grateful to our speakers/hosts Sara Abass – a past pupil working in the fitness industry, Elaa Jamazi – a software engineer with Microsoft and Jill Collins – an engineer at Intel.

We also work to recognise the amazing female leaders in our school, both staff and students. Flowers and chocolates were given to our female staff members and student leaders. These are small tokens of appreciation for all they do in our school community, whilst encouraging others to follow their example. A small note was also left in every staff member's pigeonhole in the staffroom to encourage and thank them for their involvement in our celebrations.

Finally, we held a non-uniform day where we encouraged everyone to wear the colours that promote International Women's Day, purple represents justice and green represents hope. In total, we raised approximately €1300 for Women's Aid, an organisation which helps provide free and confidential support, information and advocacy to women and children affected by domestic violence and abuse.



Music Generation Fingal tune up for Cruinniú na nÓg 2025

As part of Fingal County Councils Cruinniú na nÓg 2025, Music Generation Fingal's Balbriggan Jam Programme took part in a day long Garageland GalaxyZ workshop. Alongside Dermot Lambert from Garageland and platinum selling recording artist, singer/songwriter Ryan Sheridan, in the Irish Institute of Music and Song, Balbriggan on Sunday May 18th.

It was a full day of activities including:

- talks on songwriting approaches from Dermot Lambert and Ryan Sheridan, as well as hints about the music business relating to record releases and live performance.
- A tour of the fabulous IIMS and Lark Concert venue in Balbriggan
- Performances from, and interviews with the young musicians as part of Garageland's weekly 2XM radio show. Which Included the band 'Spectrum' from the Balbriggan Jam programme performing a cover of the 4 Non-Blondes song 'What's Up' and band member Tom performing his own original tune.

The event was a great opportunity for the young performers to meet and greet other bands and musicians, who are all preparing for the Cruinniú na nÓg 2025 'We Own The Castle- Live Youth Music Festival' which takes place on June 7th in Swords Castle from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. A summer gig not to be missed!

Music Generation Fingal is part of the national music education programme Music Generation, made possible locally by the strong partnership between DDLETB (as lead partner), Fingal County Council Arts Office and Music Generation.

Music Generation Fingal is committed to providing accessible performance music education, which adapts to the unique needs and challenges faced by children and young people, especially those experiencing disadvantage. More information on our programmes can be found on [Music Generation Fingal](#)



Music Generation Fingal Fhine Gall



St. Mac Dara's CC and Adamstown CC at the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad 2025

The international linguistics Olympiad is an annual international competition that brings together secondary school students and experts from various fields of linguistics. This year the international linguistics Olympiad will take place in Taipei, Taiwan.

DDLETB wishes the best of luck to 2 students, Aidan Alexander (St Mac Dara's Community College) and Kevin Lin (Adamstown Community College) who have been chosen to represent Ireland in the International Linguistics Olympiad.

The 4 finalists were chosen from 884 students from 85 schools in 28 counties. The preliminary rounds took place in January and then the 100 best students competed in DCU in March. Finally, the top 4 students were selected to participate in the International Final.

Good luck to Aidan and Kevin – we are very proud of you both!

For further information on AILO visit <https://ailo.adaptcentre.ie/>





Grange Community College Musical Awards

Grange Community College is celebrating a fantastic achievement after winning two Bronze Awards at the prestigious “Best of Ireland Post- Primary Musical Awards”. The event took place in the Fairway Gate Hotel Dundalk in March.

Grange Community College’s incredible production of “Grease”, which was showcased last May, was the school’s very first musical. It was recognised nationally at this event, having been nominated in 13 different categories- a remarkable triumph considering the vast number of schools in Ireland competing. Being shortlisted among the best Musicals in the country is such an achievement, and bringing home two awards is a testament to the hard work, dedication and talent of our students. This year the students are performing the musical “Footloose”, which is guaranteed to be another showstopper!

A huge congratulations to everyone involved!

Photography credit- Aaron Stork



TY Enterprise

Lucan Community College

Lucan CC has a long tradition of entering teams into the student enterprise awards in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office. This year was no different and students began their preparation in September. In total we had ten enterprises in TY and three went on to represent the school in the South Dublin Finals.

Prior to this the students had many workshops provided to them to work on idea generation, marketing and their business plan. They also had guest speakers like Olly from Olly's farm who came in and spoke to them all about Enterprise, so they were well prepared for the awards.

The day of the competition was action packed and exciting and everyone enjoyed chatting to the judges and showing off their businesses.

The three TY enterprise groups who represented LCC in the Student Enterprise Awards were:

- The Wood Buds - Oisín and Cillian
- The Pawfect Bites Company - Ella, Aoibhe, Sophie, Clara and Reka.
- A Key to Christmas - Dupe, Diana and Kayla.

The three groups showed fantastic creativity and teamwork in their Enterprises. The Pawfect Bites Company came home with the most 'Sustainable Business's and the 'Most Enterprising School' went to Lucan Community College.



Mol an Óige agus Tiocfaidh Sí

Celebrations for the achievements of Ardgillan students!

Our school motto in Ardgillan College is 'mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí', meaning 'praise the youth and they will flourish'. Along with our core values, our school motto underpins the ethos of the College. Mol an óige is an important part of the learning and teaching of the College and is central to the good relationships and rapport between students and their teachers. From merits awarded on VsWare, to postcards sent home by teachers and of course the ice cream parties for classes with the most merits, we are all about mol an óige!

One of the most important dates of the Ardgillan diary is our whole school awards ceremony, which was held recently on Friday 16th May. Under the leadership of Ms Collins and the Awards Team, this is always a very special day. It is a time to gather as a whole school community to reflect and celebrate the many sporting and academic achievements of our students. Everything about our awards day is 'mol an óige', from Student of the Year Awards to our STEM & Excellence in Arts and Humanities Awards and of course the many sporting awards.

One award in particular is completely left to students, Rogha Na nDaltí. This is the Ardgillan College student choice award, whereby students in each year group vote for the student they believe to be deserving of commendation for their contribution to the year group.

This year, 6th Year student Luke was the recipient of the Principal's Award by Ms Ní Mhurchú, who praised his caring presence both in the classroom and on the school corridors. Grace in 6th Year was awarded the Spirit of DDLETB Award for living the core values of Care, Community, Respect, Excellence in Education and Respect. Our Prefects for 2025/26 were also awarded their badges for the forthcoming year.

Finally, after much anticipation, we found out who would be our Head Boy and Head Girl for 2025/26. Huge congratulations to Sam and Grace, we have no doubt you are going to be brilliant. Well done to Lorcan and Abbi on becoming Deputy Head Boy and Deputy Head Girl, and to Seán and Ellen who will take the position of Head Prefects!



