



# lwetb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí  
Longford and Westmeath  
Education and Training Board



[www.lwetb.ie](http://www.lwetb.ie)

## NEWSLETTER

1/2017  
May 2017

### Chief Executive's address

# PLANNING AND INNOVATION IN LWETB

**Plans. Some people love them and live their whole lives by them. Others can't stand them and avoid them at any cost. Churchill said, "Plans are of little importance, but planning is essential." And planning when it comes to education and training? Well, sort of the same reaction a lot of the time. But like it or not planning is becoming an increasingly important part of life for all those involved in education and training in Ireland.**

And that is very much the reality for those of us working within LWETB and for the ETB sector in Ireland. It is now no longer enough for us to be able to say to people or the Department 'we do a great job'. We need to be able to demonstrate and show it clearly. And good planning is one way of helping us to do that.

LWETB will soon begin the process of developing our first ever five-year Statement of Strategy. This is an official document which must be adopted by the board of LWETB and then submitted to the Department of Education and Skills. It will be a way for us to set out what we want to achieve and stand for as a learning organisation over the next five years. There will be an opportunity for everybody both within the LWETB and stakeholders from outside to contribute and input.

A common myth is that planning is the enemy of innovation. I would say that effective planning is an opportunity for innovation and to offer fresh responses to particular areas of focus which form part of the plan. So I look forward as we begin trying to articulate a clear outline for LWETB over the coming five years since it will offer us an opportunity to innovate



Dr Christy Duffy,  
Chief Executive, LWETB

and decide where our time and resources should be invested.

This newsletter gives an overview of so much of the great work that is happening in LWETB. We have also tried to give you a more detailed account of some activities so that you can get a better sense of something that maybe is very different to your own area of work but still very much part of how we are contributing to education and training as LWETB.



### WAITING FOR A V.I.P.

A welcome party nervously awaits a figure of international standing to come and officially open our flagship school in Athlone. But who can it be? Find out on page 7, inside. Pictured (l-r): Denis Naughten T.D. Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Eileen Donohoe, School Principal, Athlone Community College; Kevin Boxer Moran, TD for Longford and Westmeath; Liz Lavery, Director of Schools, LWETB; Cllr Avril Whitney, Chairperson, LWETB; Dr. Christy Duffy, Chief Executive, LWETB.

# SCHOOLS

## CENTRE FOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP (CSL)

As the Centre for School Leadership (CSL) reaches the half way mark of the current pilot, the team welcomes this opportunity to update LWETB school leaders with the progress of its work. We started our work in September 2015 and we are only now beginning to see the fruits of our labour!

On January 27th 2017, Minister Bruton officially announced that a free, confidential, one to one coaching service for all principals in Ireland had commenced. CSL recognises that a school's leader's job is demanding and challenging and that coaching can help principals achieve their goals, face those challenges and demands, and provide time and space for principals to reflect. Coaching is a well-established leadership development service in industry and business, but this is the first time Irish school leaders will experience it for themselves. Already the phones are hopping in the offices of the coaching companies and over 150 principals have engaged with the service in the past three weeks. To access the service, principals can go to the website at [www.csfireland.ie](http://www.csfireland.ie) and check out the 40 coaches in the six different regions around the country. They can then browse their biographies and choose the coach that appeals to them. There are 400 places available and each participant will be entitled to up to seven sessions with a professional coach, along with a chemistry check. CSL is very conscious that currently this service is not available for deputy principals. The current budget for coaching in the pilot phase of CSL did not permit the inclusion of deputies, but CSL will continue to seek extra funding so that the coaching service can be expanded to all senior school leaders into the future.

Our mentoring work continues this year and by the end of May we will have trained 417 mentors. We are very grateful to have fully trained mentors in the ETB sector and the further 20 principals are training with us this year. Feedback from the training has been very positive and the generosity, camaraderie

and enthusiasm of the participants has made this initiative a positive and enriching source of professional development. All newly appointed principals in Ireland will have a trained mentor to assist, support and challenge them in their new and demanding role. We often quote the Wallace foundation at our training sessions: "Good Principals aren't Born; they're Mentored."

One of the main objectives of the Centre for School Leadership is to build leadership capacity in the system. The new CSL Post Graduate Diploma in School Leadership (PDSL) will commence next September. This is a level 9 programme and it will be available in 6 regions around the country. Táimid ag súil go mbeidh sé ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge i réigiúin amháin sa tír. The tendering process was completed and the successful tenderer is a consortium led by UL in association with UCD and NUIG. The course will be widely advertised in April. Places will be limited to approximately 200 in the first year and it will be run over 18 months. This new course will be part-funded by the Department of Education and Skills and will involve a short period of work placement in a school other than the participant's own, and in a sector outside of the education field. It will have a blended learning approach which will allow participants to work through some of the material from home, thus avoiding too much travel. Please watch our website for updates on the application process.

CSL hopes over the next few years to expand its services and supports to all school leaders.

Máire Ní Bhróithe is the Deputy Director Post- Primary in the Centre for School Leadership.



## TEACHMEET 2017 IS COMING! NOVEMBER 18TH 2017

**Learning  
With  
Enthusiasm  
Towards a  
Brighter tomorrow**



Education is changing but why we teach is not! Being part of the LWETB learning community enables us to fit together as a team like a jigsaw puzzle.

This fun day will start with breakfast and will include games, workshops and interesting speeches.

What part of the puzzle will you bring to Teach Meet in November 2017?

If you are interested in sharing your knowledge with your colleagues just let us know.

More details about the event will follow – we look forward to seeing you all there!



## LWETB LEARNING COMMUNITIES



As LWETB is fully committed to continually developing and enhancing the best possible learning environments for all learners within our schools, LWETB is looking for teachers in subject areas to establish learning communities.

These learning communities will meet to share resources, teaching methodologies and exchange feedback about best classroom practices. The aim of these learning communities is to create a culture of collaboration within schools to help support teachers, to share quality teaching and learning practices and allow students to achieve their maximum potential while under the care and guidance of LWETB.

Richard DuFour, a leading education researcher and strong advocate of learning communities examined three crucial questions that will drive our learning communities:

- 1) What do we want each student to learn?
- 2) How will we know when they have learned it?
- 3) What do we do when a student experiences difficulty in learning?

Initially LWETB wishes to establish learning communities in English, Career Guidance, Languages and SEN with more to follow.

If you are interested in becoming part of or leading this initiative, please contact Liz Lavery, Director of Schools at [llavery@lwetb.ie](mailto:llavery@lwetb.ie)

## MUSIC GENERATION

Music Generation is a national music education programme co-funded by U2, the Department of Education and Skills. The Irelands Fund - a global philanthropic network established in 1976 - and local Music Education Partnerships. It provides young people with access to high quality music education within their locality. The programme which is currently operating in almost 13 counties within Ireland allows young people the opportunity to learn from skilled professionals by delivering instrument and vocal coaching in all genres of music and with a wide variety of musical instruments.

Music Generation's main goal is to develop and nurture the music potential in every young person and to provide that young person with access to music education. They are firm believers that music can transform lives.

LWETB currently works in partnership with Music Generation throughout schools/centres in Westmeath. Following this success and owing to the LWETB's commitment to the arts, plans to incorporate Longford are now underway. LWETB recognises that Music Generation provides a wonderful platform for students to showcase their talents and progress their interests in music education. LWETB is delighted to be part of such an influential programme for both the personal and academic benefits it affords our students.

## NATIONAL PRINCIPALS FORUM

BY DR. PADRAIC O'DOWD,  
PRINCIPAL, MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The Principals Forum has been set up under the auspices of ETBI, and is composed of a nominated principal from each of the 16 ETBs in Ireland. Its purpose is to advise and support the Executive Leadership Forum in the development, formulation and implementation of ETB strategy and to explore issues relating to second-level education. As was said by one of the principals, it is a forum where "ideas can be thrashed out at pre-policy stage, and sometimes that means putting the 'trash' out." It also identifies supports that leaders in schools and colleges require.

An example of one such support was the inaugural Principals and Deputy Principals Conference in the Mullingar Park Hotel in February, where some 250 principals, deputy principals, directors of schools and chief executives gathered.

While this provided an ideal opportunity for networking, the overriding aim of the day was to facilitate school leaders in the sector in engaging with a range of matters relevant to achieving excellence in the leadership and management of their schools. Ways of making school leadership more effective, less stressful and more professionally rewarding were explored, and in the process school leaders came to a greater appreciation and understanding of the distinct characteristic spirit of the sector - the pursuit of excellence in both curricular and extracurricular matters, and respect for inclusion and diversity.

Overall, in terms of the feedback received both on the day and from the post-conference survey, the response was very positive.

## INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR NEW PRINCIPALS AND DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

BY BERNICE MARTIN,  
PRINCIPAL, LANESBORO COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

On 28th and 29th March the newly appointed principals and deputy principals from ETB schools across the country gathered together in the Mullingar Park Hotel for their induction programme by ETBI. The two days away from school proved to be time well spent as underpinning the entire programme was the potential school leaders have to transform lives.

David Leahy (Galway Roscommon ETB) was a wealth of knowledge as he discussed leadership and management. His wide-ranging experience was evident throughout the programme and his down-to-earth manner made easy listening.

Peter Kierans (former CE of Louth Meath ETB) addressed those present on a number of occasions. His passion and enthusiasm was infectious as he recounted experiences from his time as principal. He discussed the importance of having a clear vision and high expectations for your school and students.

Eileen Curtis (Kilkenny Carlow ETB) presented on school leadership in an ETB context explaining the functions and structure of the ETBs. This was particularly beneficial for those that had been appointed from outside the ETB sector.

Overall the programme was inspirational, energising and thought provoking. It provided an opportunity to meet with others starting out in leadership positions and to share experiences and ideas.

## BT YOUNG SCIENTIST COMPETITION 2017



person's chance of survival by up to 50%. The group believed there was definitely a need for CPR and AED awareness in schools. The girls carried out a CPR and DEFIB day in October 2016m where 1st, 2nd and 5th year students took part in a number of lifesaving activities and practiced basic lifesaving skills, including CPR and how to use an AED. The day was a huge success and according to the group's survey the students benefitted greatly and as a result were more confident to intervene in an emergency. The girls received many compliments from the judges and visitors at the BTYSE competition, for both their presentation and their public speaking skills, going on to win a Display Award. Afterwards, the girls were invited to the monthly LWETB Board meeting where they presented their project and received a reward for their efforts.

LWETB look forward to its schools leading the way in this exciting initiative.

### Maths Teacher Alert!

Another inventive entry, by a student (below) of Lanesboro Community College was his project, "We remember 95% of what we teach: Peer Tutoring in Senior Cycle Science." His project was aimed at examining the effectiveness of peer-tutoring as a tool for improving results in Science subjects for Transition Year Students. He used research he had gathered from a similarly conducted study to plan his entry. He randomly selected a reciprocal peer tutoring system, which meant that the roles of tutor and tutee would interchange as well as a control group that would receive no peer tutoring. He then analysed test results from both groups to see if peer tutoring had a positive effect on student engagement with their revision.

And for details of yet another successful entry, see the Athlone Community College section later in this newsletter.

It's wonderful to see students attempting to enhance their learning experiences within schools. As with the previous project, LWETB would be interested in supporting schools in the introduction of this innovative idea in its schools.



There is a strong and successful tradition of LWETB entering the annual BT Young Scientist & Technology Competition, and this year was no different!

Three schools; Athlone Community College, Ballymahon Vocational School and Lanesboro Community College, participated in the annual event in the RDS in January with successes in various categories for LWETB schools. We would like to acknowledge and congratulate all those that took part in this year's competition. It's wonderful to see the interest and innovation among the students throughout our schools and great credit is also due to the wonderful and committed staff who work with our students to gain such success.

Ballymahon Vocational School's entry "Defib Demo - The Heart of the Matter," was aimed at developing an educational programme that can be easily used in our schools to spread awareness on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) technique, Automated External Defibrillator (AED) machines and general life saving skills. This was such an innovative idea that plans are now in place to support LWETB schools who wish to implement it and help reduce fear about life saving techniques.

The main reason behind the project, as explained by the students (above) was that 5000 families lose a loved one to sudden cardiac arrest every year. Performing CPR and knowing what to do increases a

## COMMUNITY NATIONAL SCHOOLS

### What is a Community National School?

Community National Schools (CNS) are state-operated, multid denominational, inclusive schools that welcome all children from the local communities they serve. Historically, schools were managed by private patrons who also are responsible for the ethos of the school e.g. Church bodies, Educate Together. The State has now developed its own primary school model with the Community National Schools.