DDLETB Launches Pioneering Ethos Ambassador Programme

DDLETB is proud to lead the way nationally with the launch of the Ethos Ambassador Programme – the first initiative of its kind in Ireland. This groundbreaking programme places student voice and leadership at its very heart, empowering young people to take strong, active roles in promoting and developing the ethos of their schools.



The programme is built on a values-led approach, where teams of student ambassadors – selected locally in each school from 1st to 5th year – participate in a transformative journey of learning, collaboration, and action. Ambassadors engage in two in-person workshops focused on the core values of the DDLETB ethos framework, take part in an interschool meet-up, and complete a school-based development project rooted in these shared values.

Upon completion, schools are awarded the Core Values Flag, a symbol of their commitment to living the ethos in everyday school life.



Each ambassador is supported throughout their journey by a dedicated link teacher and a specially developed Ethos Ambassador Reflection Journal – a bespoke resource designed for DDLETB schools and fully aligned with the Patron's Framework on Ethos.

The programme has already received an overwhelmingly positive response, with schools across the organisation embracing the opportunity to embed ethos in meaningful, student-led ways. It clearly resonates with where our schools are on their ethos journey and signals a powerful shift in how we nurture school culture through leadership and student agency.

The Ethos Ambassador Programme is more than a new initiative – it is a movement, and DDLETB is proud to be at the forefront and ready to raise the Core Values Flag!

The Ambassador Programme has been developed and is coordinated by Caroline Daly, DDLETB Ethos Coordinator. Please contact carolinedaly@ddletb.ie for further information.

Greenhills Ethos Week 2025

Inspired by the ETB Week celebrations, Greenhills Community College proudly hosted its first-ever Ethos Week in April this year. Dedicating a week to celebrating our ETB Ethos and Core Values is a great and positive opportunity to showcase how our ethos is brought to life and lived daily across our school community. It highlights the strong sense of community, shared values, and the meaningful ways we engage with one another.

The week was packed with inclusive and engaging activities that reflected the ETB core values of care, community, respect, equality, and excellence in education. Events included a taster day, paired reading sessions, litter-picking, and a celebration of multiculturalism through shared treats. Staff were also appreciated with wellness-focused treats such as yoga, Indian head massages, relaxation classes, and Beanbox coffee.

In keeping with Greenhills' tradition of outstanding fundraising, this year's World Autism Bake Sale and Fundraiser broke all previous records, raising over €2,000—a truly amazing achievement made possible by the generosity and spirit of our staff.

A fantastic foundation has been laid for Ethos Week 2026!



World Autism Day & Bake Sale 2025



Litter-picking Respect Day



Excellence in Education Quiz



Staff Care Day

Erasmus News

Students from Guadeloupe Visit Grange Community College

On the 8th and 9th of April 2025, Grange Community College in Donaghmede had the pleasure of welcoming twenty students and two teachers from Guadeloupe — an overseas region of France located in the Caribbean.

Their visit was packed with fun, learning, and the building of new friendships. During their stay, the students took part in a variety of activities designed to help them learn more about Ireland and practice their English. They attended several classes to experience what school life is like in Ireland. One of the highlights was trying out traditional Irish sports like hurling and Gaelic football — an exciting and memorable experience for many of them.

Our Transition Year students played a key role in making the visitors feel welcome. They guided them throughout the school, helped with activities, and ensured they had a great time. The students from Guadeloupe gave an engaging presentation about their beautiful island, sharing insights into their culture, traditions, cuisine, and daily life. Together with our TY students, they created colourful posters titled “Bridges of Friendship” — a symbol of the new connection between Ireland and Guadeloupe.



At the end of the visit, each student from Guadeloupe received a goodie bag filled with small gifts and souvenirs featuring the DDLETB and GCC logos, as a way to remember their time with us. The visit was a wonderful opportunity to share cultures, make memories, and build lasting friendships. We look forward to more international exchanges that will bring our school community closer to the world.



Erasmus in Ardgillan College

A Year of European Visits and Welcomes!

This school year marked Ardgillan College's first participation in the Erasmus+ programme. Our whole school project focus was 'Fostering staff and student wellbeing through the development of digital skills'. Ten of our staff travelled on two separate mobilities, undertaking training in digital skills and technologies. Five staff travelled to the Canary Islands in November, and a further five travelled to Malta in April. Both of these courses aligned directly with our project objectives, and introduced our staff to a range of new AI tools for learning and teaching.

It was also a year of Erasmus+ welcomes in Ardgillan. In March, we welcomed Alexis from Reunion Island, a French territory off the coast of Madagascar. Alexis was in Ardgillan for a week of job-shadowing of our teachers. In March, we welcomed Leyre, Jaime and Javier from Spain for job-shadowing too.

In April, we welcomed Antonio, an Italian Principal, for a week of job-shadowing and meetings with our school management. Our final visit was from teachers undertaking study with Europass Teacher Academy in Dublin. 12 teachers from Sweden, Germany, France and Spain spent the day observing lessons in Ardgillan College.

We are very excited to have established partnerships with these three schools and our staff are looking forward to repaying the visit in the coming years! We would like to extend our thank you to Priscilla Kirwan, DDLETB Erasmus Co-Ordinator. Erasmus has been a very enriching experience for Ardgillan, and we are very grateful for all of her guidance throughout the year!

For more information on Erasmus+ projects, contact DDLETB Erasmus Coordinator Priscilla Kirwan priscillakirwan@ddletb.ie



Leadership Connect Graduation and Showcase



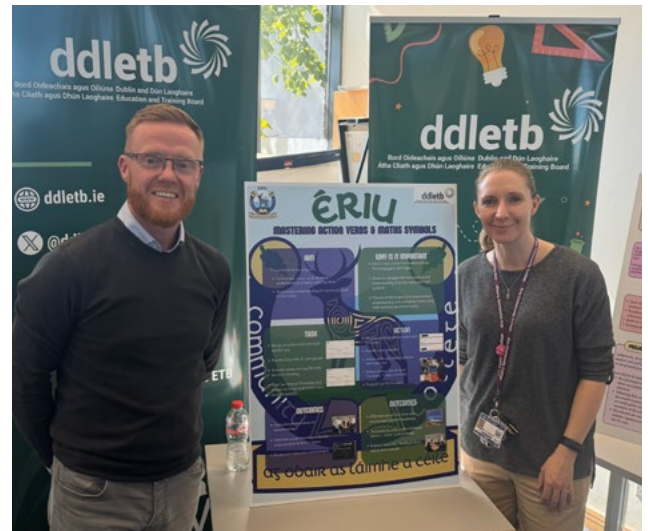
A Celebration of Growth and Collaboration.

On the evening of May 8th, the DDLETB Leadership Connect Graduation and Showcase brought together over 100 educators, school leaders and programme participants in a celebration of learning, collaboration and achievement.

Hosted at DDLETB's head office, the event marked the culmination of a year's work for both the Teaching and Learning Programme (TLP) and the Year Head Programme, while also shining a spotlight on six pioneering schools involved in the Provision Mapping Initiative.

Chief Executive Caitríona Murphy opened the evening with a warm welcome, congratulating participants on their dedication and the strides they've made over the past academic year. *"Tonight is about celebrating growth,"* she remarked, *"and acknowledging the hard work, creativity and commitment that has gone into every project."*

TLP participants proudly showcased the projects they developed—from innovative interdisciplinary plans and strategies for supporting student voice to creative teaching and learning tools—demonstrating how reflective practice and peer collaboration can transform the learning experience.



Nearby, representatives from six Provision Mapping schools presented snapshots of their journey so far, sharing sample maps and strategies aimed at ensuring every learner's needs are met.

Certificates were then presented to graduates of both programmes, by Director of Schools Mark McDonald and Programme Coordinators, and the coveted TLP Awards were announced amid enthusiastic applause. Winners were praised not only for the quality of their work but for embodying the spirit of inquiry and leadership that the programme seeks to foster. Adding to the celebrations, musicians from Coláiste Chilllain provided an uplifting performance, their melodies weaving through conversations in the corridors. Guests also enjoyed an array of delicious refreshments and a warm atmosphere.

By the evening's close, it was clear that the Graduation and Showcase had achieved more than recognition—it had reinforced a community of practice dedicated to continuous improvement, innovation and learner success. The great atmosphere and positive energy left everyone inspired for the year ahead.

A message from the Leadership Connect Coordinators:

Dear Leadership Connect Participants and School/College/Centre Leaders,

Thank you to all who attended and celebrated with us on May 8th. We are very grateful for your ongoing support of Leadership Connect, and we are extremely proud of the consistently positive feedback we receive each year. Your enthusiasm and dedication have been key to the success of the programme.

As we look ahead, we're excited to continue growing and evolving the programme to meet the needs of our schools, colleges, centres and learners. We can't wait to see what we'll achieve together next year!

With sincere thanks and best wishes,

Caroline Daly and Janet Murphy

(TLP, MLP and Year Head Development Programme)



** Be sure to check out a feature article on Leadership Connect in the latest book by ETBI, **Education and Training Boards: Shaping the future, leaving no one behind**, via the Irish website **Buy The Book**, just click the link <https://www.buythebook.ie/shop/education-and-training-boards-ireland/>*

Celebrating Teacher Leadership: A Showcase of Innovation and Achievement

We were delighted to welcome back the TLP (Teacher Leadership Programme) this year following its 'Reflect and Review' phase. This year, teams from 22 schools took part in the year-long programme, which supports school development and builds leadership capacity among non-positional teachers. Through a practical, project-based approach, the TLP empowers teachers to work collaboratively, explore educational leadership, and drive meaningful change in their schools or centres. Each session is aligned with the LAOS 2022 framework and equips participants with the skills to lead school development projects that contribute to strategic improvement. Highlights of the programme included sessions on teamwork, leadership, student voice, and collaborative project design.

The spirit of innovation and collaboration was alive and well at the recent celebration marking the culmination of the programme. The event brought together educators from across the region to showcase their poster projects, highlighting the impactful work carried out throughout the programme. It also served as a graduation ceremony, where participants were formally recognised and presented with certificates of completion in honour of their dedication and achievement.

22 projects were showcased on the evening and were a testament to the dedication of the TLP teams who worked on school development projects throughout the year. Each project was an example of the commitment to excellence in education within the school community.

A particular highlight of the event was the announcement of the Projects of Excellence Awards, recognising outstanding contributions to teaching and learning.

First place was awarded to Castleknock Community College for their inspiring project "Smart Schools: Shaping the Future with AI." This initiative explored the responsible and effective integration of AI in schools, aiming to support both students and staff in adapting to emerging technologies.



Second place went to a collaborative project between Swords Community College and Coláiste Pobail Fóla, which focused on developing Universal Design for Learning (UDL) resources across multiple subjects. This cross-school partnership exemplified the power of collaboration in enhancing inclusive education.

Third place was awarded to Coláiste Cois Life for their project "Pointing Towards Progress: Enhancing Student Effort and Recognition on VS Ware." Their innovative approach aimed to boost student motivation by improving how effort and achievement are acknowledged and communicated through digital platforms.

The event was a fitting celebration of teacher leadership, showcasing the creativity, commitment, and collaboration at the heart of educational progress. Congratulations to all participants for their inspiring work and for making a lasting impact on their school communities.

New Year Head Support and Development Programme at DDLETB



Following the success of last year's pilot, the DDLETB Year Head Support and Development Programme officially launched this year with participation from 27 post-primary schools across the organisation. This exciting new initiative is designed to support and empower Year Heads in their vital middle leadership role, providing structured opportunities to learn, reflect, and grow together.

Learning from Each Other, Growing Together

One of the programme's key strengths is its emphasis on peer learning and collaboration. Year Heads from across DDLETB came together to share their experiences, challenges and successes, and to build meaningful professional networks.

Before the programme began, participants engaged in pre-programme preparation, using their newly designed and dedicated (to the YH programme), Leadership Connect Reflection Journals to reflect on their current practice, set personal learning targets, and outline what they hoped to gain from the experience.

The sessions (2 online sessions and 4 in-person) were practical, reflective and grounded in the real experiences of Year Heads. Core topics included:

- The Role of the Year Head: responsibilities, influence, and daily realities
- Leading and working with a team (other Year Head, Senior Leadership and tutors)
- School avoidance, Attendance issues and causes, and supporting vulnerable students
- Difficult conversations, conflict avoidance and management strategies
- Reflective practice and emotional intelligence/ Leadership
- Understanding the Year Head as a middle leader – role and responsibilities

Each session included opportunities for role play, real-life scenarios, group discussion, and structured reflection and review using our newly designed Leadership Connect Reflection Journal.

"Each session and speaker presented a new perspective on overcoming the day-to-day challenges of being a Year Head." Dale McCarthy, Participant, Kishoge CC.

At the conclusion of the programme, participants revisited their personal targets and engaged in an online check-in session and post-programme reflection, helping them consolidate learning and plan for next steps. They were also encouraged to bring their learning back to their own schools, sharing ideas, strategies and resources with fellow Year Heads. To further support this, a dedicated Teams group was set up where resources, presentations and support materials were shared.

The feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive. Year Heads appreciated the practical focus, collaborative approach, and the chance to develop new tools and strategies to support their leadership journey.

Programme Co-ordinator Janet Murphy expressed her delight at how well the initiative has been received:

"It's been inspiring to see the energy and openness each participant brought to the programme. Their engagement, enthusiasm, and support for each other has laid the foundation for what we hope will become a long-standing and valued part of the Leadership Connect family."

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all participants for their hard work, honesty, and collaboration, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.

DDLETB Provision Mapping Showcase Celebrating Inclusive Practice

We proudly congratulate the following six schools for their outstanding commitment to inclusive education through their participation in the two-year Provision Mapping Cycle (2023–2025).

All six schools showcased their Provision Mapping Journey at our recent DDLETB showcase event on May 8th, 2025.

- Collinstown Park Community College
- Coláiste Cois Life
- Skerries Community College
- Coláiste Chillian
- Gaelcholáiste Reachrann
- St. Mac Dara's Community College



The Provision Mapping Process

Each school engaged in a structured five-step process to enhance inclusive practices:

1. Carry out Surveys – Gather data from the school community (staff, parents and students)
2. Analyse Data – Identify trends and key insights
3. Review Current Provisions – Assess strengths and areas for development
4. Inform School Improvement/DEIS Plan – Align findings with strategic goals
5. Develop a Bespoke Provision Map – Tailored to each school's unique context.



Acknowledgements

Frances Shannon, DDLETB Inclusion Coordinator, extends her heartfelt thanks to the following people:

- Senior Management, Inclusion Leads, and Inclusion Teams in participating schools
- Mark McDonald, Director of Schools
- Frances Gibson, Aoife Smith, and the DDLETB Development Team
- Dr. Johanna Fitzgerald and the 15 ETB Inclusion Coordinators of the ETBI National Forum

Their collaboration and support have been instrumental in advancing the Provision Mapping initiative across 23 DDLETB post primary schools to date.

View a video of showcase here: <https://youtu.be/J1KXPCuC9JI>

For more information on Provision Mapping please contact francesshannon@ddletb.ie and visit <https://www.etbi.ie/provision-mapping-induction/>

Events and Road Trips for Priory Youthreach



Molly Finnerty, Caitlin Hawkins, Julie Clare O'Brien, and Rebecca O'Sullivan — all QQI Level 4 learners — successfully completed their Teamwork module with an outstanding final project. As part of their assessment, they organised a Mental Health Day for staff and fellow learners. The event featured informative resources on mental health issues and local support services, as well as interactive games, a relaxation room, and male and female personal grooming tips on skin care, make-up and hair styles. It was a huge success, well done to Molly, Caitlin and Julie, we are very proud of you!

Oddballs Foundation: Raising Awareness of Testicular Cancer



Priory Youthreach was also delighted to welcome Ben, the Dublin ambassador for the 'OddBalls Foundation', who delivered an engaging and informative session on testicular cancer awareness. Despite the seriousness of the topic, Ben's approach made the session both educational and enjoyable for our learners. Conversation around Testicular Cancer is important but not always easy and we thank Ben for visiting us and encouraging the conversation with our learners.

For further information and to contact Ben, visit <https://theoddballsfoundation.com/>

Road Trip and Plenty of Mud!



Priory Youthreach love road trip and recently took our annual trip to Causey Farm, where learners enjoyed a fun-filled day of bread making, bog jumping, and exploring the farm. Is there anything better than challenging yourself, being outdoors and working as a team?

School Summit

Learners thoroughly enjoyed the School Summit, where they had the opportunity to connect with a wide range of employers, colleges, and training providers. These meaningful interactions provided valuable resources, insights, and guidance to support their future career choices and pathways. Students engaged in discussions about further education, apprenticeships, and employment opportunities, gaining a deeper understanding of the options available to them after school.

In addition, learners participated in the Unplugged Pilot Programme, an innovative initiative facilitated by Jacqueline Sheehy from the South Dublin County Partnership and

Barry Kenny, consultant for the Local Drugs Task Force. This evidence-based programme is designed to promote positive mental health, build resilience, and prevent substance misuse among young people. Through a series of interactive workshops and group activities, students explored important topics such as peer pressure, decision-making, emotional wellbeing, and self-confidence. The programme encouraged open discussion, reflection, and skill-building, empowering learners to make informed and healthy life choices. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many expressing a greater sense of awareness and confidence in managing real-life challenges.



iVET Programme Gains National Attention

We are thrilled to announce the successful launch of the iVET (Introduction to Vocational Education and Training) module across three DDLETB schools—Adamstown Community College, Greenhills Community College, and St Kevins Community College. The DDLETB Fundamental Home Maintenance and Skills iVET Module Programme is an educational initiative designed to provide students with practical skills and knowledge in plumbing and heating systems. The module aims to connect theory to practical application, offering insight into further education and training opportunities, such as apprenticeship programmes. By introducing learners to vocational pathways early, it opens doors to careers they might not have otherwise considered.

The programme includes hands-on workshops at the Tallaght Training Centre, where students can apply their learning in a real-world setting. Additionally, partnerships with CJK and Chadwick's offer students career talks, work experience, and interview workshops.

These collaborations aim to educate students about the construction industry and apprenticeships, providing a pathway to future employment. A huge thank you to the dedicated staff and students who are bringing this programme to life, and to our industry partners, CJK Engineering and Chadwick's, for their continued support and collaboration.

Recently, the iVET initiative received national recognition in The Irish Times. The article, titled "The Dublin school challenging our university-first mindset with an apprenticeship taster course", showcased DDLETB's leadership in promoting vocational pathways. You can read the full article here - [Irish Times Article](#)

In addition to the article, the programme was also spotlighted on RTÉ Radio 1's Ray D'Arcy Show, where Teacher Paul Hollywood discussed how iVET is empowering students to explore careers in trades, technology, and other high-demand sectors. The interview emphasized the importance of giving young people the confidence and exposure to make informed decisions about their futures. You can listen to the full interview here - [Ray D'Arcy Interview](#)

Huge well done to all involved in bringing this exciting initiative to life!



Professional Development in FET

Adult Literacy Methodologies Spring 2025

We are very proud of our DDLETB adult education tutors. They bring a wealth of experience, expertise and energy to their work with our learners, many of whom come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

It was with great delight, therefore, that we welcomed 21 of them to the 'Introduction to Adult Literacy Methodologies' programme between March and April. This was a very enthusiastic group with specialisms in a variety of subject areas from ESOL to community education. They were interested in knowing more about teaching adult literacy, numeracy and digital literacy so the programme was specially designed with them in mind. Our highly experienced team of Adult Literacy Organisers and Literacy Tutors facilitated the 18-hour programme which covered a range of topics including assessment and developing resources.