### Why is there a need for a Community National School?

Ireland is changing. It used to be a significantly homogenous country with most people identifying as Roman Catholic. The religious identity of many Irish people has changed in recent years. Ireland has also morphed into a richly diverse country because of the migration experienced during the boom years. Due to these changes, the current school system which is 96% Church-run no longer fully reflects Irish society. Even with their best efforts, many Church-run schools are struggling to fully meet the needs of all of their children due to the constraints of their ethos.

### Who is the patron of these schools?

The patron of CNS schools is the Education and Training Boards (ETBs). ETBs, which were formerly known as VECs, are statutory authorities which have responsibility for education and youth work. ETBs manage and operate Community National Schools, Second-level schools such as Community Colleges and a range of adult and further education centres. They have developed an excellent reputation for their provision of inclusive, innovative education that meets the needs of the entire community.

### What is the difference between Community National Schools and other school types?

Faced with a number of choices, parents can be comforted knowing that every school, regardless of its patron, follows the same national curriculum. Schools main-ly differ in what they call their 'ethos' or characteristic spirit. Many parents describe a Community National School as somewhere between the traditional denomi-national school and a secular school. Although Community National Schools do not prioritise any one religion over another, space is made within the school day for children to be nurtured in their own faith or secular belief while learning more about their friends' beliefs too.

Although CNS schools pride themselves on their commitment to inclusion and equality for all, their main commitment is to providing a child-centred education that helps children to live their lives to the full. A focus on both academic and hands-on learning, IT and the nurturing of children's well-being ensures that they are prepared to thrive in and beyond their education journey.

CNS schools are progressive schools rooted in the best of tradition. CNS schools are similar to traditional schools in that the children wear a school uniform and the teacher is referred to formally e.g. Mr. Murphy, Múinteoir Orla.

CNS schools are similar to Educate Together Schools in that they have inclusive enrolment policies which do not prioritise any one group over another, are multid denominational and have equality central to their ethos.

Unique to each school type is what is known as their 'Patron's Programme'. This is done for 30 minutes a day and underpins the ethos of the school. In a Church-run school it is a single faith formation programme. However, in a Community National

School, it is a multi-belief and values education programme called Goodness Me! Goodness You!

### How do Community National Schools cater for religious/secular belief diversity?

Unlike single-denominational schools, Community National Schools have a multi-belief and values education programme that caters for children of all faiths and secular beliefs. The programme is called Goodness Me, Goodness You! or GMYG. This programme was developed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) which is the statutory body charged with the development of national curricula. It is a belief-nurturing programme where children, with the help of their teacher, parents and belief communities learn more about their own beliefs and those of their friends.

Children learn together about the same theme – the schools communicate with parents about the theme and they talk about it at home from their own faith/belief perspective. Children then share their perspective or experience of the same theme with their class and therefore learn more about themselves and each other.

Does the school support children preparing for special rites of passages e.g. The Sacraments?

Community National Schools also offer Belief Specific Teaching (BST) where parents can request additional supports around specific rites of passage. For example, many Catholic parents want some support from the school around the sacraments. The schools work with the parents and parish around how they can support them, bearing in mind the limitations they have as they are primarily multid denominational schools. This is open to all families from all religions and beliefs. This support is different in every Community National School, depending on the needs of the school community and the practices of local belief communities.

### Does the GMYG Programme deal with topics other than religions and beliefs?

The GMYG programme is also a values education programme. Children learn all about ethics and the values of the school such as equality and justice. They also do what is called 'Thinking Time' where the children learn to think critically and philosophically about different issues. A very nice part of the programme is what is known as 'Quiet Time' where children are encouraged to fall still and think about all that they have learnt that day in GMYG and to consider how that relates to their lives as individuals. Where are the current Community National Schools and how are they doing?

To date, there are 11 Community National Schools in Dublin, Wicklow, Meath, Kildare and Cork. Each CNS has thrived in the areas they are in and have developed reputations for their inclusive ethos and commitment to excellence in education.

### Where can I find out more information about these schools?

For more information or to express an interest in enrolling your child in a new Community National School, please visit [www.cns.ie](http://www.cns.ie). Each school has its own individual website that can be accessed from here.

For more information on Goodness Me! Goodness You! please visit [www.gmyg.ie](http://www.gmyg.ie).



## THE DEIS INSPECTION – A SCHOOL PERSPECTIVE

BY NIALL LYNCH, PRINCIPAL, COLUMBA COLLEGE KILLUCAN

Columba College was the subject of a DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) inspection in March of this year and despite the worry and stress caused by the information letter received in early February, we are still standing, motivated and stronger for the experience. It was scheduled for the same timeframe as our Active Week and Positive Mental Health Initiatives and these very worthwhile programmes went ahead as planned to add to the organised chaos of an inspection.

DEIS evaluations are quite intensive and very focused on the quality of planning, teaching and learning, particularly for the targeted students. There are three phases of this type of inspection:

1. Pre-Inspection data
2. 3-day In-School Phase
3. Post-Inspection Feedback

**Pre-Inspection:** The current DEIS Plan and the school information request form must be submitted to the Inspectorate at least seven days prior to inspection. Questionnaires were distributed to all parents/guardians of third and fifth year students for completion and they had to be returned to the Inspectors on their arrival in the school on the first morning.

The **In-School Evaluation Phase** comprises a number of activities. Among these are:

- Interviews with the Principal and Deputy Principal
- Interviews with Key Personnel including the DEIS planning co-ordinator, the School completion Programme Co-Ordinator (SCP), the Home-School-Liaison Co-ordinator (HSCL), Attendance Officer, committees or individuals with responsibility for the eight strands of the DEIS Plan
- Monitoring of compliance with the Child Protection procedures for Post Primary schools (DES 2011)
- Review of Planning Documents relevant to the DEIS Programme
- Observation of teaching and learning and of activities organised as part of the DEIS programme, for example SCP or HSCL, such as Homework Club or Parents classes
- Interview/discussion with a focus group of parents
- Questionnaires completed by third and fifth year students.

The In-School Phase concludes with a **post evaluation meeting** where the findings are discussed with the key personnel involved in the DEIS plan. The written report arising from the Inspection will then be sent to the Principal and BOM and published in due course.