Two sessions were delivered in-person on a Saturday while the remaining workshops took place online on weekday afternoons. Many of the participants completed an end-of-programme assignment with a view to joining the adult literacy teams if the opportunity arises.

Huge thanks to all the participants for engaging in the programme and to the design and facilitation team who delivered it.



FET Leadership Development Initiative Summer 2025

It is often said that leadership is about making a difference and since 2019 we have been trying to support our FET leaders as they make a difference to their teams and their learners. The title of this year's Leadership Development Programme is 'Future Focus' and between April and May, 15 members of the FET Leadership Team attended a series of workshops. These focused on optimising team roles, developing the team and re-imagining work to strengthen the team's purpose.

The sessions were facilitated by Subject Matter Expert Tracy O'Brien, a psychologist, former HR Director and experienced trainer. The participants appreciated the mixture of theoretical insights and practical tools. Opportunities for reflection and discussion further strengthened the group as a community of practice. It is hoped to roll out a similar version of this phase of the Leadership Development Initiative to other leaders in FET in the coming autumn.

BFEI Launches New BA (Honours) in Politics, Society and Media

We are excited to share some big news!

DDLETB is proud to announce the launch of an exciting new tertiary programme at Blackrock Further Education Institute (BFEI): the Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Politics, Society and Media, commencing this September. This innovative four-year degree is the result of a collaboration between DDLETB, City of Dublin ETB, and TU Dublin, and is part of the National Tertiary Office's mission to create seamless pathways from Further Education to Higher Education.

This course is perfect for anyone interested in how politics, society, and media shape the world around us. It is designed to give students a mix of academic knowledge and hands-on experience, helping them build real skills that employers are looking for.

Students begin their journey at BFEI, where they will build a solid foundation in communication, political studies, media analysis, and social studies. Following two successful years in BFEI, they will then move on to TU Dublin, where they will deepen their expertise in areas such as political marketing, digital journalism, advocacy, and public affairs. The programme also includes a semester abroad and a work placement, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for real-world challenges.

Benefits to the students:

- No fees
- No CAO points
- On a degree pathway from year 1
- Students can avail of the HEI SUSI grant
- Dual registration, i.e. BFEI and TUD
- Small classes in FET provision
- Dedicated teaching team working in collaboration across the three FE colleges

Graduates will be equipped for impactful careers in politics, civic society, media, and beyond, with skills in communication, research, digital media, and public engagement that are highly valued across sectors.

Applications are now open through the National Tertiary Office. For more information and to apply, visit the bfei website at www.bfei.ie or the National Tertiary Office website. You can also call BFEI on 01 2889717 for further information.



Pride for Sallynoggin College of Further Education and DDLETB

Irish photojournalist, Ivor Prickett, has won a Pulitzer Prize as part of a New York Times team recognised for its powerful coverage of the civil war in Sudan. While his name is now known globally, Prickett's journey began much closer to home — at Sallynoggin College of Further Education (SCFE).

It was at SCFE that Prickett first discovered his passion for photography. Unsure of his future after school, he enrolled in a photography course that offered hands-on training, real-world assignments, and an encouraging atmosphere that sparked his creativity. He credits the college and his photography teacher Joe Sterling, with setting him on a path that would lead to international recognition.

Ivor's SCFE photography project documenting Duffy's Circus earned him a place on a prestigious documentary photography course in Wales, opening doors to an international career.

His big break came in 2012, when he captured portraits of Iraqi refugees and a striking image of war correspondent Marie Colvin in Tahrir Square, taken shortly before her death. The image was published around the world, establishing Prickett as a leading voice in conflict photojournalism. Now based in Istanbul, he has spent over a decade documenting life in conflict zones. Though previously nominated, this is his first Pulitzer win — a proud moment not only for Irish journalism but for SCFE and the Further Education sector that helped launch his career.

Huge congratulations and well done to Ivor from all at SCFE and DDLETB, we are incredibly proud to have been part of your journey.

Visit [SCFE's website](#) to learn more about courses offered.





Reflecting on 10 Years of Digital Development at DDLETB

To peel back the layers of time ten years to 2013, to the dawn of DDLETB, one would find the digital landscape presenting itself in stark contrast to now. Many primary, secondary and FET colleges were using paper registers and posting home paper results. There were even still some acetates and floppy disks floating on desks.

The installing of the first Interactive Whiteboards from 2008 was a huge catalyst of change as most of the technology in schools prior to this was used for administrative purposes only. In ten years since, technology has become integral to the day-to-day running of our world and our education system and in fact, there are now more mobile phones on the planet than people.

In 2015 as part of their Digital Strategy for Schools, the Department of Education recognised the significance of technological advancements and began issuing grants to schools for ICT infrastructure. The current strategy runs until 2027, at which stage, the strategy will have provided over €310 million in ICT infrastructure grants to schools. There has also been an investment of €13 million annually

to improve broadband connection in schools in recent years. DDLETB's Wi-Fi infrastructure has evolved from ad-hoc deployments prior to 2014 to Generation 4 Aruba today. The next step is the move to Generation 5, which will encompass a fully, cloud-based infrastructure where cybersecurity takes front stage. This is all thanks to the hard work of our dedicated DDLETB IT Department and the support of IT Coordinators in schools, colleges and centres.

In ten years, technology has become integral to the running of our complex nexus * whether it be through the monitoring of student attendance through VS Ware and other applications, the utilisation of MIT for online admissions to staff collaboration on SharePoint. Technology has also played an instrumental role in improving the effectiveness of teaching and learning. Once, displaying diagrams on an interactive whiteboard was considered progressive. Technology has now transformed our classrooms into multimodal, immersive learning environments, where students learning about volcanoes can watch a live volcanic eruption taking place on the other side of the world with a few mouse clicks.

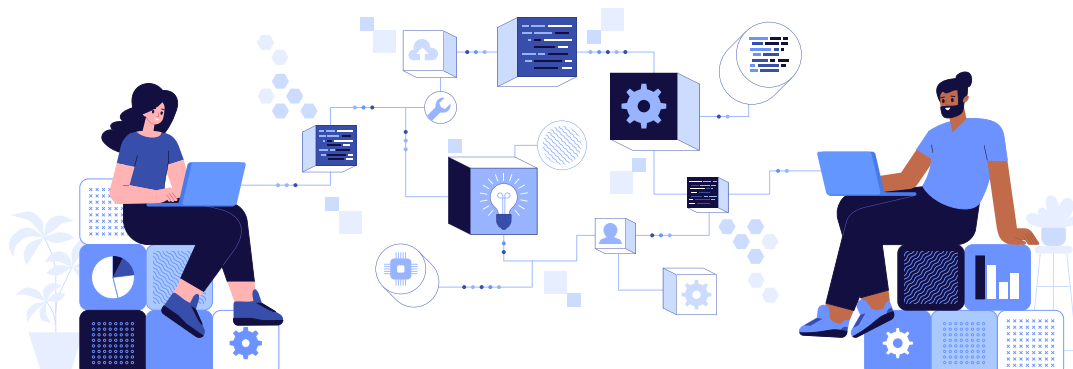
In 2018, DDLETB selected Microsoft as their preferred platform and began using Teams and Office 365. However, it wasn't widely deployed until the Covid 19 pandemic. Overnight Teams became essential in enabling teaching, learning and assessment to continue remotely and for continuing to connect with both learners and staff. The ICT Team, Digital Leaders and Digital Development Officer worked tirelessly to inform and upskill parents, students and teachers on the platform during this challenging time and greatly appreciated the support and work of the school, college and centre TEL/Digital Teams.

DDLETB's first one-to-one school where both students and teachers used the same devices for a new learning approach was Donabate Community College. DDLETB now boasts 15 one-to-one schools and 10,000 iPads with 2,000 new mobile devices added each year. Add to that, 850 printers and additional technological supports for learners with additional educational needs, and you have an IT infrastructure that has a footprint of a very large university. Supporting this framework is a huge daily undertaking, but DDLETB recognise the importance of digital technology in all education settings, allowing all learners to be

at the centre of their own learning journey and to develop skills that are essential to modern workplaces and society.

A substantial technological success for DDLETB Schools is our Digital Connect Programme. Every year, schools are selected to propose a project to improve the learner experience through technology. In 2023, Rathdara CC utilised funding for the programme and donations from various companies to increase device capacity for learners and to develop a state-of-the-art STEM room for students to explore their skills. In 2022, St. Kevin's CC transitioned fully to a 1-1 school to equip students with greater digital skills and break down unequal cost barriers.

At DDLETB, we pride ourselves on our commitment to innovation in digital education. We stay abreast of emerging educational technologies and proactively move with the times to ensure our learners and educators are equipped for the future. By embracing change and continuously evolving, we create a dynamic, forward-thinking learning environment that supports success in a digital world.



The DDLETB network contains a vast number of expert Digital Leaders who work together to provide ongoing CPD and support to all staff on various aspects of maximising Digital Teaching and Learning. DDLETB boasts two Apple schools of distinction and two Microsoft distinguished schools with numerous STEM rooms, as well as Digital Hubs. There is even a Data Centre in Collinstown Park, which assists in training the next generation of data analysts.

Looking to the future, technology, AI, Virtual Reality and even gaming will be at the heart of the Irish education system and DDLETB's strategy will continue to drive and support change. By exploring the possibilities together, our learners will be better equipped to meet the needs of the diverse, digital workforce of the future and thrive in an ever-evolving global landscape. For information on schools Digital Connect Programme contact Digital Development Officer **DeirdreDunne@ddletb.ie**

**A complex nexus is where many things are connected in a detailed and often difficult-to-untangle way. Hence our use of the word Connect in many of our DDLETB Programmes and projects!*

Collinstown Park Community College

Celebrating 40 Years

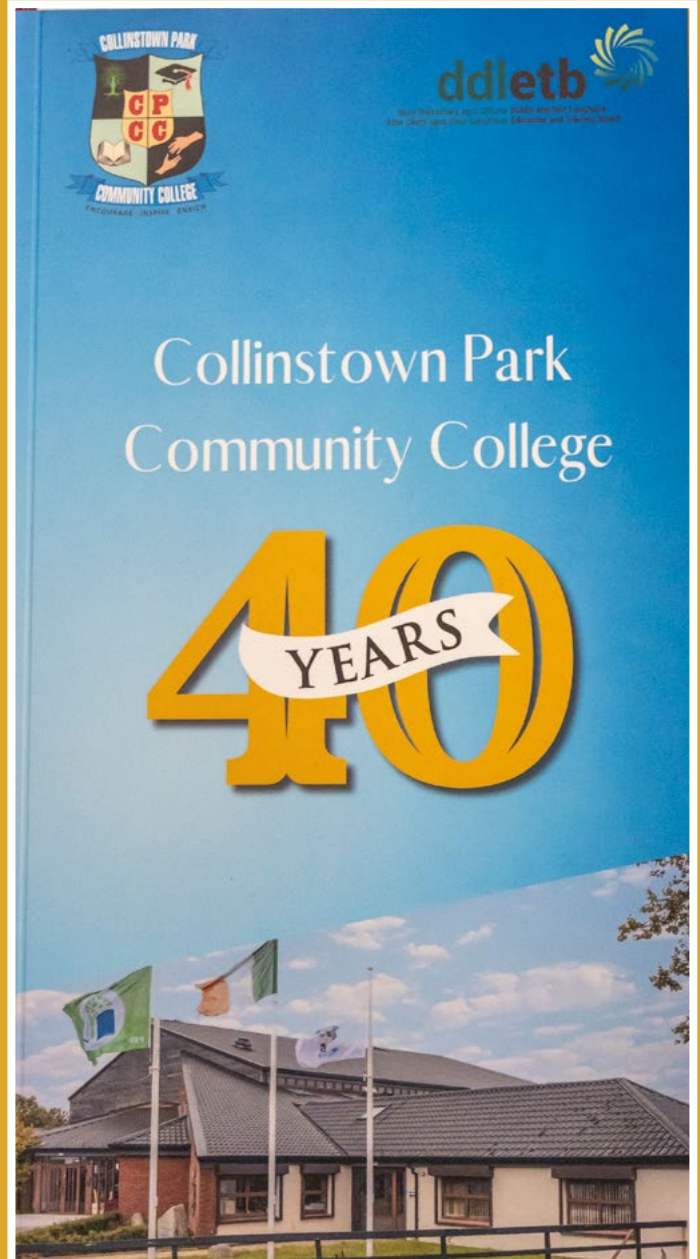
Collinstown Park Community College recently marked a significant milestone, celebrating 40 years of excellence, friendship, and community. On April 3rd, 2025, the school opened its doors to past and present students and staff for an unforgettable evening filled with heartfelt moments and joyful reunions.