**Key Questions/Areas of Interest** for school leaders and class teachers arising from the inspection were -

### DEIS Planning:

What data did you gather in respect of each of the strands? Did you set Smart, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely Targets for each strand of the DEIS Plan? How did you select the targeted students?

How do the interventions/actions (based in teaching and learning) ensure that the agreed targets are reached?

Are your whole school Literacy and Numeracy strategies/approaches evident all across the school?

When and how do you evaluate the targets?

Teaching and Learning in individual classrooms:

Where is the evidence that the DEIS plan is in action in this classroom and throughout this subject?

How are the targeted students being catered for?

What strategies have individual teachers in use to address Literacy, Numeracy and Exam Attainment within their own subject area?

What happens in the teaching and learning space on a daily basis with regard to DEIS Targets?

Are all teachers aware of the role of HSCL and the SCP and the students that are identified by these interventions?

### Lessons learned to date:

The DEIS inspection is a very targeted, intensive and specific inspection process. It is vital that all staff are acutely aware of targeted students and the targets for each strand of the DEIS plan. The interventions and actions designed to reach these targets must be based in Teaching and Learning and they should be evidenced in every



individual classroom. Individual student target grades and regular progress checks with respect to standardised test scores is the best method to monitor individual students' academic attainment over time. Inspectors have a job to do and are committed to conducting the inspection in a spirit of partnership with the schools in working to provide the best possible education for our students. We await the final report with bated breath.

### What is DEIS?

Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS), the Action Plan for Educational Inclusion, was launched in May 2005 and remains the Department of Education and Skills policy instrument to address educational disadvantage. The action plan focuses on addressing and prioritising the educational needs of children and young people from disadvantaged communities, from pre-school through second-level education (3 to 18 years).

DEIS provides for a standardised system for identifying levels of disadvantage and an integrated School Support Programme (SSP).

825 schools are included in the programme in the 2016/17 school year. These comprise 640 primary schools (328 urban/town schools and 312 rural primary schools) and 185 second level schools.

## SCHOOLS

### ARDSCOIL PHÁDRAIG

#### IN THE JOURNAL

Congratulations to Mr Domican and his 5th year Ag Science students on having their feature on growing vegetables featured in the Farmers Journal.



#### ARCHITECTURE IN SCHOOLS

Transition Year students were blindfolded and took to wheelchairs under the supervision of Ms. Mulligan as part of a sensory exercise for the Architecture in Schools project. Attempting to negotiate their way around the school allowed the students to get a better understanding of the the needs of students and staff with disabilities, and the challenges of designing school buildings with those needs in mind.



### ATHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### AN TAOISEACH OFFICIALLY OPENS OUR SCHOOL

On 3rd of April the new school building was officially opened by An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D. The Taoiseach took a tour of the building, admiring the spacious and brightly lit classrooms, language suites, fitness suite, the five science labs, demonstration theatre, plus the generous playing fields and courts that cater for the 1000 plus students of the school. He praised the students, staff, the ETB and the wider community who were involved in the provision of this fine building, and encouraged students to dream big and to develop the resilience to deal with whatever life threw at them.

An Taoiseach with LWETB Director of Schools Liz Lavery, School Principal Eileen Donohoe and LWETB Chief Executive Dr. Christy Duffy



#### BT YOUNG SCIENTISTS WINNERS

Congratulations to our students who won the Bord Bia Origin Green Sustainability Award, for their study on MCPA Pesticide in Drinking Water at the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2017. The trio went on to garner even more recognition at the SciFest awards in Athlone Institute of Technology in April. The aim of their project was to establish the level of knowledge and awareness amongst members of the farming sector of the prevalence and impacts of the pesticide, and the existence and efficacy of control measures currently employed by farmers when spraying with MCPA. The girls used traditional research, focus groups, and surveyed over 150 farmers to gather their findings and come up with their recommendations.

## BALLYMAHON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL



**SCHOOL BANK**  
The school bank was officially opened by Mayo footballer Keith Higgins on Thursday 2nd February. The school bank, which is run in conjunction with the local Bank of Ireland, has been in operation for three years now. Students were selected for their bank positions through an interview process conducted by the local branch of Bank of Ireland. The bank will be open every Thursday and students will have the opportunity to save each week.

### RSA VISITS THE SCHOOL

The Road Safety Authority of Ireland visited as part of the Transition Year road safety week. Students got to enter the mobile 'Shuttle Bus,' where they enjoyed a fully interactive road safety educational experience, practicing driving skills on simulators, learning about the dangers of texting and fatigue and the importance of driving environments, speed, braking distances and tyre safety.

Senior students tried out the roll over simulator - a car body fitted to a rotating hydraulic platform, allowing participants to experience the feeling of being in a car which turned over in a collision, and the lifesaving benefits of wearing a seatbelt.



## CASTLEPOLLARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### DRAMA FESTIVAL WINNERS

Following the terrific response to the Transition Year production of John B. Keane's Big Maggie in November, Cork's Briery Gap Theatre Co. nominated the play as a finalist in the All Ireland Transition Year Drama Festival, which took place in Mullingar Arts Centre on Saturday March 4th. Everyone was thrilled to come away with the award for Best Newcomer.

### SCIFEST

In January 80 students from first and second year participated in the inaugural SciFest@School science fair, presenting projects on areas from cricket behaviour to wirelessly controlling lights on a trailer. Judges on the day included Dr. David Casey, forensic scientist with the Dept. of Justice, Sheila Porter, CEO of SciFest Ltd., and Orla Concannon from Mergon International.

The winning entry was a study entitled "Which cleaning sprays are better for the environment?"

Students were praised for their presentation skills, knowledge and confidence. Nine projects will now contest the midlands regional final in April where they will compete for prizes from international companies like Boston Scientific and Intel.



## COLUMBA COLLEGE KILLUCAN

### STADIUM OF DREAMS

Some of our fifth years got up bright and early on a February morning to catch the ferry and see Man Utd. vs Hull City at Old Trafford. Thanks to Mr. Seoige and Ms. Smith for organising this.



### WISH TRIP

A group of our Junior Certs on their way to the RDS for the 2017 I Wish Conference & Exhibition, organised to inspire girls to pursue further study and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.



## LANESBORO COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### SKY YOUTH SPORTS TRUST

Former Irish International rower and athlete Owen Diviney from Sky Sports came to give our TYs a presentation on motivation and Team Work. The TYs played team building games and learned that by breaking large problems down into smaller more manageable ones it's a lot easier to deal with them. Thanks to Ms McGrath for organising this and presenting the TYs with Sky Sport T-shirts.

### CONSTRUCTION NEWS

On Monday 27th March, LWETB met with Phillip Brady Architects and Dervin Construction here at the school to sign contracts for the construction of a new facility on the school premises. The building will include a new classroom, resource room and state-of-the-art science room as the school expands to provide students with a greater learning experience.

Liz Lavery, Director of Schools for the LWETB said, "This building will be a wonderful addition to Lanesboro Community College. We have worked hard to get to this point and look forward the project being completed and ready for the students to use in the new academic year."

The school principal Ms. Bernice Martin explained that the new science lab will be a "fantastic resource for the students in the school and will now give the students the facilities they need to continue to excel in the area of science. Their success in recent years in the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition and in SciFest has been remarkable and it will be wonderful for the students to have the modern science laboratory to continue their great work." Construction was scheduled to begin during the Easter break.



## MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



### HELEN MCCORMACK

Beauty Therapy students from Mullingar Community College visited the Irish Beauty show in the RDS in March. This show had amazing new innovations, new product launches and great deals from all the biggest and best companies in the Irish Beauty industry. However, the highlight of the show was meeting our past student Helen McCormack. Helen graduated last May with her CIBTAC diploma in Beauty Therapy. Since then she has been working in Aphrodite Laser and Beauty Clinic in Kildare in the role of Clinic Technician. Helen was at the show demonstrating an innovative new treatment to other business owners who would like to be trained in this area. We are so proud of Helen and wish her every success in her future career.

### OLIVER CAST

We have been shortlisted in The Bord Gáis Energy Student Theatre Awards for your production of 'Oliver!' in the category of Best Costumes. With such a high calibre of competition and close to 3,000 entries from all over Ireland, it really is a huge achievement to have made it this far. To celebrate this, we have been invited to the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre on 17 May where the winners of each category will be announced.



## TEMPLEMICHAEL COLLEGE LONGFORD (AND LONGFORD COLLEGE OF FURTHER EDUCATION)

### MAKE A BOOK EXHIBITION 2017

In March, a group of Junior Cert students attended the Make a Book Exhibitions in Sligo, accompanied by their teacher Ms. Mc Gauran. Two students created a 'Beginner's Guide to Minecraft' providing hints, tips and tricks for new players, which earned a special mention from the judges. Another group created a book called "Pieces of Us," all about their home countries – Nigeria, Latvia, Portugal and Poland. One contribution focused on Polish food, and the student provided some tasty samples to exhibition visitors. Each student was presented with a certificate to mark the special day.



### ERASMUS

In February 21 Beauty Therapy and Business students from Longford College of Further Education and Mullingar Community College completed their three-week Erasmus+ Mobility placement in Tenerife. Everybody worked really hard and received constructive feedback from the work placements, some even securing job offers as a result. The students also found time for exploring and sightseeing. Student Ewelina Romańczuk found it a particularly eye-opening experience, and greatly enjoyed the mix of work experience, cultural immersion and fine weather – she would highly recommend the programme!



## ST. ANTHONY'S ATHLONE



Staff: L to R Darach Milner (Manager), Triona Durkin (IT), Annemarie McKeon (English, ESS), Christine O'Reilly (English, SPHE)

St Anthony's is a small secondary school in Athlone under the management of LWETB which provides education and a caring environment to young people between the ages of 12 and 16. We aim to meet the needs of students who have had difficulty adapting to the structure and demands of a mainstream secondary school. The school accepts students who have attended mainstream secondary school but for whom the experience has not been a success for various reasons.

Students are helped to reach their full potential by the caring and respectful environment maintained in the school. Development of skills and academic attainment is at the core of the school's mission but a high degree of emphasis is put on the social and personal development of each student. Students are helped to experience success in school, something they may never have experienced before. The unique makeup of the school in the locality means we can provide a different experience for our students that is unavailable elsewhere. This is done through small class sizes of three to five, individual attention and the provision of courses outside the standard Junior Certificate curriculum. We aim for all students to reach their full potential and complete their Junior Certificate at the end of their time with us.

The subjects taught in the school are

English, Mathematics, Environmental and Social Studies, Civic Social and Political Education, Woodwork and Art. IT is taught as a QQI module Level Two and Three. In addition, pottery, bicycle repair, cookery, animal care, and photography modules are conducted over the course of the year. All Junior Cert subjects are conducted through the framework of the Junior Cert Schools Programme.

In line with the caring environment of the school all school materials and lunch are provided to the students free of charge. Throughout the year, a number of cultural outings and field trips are arranged. These have both an academic as well as team-building and personal development purpose. St Anthony's aims to educate students to become confident, competent citizens with a rounded education.

As a means of identifying possible future students as well as placing some students back in mainstream education after St Anthony's, we have strong links to the other secondary schools in the area. We also work closely with the Educational Welfare Officers in the region. The school maintains links to other local agencies such as the Community Training Centre, Athlone Training Centre and Youthreach to ensure interesting and suitable progression pathways are in place for the students once they have completed their education with St. Anthony's.



Aidan O'Reilly (Woodwork), Anne Marie Burke (Art)



Damien O'Brien (Art, Pottery)

Enquiries and applications are welcomed year-round from parents, secondary school and other interested parties. The school day runs from 9.30 to 3.15 (Friday 9.30-12.45)

St. Anthony's, c/o Dr. Dobbs Memorial Home, Northgate Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 N1W3

090 6472174/086 1742274  
StAnthonyJuniorEduc@lwetb.ie

# FURTHER EDUCATION

## NEW ADULT EDUCATION OFFICER



Shauna Doherty was appointed in November 2016 as the new Adult Education Officer for the Further Education Service. Shauna joins us from Louth Meath Education and Training Board where she served as the Community Education Facilitator for 10 years. Prior to this Shauna worked as an Adult Education tutor with Co. Monaghan VEC across a number of their services including Adult Literacy, BTEI and on PLCs. She also spent 18 months as an instructor with the National Learning Network.

Under her leadership in LMETB, the community education service developed and expanded over the ten years delivering courses to an average of 800 participants in 20 locations throughout Co. Meath annually. Her main drive was to ensure high quality, flexible provision with a focus on engaging those who have not traditionally accessed education and to provide a safe and informal means for them

to re-engage with lifelong learning. In addition to her role as CEF, she also led and managed a number of other projects including The Smart Skills Labour Market Activation Fund programme, Momentum, SkillVEC/SkillETB, Equality for Women Projects, Digital Inclusion Projects and European Projects.

Within her role as AEO she is committed to developing and expanding the Further Education services to provide learners with high quality educational opportunities that will enhance their future prospects. This will be achieved through the provision of education with highly experienced staff and well-resourced centres. Under her guidance, the service will continue to build relationships developed over the last number of years with local communities, statutory partners, employers and third level institutions to give learners the best chance to succeed.

## ATHLONE TRAINING CENTRE

### Recruitment at ATC

The recruitment team in Athlone Training Centre is the first port of call for all prospective applicants. We offer a professional service by assessing training needs, providing advice on courses and organising applications. The recruitment team is headed up by the Assistant Manager Thomas Grennan.

### Our Clients:

Our clients fall into a number of different categories including:

- Unemployed people (both recent and long term)
- Early school leavers
- College withdrawals
- Career changers
- Current trainees requiring progression
- Local Employers
- People requiring up-skilling

We have a wide range of courses ranging from QQI Level 3 to Level 6, City and Guilds and industry specific qualifications. We feel that we have the right course to offer everybody and pride ourselves on designing bespoke training courses to meet specific skill requirements identified. All course information is on our Training Centre website ([www.athlonetrainingcentre.ie](http://www.athlonetrainingcentre.ie)) and on FETCH courses ([www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie)) but for somebody who is unsure and wants advice, they can arrange a one to one meeting with Aileen Moloney, who can advise them on different options and point them in the right direction. People can also post enquiries through the website, which are dealt with promptly.

### Our Courses:

Our courses fall into the following categories:

- **Specific Skills daytime courses in the Training Centre**  
These vary in duration from 6 weeks to 56 weeks and also include some blended courses. We offer day courses that are designed to provide trainees with a range of employability related skills and formal qualifications. This assists people entering the labour market for the first time, and people wishing to update or acquire new skills. While the majority of day courses are delivered on a full-time basis throughout the year in the centre, some courses are



Athlone Training Centre Recruitment Team: (Back Row L-R) Sephine Smythe, Ann McEvelly, Fran Kenny, Karen Lynch. (Front Row L-R) Aine Macken, Aileen Moloney.

delivered through a blended learning approach. This involves the trainee attending the centre part time and the remaining time is spent working from home.

### • Evening courses

Our evening courses run throughout the year closing only for July and August. The wide variety of courses on offer provide the necessary skills and qualifications required to gain access to employment, up-skill and also allow for progression. Courses can lead to (QQI) Awards at levels 4, 5 and 6 and/or to industry recognised accreditation.

- o The duration of an evening course can range from 5 to 25 weeks.
- o Generally courses are run 1 to 2 evenings per week.

### • Contracted Training courses

These are generally courses which are run outside the Training Centre in areas where needs are identified and are usually run by private companies. Also, if we identify a training need in the centre for which we do not have the expertise, we engage contracted companies to provide the skillset and expertise required. This allows greater flexibility to meet changing demands and the opportunity to run courses in different locations, enabling the centre to respond to market demand and provide new innovative courses.

## FURTHER EDUCATION

### • LTIs (Local Training Initiatives)

Athlone Training Centre works in partnership with community based groups and voluntary organisations to provide training through Local Training Initiatives (LTIs). The Local Training Initiatives programme is for those aged between 18-35 and targets specific groups that may experience barriers accessing employment or mainstream training and education programmes. LTIs provide vocational training opportunities, learning supports and project-based learning to assist participants achieve awards on the NFQ and to develop the capacity to progress to further training, education and work.

The Local Training Initiative programme supports many organisations engaged in a wide variety of activities including genealogy, environment, heritage, tourism, arts, sports and leisure.

### • Community Training Centres

Athlone Training Centre works in partnership with Community Training Centres (CTCs) to provide training and related services to early school leavers. The programme is for those aged 16-21 without a Leaving Cert/Junior Cert qualification who are

having difficulty accessing employment and would like to gain a qualification. Trainees in CTCs develop individualised learning plans and participate in personal, social and vocational skills training and development, leading to Major Awards on the National Framework of Qualifications.

### Link with Department of Social Protection

The majority of our applicants are referred by the DSP and we have forged strong links with the staff in the local offices. We take part in the Group Engagement sessions in all the offices and at times have set up information stands in the DSP lobbies on sign-on days. This has proved very effective in meeting prospective clients

We also attend jobs fairs and career exhibitions for local industries. In addition we keep in regular contact with SEETEC, local jobs clubs and local community groups

### Contact Details:

Interested candidates can be referred for courses through their local DSP office or contact the recruitment team in the Training Centre at 090 6424200

### Energy savings Initiative

Athlone Training Centre was recently honoured with being nominated for an Environmental Award as part of the prestigious Athlone Business Awards. This is testament to the hard work and commitment from the centre staff towards energy savings and towards environmental impact. It is through small changes that a big impact can be made. This is important because the Public Sector has been challenged to reach verifiable energy efficiency savings of 33% by 2020. It is a high target but one that can be achieved.

Some of the areas where this target can be met are as follows.

- Setting annual energy saving targets
- Continual improvement in reducing energy usage
- Complying with all energy regulations and other legislation
- Minimising the impact that energy use has on the environment
- Educating staff and learners in the importance of energy and water use management by the communicating of our energy statement and energy programme
- Ensuring suppliers and contractors are aware of our energy programme

This can be achieved through some of the measures below:

- Keeping doors, windows closed to retain heat in rooms
- Turning off unnecessary lighting
- Switching off machinery and equipment
- Conservation of water
- In addition, cost savings are achieved by activation of power management options where appropriate, such as energy savers that are installed on photocopiers and computers, because the overall impact of the small power loads for such equipment is often underestimated, especially when there are a large number in the building.
- In a recent study by SEAI, lighting was found to be an area where investment has a reasonable payback period (the time over which the energy savings pay for the investment). If the school's or centre's complete lighting system cannot be upgraded, one or two rooms could be done at a time. Electricity is expensive and has a relatively high global warming potential compared with heating fuels. Reductions in lighting energy use therefore can significantly reduce utility bills and help to protect the environment.
- As efforts are made to reduce energy use in schools, there is one area in which energy use is increasing, namely IT equipment. Increased uses of interactive whiteboards creates an extra demand on electricity which can sometimes negate any savings made in other areas such as lighting. Fortunately, many of the measures that can be taken involve little or no cost

### Top Tips:

- Replace incandescent bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Bulbs (CFLs)
- Where practical, use daylight. Switch off light when daylight is adequate, especially in the area nearest the window.
- Switch off lights when the room is empty
- Read your electricity meter at least monthly and record usage in a spreadsheet to track usage
- Screensavers were designed to save the older computer monitors from damage. They do not save energy and can actually reduce the life of a flat panel monitor
- A computer still uses some energy in standby mode but none in hibernate mode
- A typical photocopier may use 230W in Standby mode and only 17W in power saving mode i.e. There is a 92% saving by using power saving mode



Matt Curley (Assistant Training Centre Manager) with John Costello (Area Training Manager)

These initiatives have contributed greatly to improving the energy efficiency of the Training Centre and were achieved with the full engagement and support of all centre staff. An energy audit was carried out on the centre by SEAI in Qtr. 4 2016. The report was very complimentary of the work done in the centre and below is an extract from the report. 'An Energy Management Diagnostic Questionnaire was carried out during the site visit to help assess existing energy management practices and identify areas for improvement. Athlone Training Centre scored 87% overall in their Energy Management Diagnostic which is an excellent score. The score reflects the work that has been done to date and there is no doubt that Athlone Training Centre will successfully implement a structured and valuable energy management system allowing them to achieve more significant energy savings. It is very important that management receives the required support from all staff.'



## LONGFORD ADULT LEARNING

### Learning English – and so much more, in LWETB!

On any given weekday during the school year, visitors to the Further Education and Training Centre in Longford might be forgiven for thinking they had strayed into the departure lounge of a busy international airport. Based in the Longford town campus, the adult literacy service provides courses to meet the language needs of hundreds of people from all over Europe and beyond who have decided to settle and start new lives in the busy midlands town.

The majority of the students come from Central Europe, but there are also students from Russia, China, Indonesia, Brazil, Pakistan and several African and Middle Eastern countries. What they all have in common is a desire to learn English, so they can become more fully a part of the community in which they are now living. A team of fully qualified and highly experienced ESOL teachers delivers courses ranging from beginner to upper elementary level, with many students preparing for QQI certification at levels one to three. The emphasis is on functional English, and the classes are very much focused on equipping students with the language they need to carry out the tasks of day to day living.

The service is also the starting point for many long-term unemployed people who are referred by other state agencies. These



Dáil Field Trip

students need to acquire the language skills necessary in an increasingly competitive jobs market. We are also getting increasing numbers of non-native speakers who need to improve their language skills so that they can undertake courses at level five and above.

Classes are delivered in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, with the focus very much on communication through role

play and task-based activities. Indeed, for many students, attending English classes is about much more than just studying a language. It an opportunity to make new friends, learn about other cultures and feel more deeply a part of this new country they now call home.

**Nuala Donlon**  
ESOL Co-ordinator - LWETB  
Church Street, Longford

## MULLINGAR ADULT LEARNING

### Mullingar Adult Learning News

A group of level 3 QQI students recently held a very successful raffle and coffee morning in the Further Education Centre in Marlinstown. They managed to raise €351 for the local TEAM (Temporary Emergency Accommodation Mullingar) with the support of other students, staff and the staff from LWETB Head Office and also donations from other workplaces in the building.

We are looking forward to a centre trip to Lough Key Forest Park on Monday 8th May 2017 and then it is heads down as students work to complete their folders for the end of term QQI assessment!

Our new group of Volunteer Tutors have finished their training and most of them are now working with students. This is a unique opportunity to offer students a supportive entry into learning until they gain the confidence to progress into a small group.



Fundraising team...for TEAM!



## FURTHER EDUCATION

## ATHLONE VTOS

### Athlone VTOS News

The I.T. class went for a visit to the local company Ericssons to have a look around the Software Campus. The visit was organised by our Adult Education Guidance Counsellor Patricia Reilly and it was very beneficial to our IT students who are currently studying towards a QQI Level 5 Software Development certificate. They met with an Ericsson's rep and were treated to lunch at the campus and had the chance to

chat to the employees and find out working life there was like and which skills and qualifications were most useful. The visit gave great encouragement to the students who would all aspire to work in such a large and successful company like Ericssons!

The art class also went on a trip to the Museum of Modern Art and The National Gallery. The students were particularly interested in the Lucien Freud exhibition at

IMMA and found it to be very inspirational. The work was mainly painting and etchings which the VTOS students are currently carrying out as part of their Art/Craft/design QQI level 5 certificate. Having recently started life drawing the students were very interested in Freud's work.

The day was very enjoyable for the students and they returned to class with renewed energy and enthusiasm!



Patricia Reilly (Guidance), Mohammed El Saiéd, Gerry O'Connor, Antons Antonov and Anne O'Carroll (Ericsson's rep)



## LONGFORD VTOS

### On Tour in Galway

Another busy year is drawing to a close for Longford's VTOS students. Our second years are finalising folders for assessment for QQI Level 5 Information Processing and Business Administration awards. Many have applied for third level and Level 6 courses so we wish them well with their applications. Congrats to Rosette who has been accepted on Social Care Level 8 in Sligo IT. Others are already securing interviews for jobs. Our first years are completing some QQI components and are also busy completing their ECDL.

The communications class took time out from their studies to organise an educational trip to the Spanish Arch Museum in Galway last December and we also visited the Christmas Markets in Eyre

Square. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all. Our learners also made donations to two local charities, St Christophers and the Hungry Horse as a result of fundraising.

More recently FIT organised a site visit to Pulse Logistics in Longford which was extremely informative so thank you to Eimear and Edel (FIT) for organising this. Plans are now in motion for a site visit to Abbot and Ericsson over the coming months.

The students are also organising a 5-a-side soccer tournament with all money received going to the Irish Heart Foundation – so good on them for that!



On Tour in Galway

## MULLINGAR VTOS



Raffle Winner

### Mullingar VTOS News

Once again the Further Education and Training Centre has been a hive of activity during the second term of the 2016/2017 academic year. At present VTOS and BTEI students in the centre are busy preparing for their QQI final assessments taking place at the end of May.

Following the successful CAO workshop delivered by Caroline Cornally, FET Guidance Co-Ordinator, as part of College Awareness Week last term many of our second year VTOS students are hoping to progress onto third level college next year. Students have applied for a range of Further Education and third level courses to include; Information Technology, Business Administration, Art and Design, Animation Studies and History. We wish all our students the very best of luck with their college applications.

First year students have also been busy, and attended Mock Interview Skills Workshops organized by FIT (Fast Track to Information Technology). They found this most beneficial in helping them prepare for interviews in today's competitive job market. They also organized a charity fund raiser in the centre for the children's ward, Mullingar Regional Hospital, raising €320 with an Easter Raffle and Mini Selfie Trek in Mullingar town.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION

### Tee-shirt Painting Workshop

The Midlands Simon community held their monthly members' forum meeting in the Further Education Centre, Clonown Road, Athlone in February. The purpose of these meetings is to reduce the social isolation of the service's clients and to give them a chance to get to know each other.

At the request of the clients an art workshop was organised by LWETB's Community Education Facilitator and was delivered by Christine Reid, Art tutor. A very busy afternoon was spent by the nine clients who designed, traced and painted their own individualised tee-shirts.



### Bog Oak Carvers Group

Tom Scott poses proudly with his carving of a Scots Terrier.



## GUIDANCE



Guidance Team: Patricia Reilly, John Doherty and Caroline Cornally

**FET Educational Guidance Service**  
The LWETB Adult Educational Guidance Service offers one to one guidance and counselling and information sessions to adults who are considering returning to education. The service is primarily aimed at adults who did not have the opportunity to fulfil their educational needs at an earlier age and who now want to return to education. We can help an adult figure out their future by giving them the space to reflect on their educational and career experiences to date.

Adults return to education for many reasons. The initial reason may change and grow as the adult becomes more engaged and interested in their educational programmes and choices for the future. Adult guidance encourages personal, educational and career development, enabling people to move towards their full potential and make an enhanced contribution to society. All guidance and counselling sessions are free and take place in an impartial, confidential and supportive setting.

The Guidance Service is also involved with the Group Engagement (GE) process that is run by the Department of Social Protection (DSP). This is where the DSP invites people in receipt of a jobseeker's payment to attend an information session where they can learn more about available employment supports, their rights and their responsibilities. Working closely with the DSP in this way has served to improve our mutual understanding of each other's areas, systems, services and supports. Overall, this enables both the DSP and the Guidance Service to offer a more comprehensive, informed and integrated system for the adult learner.

The Service is an ETB-wide project with the Guidance Co-ordinator, Caroline Cornally based in the Mullingar Further Education Centre, the Information Officer John Doherty based in the Further Education and Training Centre, Longford and the Guidance Counsellor, Patricia Reilly based in the Further Education Centre, Clonown Road, Athlone and the Athlone Training Centre.

In December 2016 the service in Athlone moved from the Further Education Centre, Pearse Street into the Athlone Training Centre, Garrycastle and Patricia is based there three days per week. Initially, Patricia has been working closely with the VTOS students in ATC and we are looking forward to developing and expanding our service and to working with our colleagues in ATC.

The easiest way for adults to access our service is to either email or contact us on our mobiles which are outlined below. Alternatively our details are on the ETB website, [www.lwetb.ie](http://www.lwetb.ie). Adults are also welcome to drop in to our offices and if we can't meet them at that moment we will arrange a time that suits. For our colleagues who wish to refer a student to our service please email the relevant staff member. All course information can be found on the [fetchcourses.ie](http://fetchcourses.ie) website.

**Patricia Reilly**  
– [preilly@lwetb.ie](mailto:preilly@lwetb.ie) 086-3867847

**John Doherty**  
– [jdoherly@lwetb.ie](mailto:jdoherly@lwetb.ie) 085-8086825

**Caroline Cornally**  
– [ccornally@lwetb.ie](mailto:ccornally@lwetb.ie) 086-3867954

### What is the Adult Educational Guidance Initiative (AEGI)?

The AEGI is a Department of Education and Skills funded initiative which provides a quality educational guidance service for adults. There are currently 39 AEGI Services based nationwide within the Education Training Boards (ETBs) and Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT)

### What does the AEGI offer?

The AEGI helps people to make informed educational career and life choices. Adults can start from where they left off in education and the Guidance Service will support the adult from where he or she is right now.

### Who is it for?

Every adult can access the Guidance Service for the purposes of up to date impartial adult educational information. Those adults who left school without formal qualifications are also eligible for one-to-one guidance and group guidance. The Adult Educational Guidance Service puts a special emphasis on those adults who may wish to increase their levels of literacy; those at risk of long term unemployment; those in the workplace who may wish to build on their basic skills and adults who are ineligible to be on the Live Register and are currently not working.

### Will it cost anything?

The service is free to adults in the categories referred to above.

# YOUTHREACH

Youthreach is an initiative that provides young individuals with a second chance in relation to education and themselves. Within today's society it is becoming apparent that main stream schools are not always the learning environment for young people. Society has changed and with that the students attending school have changed. This should not mean that these students do not get the opportunity to succeed both academically and socially. What is provided for students within Youthreach is essential. It is an environment that caters for the needs of its learners. Students are given the opportunity to complete their QQI level 3 (equivalent of Junior Cert) & QQI Level 4 (equivalent of Leaving Cert), after which students can then progress to Level 5

(PLC Courses) and then on to college. No young individual should feel like they are a failure or should feel that they cannot succeed in life - it is our job as educators to ensure that they reach their goals and vanquish the negativity that is preventing them from excelling.

Youthreach provides an environment that not only focuses on the academic side of the student but also the social aspects. They are taught how to communicate appropriately, listen accordingly, how to be assertive, to manage their feelings, to believe in themselves and their capabilities, to tolerate others and be part of a team, to praise themselves and always see the positives in life. These are lessons that are paramount in their

development. Youthreach is a learning environment that teaches its students how to be the best individual they can possibly be. It strives to ensure that their students get the second chance they deserve, that they leave the learning environment with a different