The celebrations began with a special service, honouring the legacy of all those who have been part of the CPCC journey, particularly those who are no longer with us. It was a time of reflection, gratitude, and remembrance. Following this, current and former staff gathered in the assembly hall over refreshments, reconnecting with familiar faces and sharing stories of days gone by.

At the heart of the evening was the official anniversary ceremony in the sports hall. The event was graced by the presence of past students, teachers, and distinguished guests.

Speeches from CE of DDLETB Caitríona Murphy, Ms. Ann O'Donoghue BoM, Principal Ms. Pauline Duffy, Deputy Principal Ms. Áine McGrath, Transition Year student Leon Lalor and FET student Serena McCarthy captured the essence of CPCC's incredible journey over the decades.

Special credit must be given to the two students who spoke beautifully about the school and expressed their personal experience of being a student in the school. Leon delivered a heartfelt speech, reflecting on his journey over the years and the personal growth he achieved in both confidence and skills thanks to his time at Collinstown Park. Serena, who entered Further Education and Training through the Communiversity programme, also spoke with eloquence and poise, showcasing her skill and perspective. Their speeches stood as a powerful testament to the impact of effective teaching and learning, and the friendship to be found at the college.



During the event, a special moment was reserved for members of the school's very first teaching staff, who were admired, acknowledged and thanked, for their role in shaping the school's early years.

Adding a musical touch to the occasion, current student Rhianna Dunne and past pupil Zoe Clarke delivered stunning performances that resonated deeply with the audience. As the night continued, guests enjoyed tea and coffee in the assembly hall, surrounded by nostalgic photo displays showcasing cherished moments from the past 40 years.



The celebration culminated in a guided tour of the school, allowing attendees to walk down memory lane and witness how Collinstown Park has evolved over the decades. Everywhere, there was a palpable sense of joy and connection, reinforcing the school's commitment to fostering lifelong relationships and a strong sense of belonging.

Through laughter, shared stories, and renewed friendships, the anniversary was a true testament to the spirit of Collinstown Park Community College—a school built not just on education but on community, camaraderie, and lasting memories.



Driving Impact:

DDLETB Organisational Support and Development (OSD) Team's Project Planning and Transformation Initiatives

The OSD team supports over 5,000 DDLETB staff across 95 locations by delivering essential non-learning services across the organisation. Based mainly at Head Office in Tallaght, with staff also in Baldoyle and Loughlinstown, the team is structured into eight functional units within five core areas of Buildings/Property, Corporate Services, ICT, HR & Finance.

Each unit is led by an Assistant Principal Officer reporting to the Director of Organisation Support and Development. Together, they ensure effective operations, compliance, and delivery of strategic goals. This section will feature ongoing updates from the OSD units.

The OSD team continues to play a pivotal role in enhancing operational efficiency and resilience through strategic project planning and transformative initiatives. As part of its ongoing commitment to improvement, the OSD team is currently planning multiple projects aimed at enhancing IT security, improving customer service, supporting staff integration, promoting energy conservation, and advancing sustainability. Here's a closer look at some of the key projects that we are currently working on:

Strengthening Cybersecurity through Software License Upgrades

Recognising the critical importance of robust cybersecurity, the OSD team is in the process of planning a comprehensive software license upgrade from the Microsoft A3 to A5 licence. This initiative aims to modernise the organisation's digital infrastructure and enhance security protocols, reducing the risk of IT security breaches and ensuring compliance with the latest cybersecurity standards. This proactive approach reflects the team's commitment to safeguarding sensitive information and maintaining operational continuity.

Customer Action Plan for Enhanced Service Delivery

To elevate customer satisfaction and service quality, the OSD team is developing a comprehensive Customer Action Plan that will launch in Q3. This plan will outline clear strategies for delivering exceptional service, including training, performance monitoring, and feedback mechanisms. Continuous evaluation of this plan will ensure that customer needs are consistently met, reinforcing a customer focussed culture across the organisation.



Enhanced Staff Onboarding through Improved Induction Processes

Supporting new team members is crucial for long-term success. In response, the OSD team will launch a new induction process in Q3 to provide a more seamless and supportive onboarding experience. This updated approach will include structured training modules, mentorship opportunities, and resource guides, all designed to quickly integrate new staff into the organisational culture and their respective roles.

Promoting Energy Conservation through Staff Training

Sustainability remains a key focus for the organisation. As part of its ongoing sustainability efforts, the team is planning to roll out energy conservation training through privacy engine to all staff. This initiative aims to instil energy-efficient practices at every level, reinforcing the organisation's commitment to environmental stewardship and a reduction in carbon emissions.

Expanding Learning Opportunities Through LinkedIn Learning

As part of our ongoing commitment to staff development, DDLETB is pleased to provide all employees with complimentary access to the LinkedIn Learning platform. This initiative offers a personalised and flexible learning experience, featuring over 20,000 expert-led courses spanning a wide range of professional and personal development topics. By enabling access to this resource, DDLETB is supporting continuous learning, skill enhancement, and career growth across the organisation.

- <https://www.linkedin.com/company/dublin-and-dun-laoghaire-etb-ddletb>
- <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/>

Through these impactful projects, the OSD team continues to drive meaningful change, aligning operational practices with DDLETB's strategic goals. This proactive approach to project planning not only strengthens internal processes but also contributes to a more sustainable, customer-focused, and resilient organisation. As these projects progress from concept to execution, the OSD team's role in shaping a forward-thinking organisational culture remains critical to future success.

OSD Contacts

Director of Organisation Support & Development: Paul Turner

OSD Functional Unit Management

Property & Buildings: Treacy Byrne
Buildings & Capital: Ross Lynam
Corporate Services: Jennifer Talbot
HR Services & Relations: Pauline Murphy

HR Operations & Management: Aisling Crowley
ICT: Paul Byrne
Payments (Finance): Susan English
Treasury & Procurement (Finance): Mairead Walsh



Exciting News: Free Access to LinkedIn Learning for All DDLETB Employees!

We're thrilled that all DDLETB employees now have free access to LinkedIn Learning — a world-class digital learning platform offering over 200,000 expert-led courses across a wide range of topics.

Whether you're looking to upskill professionally, explore a personal interest, or simply stay up to date with the latest trends in your field, LinkedIn Learning has something for everyone. Courses are available in areas such as:

- Leadership and management
- Digital skills, IT and AI
- Communication and collaboration
- Project management and organisation
- Wellbeing and work-life balance
- Creativity and design tools and many more

You can learn anytime, anywhere, and at your own pace. The platform even offers personalised course recommendations based on your interests and goals.

Access is easy — simply log in through your SharePoint/Office 365 account or go directly via your browser using your DDLETB email address. You'll have received a welcome email from a DDLETB representative with an instructional video to guide you through the setup process, and additional support is available directly on the platform.

Be sure to connect with us on LinkedIn too and list us as your employer!

Our Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB page is full of updates, learning opportunities, and events — and it's a great way to stay engaged and informed across our organisation.

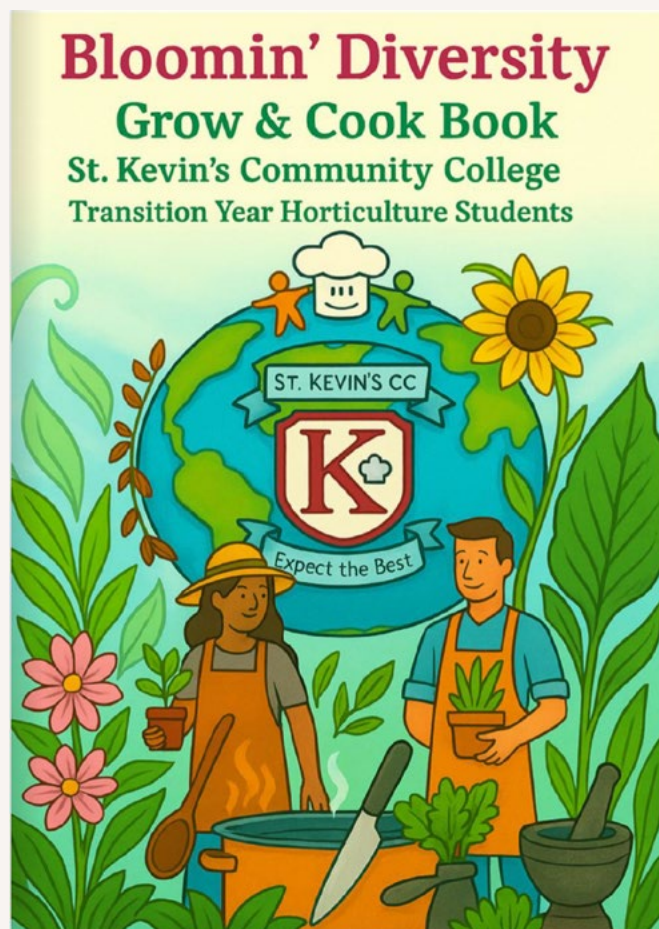
This is a fantastic resource for professional growth and lifelong learning — make the most of it and start exploring today!

Bloomin' Diversity at St Kevin's Community College

St Kevin's Community College in Clondalkin, are thrilled to be taking part in this year's Bord Bia Bloom festival with their very own *postcard garden*.

The garden, titled **"Bloomin' Diversity"**, is a celebration of the 36 different nationalities that make up the vibrant school community. It represents the richness of the cultures, traditions, and shared values. Bloom Festival 2025 takes place in the Phoenix Park from Thursday, May 28th until Monday June 2nd and tickets are available online [here](#).

Transition Year Horticulture Class students have collaborated with clients in Stewarts Care in Palmerstown, and the school's art, woodwork, engineering and home economics departments to create this edible garden. It showcases their book, **'Bloomin' Diversity Grow and Cookbook'**, where students of 36 nationalities shared their recipes, cultures and growing skills. The garden is designed with sustainability and biodiversity in mind, with a recycled table and chairs nestled on a bed of wildflowers.



The variety of herbs, vegetables, and fruit-bearing plants, which feature in the book's recipes, are grown in recycled containers and pots sourced from the community. As part of our display, students created a beautiful **tapestry of flags**, representing each of the 36 countries in the school, made entirely from **recycled fabrics**. This not only honours diversity but also furthers the schools ongoing commitment to sustainability and environmental awareness.

Students and staff believe that the garden tells a uniquely Irish story—one of welcome, growth, and inclusion and they are proud to share their **Bloomin' Diversity Grow and Cookbook**, which brings together recipes, planting tips, and personal stories from students and families. St. Kevin's CC students and staff would be absolutely delighted if the DDLETB Community visited their postcard garden.

You can explore the cookbook: [View Flipbook here](#) or scan the QR below.



A message from our DDLETB Chief Executive, Caitríona Murphy



As we approach the summer exam season, I want to take this opportunity to wish the very best of luck to all our learners across DDLETB who are sitting their Leaving Certificate, Junior Certificate or QQI exams, and to those completing projects, course work, or end-of-term assessments.

This time of year, can be both challenging and rewarding. I know how much hard work, focus, and determination you have all put in over the past months – and you should be incredibly proud of everything you have achieved so far. Remember, every bit of effort you make now is a step toward your future goals.

To all our students; you are capable, resilient and supported. Whether you're preparing for written exams, putting the finishing touches on a project, or reflecting on your learning this year – know that the entire DDLETB community is behind you.

We are always here to support you – before, during and after your exams. Believe in yourself, trust in the work you've done, and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.

On behalf of everyone at DDLETB, I wish you calm, confidence, and success in the weeks ahead.

Warm regards,

Caitríona Murphy
DDLETB Chief Executive

ddletb



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

Editor

Janet Murphy - janetmurphy@ddletb.ie

Development Team

Janet Murphy
Caroline Daly
Suzanne Graham
Mary Kenny
Deirdre Dunne
Priscilla Kirwan
Frances Shannon
devteam@ddletb.ie

Contributors

Eithne Hogan – Collinstown Park CC
Suzanne Downes – St. MacDara's CC
Anna Ostapowicz – Grange CC
Ciaran Stone – Greenhills CC
Evelyn Ní Rraghaill - Coláiste na Tulchan
Damien Lee – Greenhills CC
Damien Byrne – Music Generation
Ellen Metzger – CP Setanta
Meibh McDonnell – Grange CC
Rosemarie McGill – FET Development Officer
April Hackett – Lucan CC
Cillain Walsh – Ardgillan CC
Damien Byrne – Music Generation
Ciaran Duffy - St. Kevin's CC
DDLETB Organisational Development and Support Team
– Head Office

FET Contact

Jessica Sheekey - jessicasheekey@ddletb.ie

Communications

Janet Murphy
Jessica Sheekey
Jennifer Farley

Design & Layout

Jennifer Farley



**FOLLOW US
ON SOCIAL MEDIA**

Tag us #Teamddletb

 ddletb.ie

 [@ddletb](https://twitter.com/ddletb)

 [@ddletb](https://facebook.com/ddletb)

 [@ddletb](https://www.instagram.com/ddletb)

 [@ddletb-learn](https://www.youtube.com/ddletb-learn)

in **Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB**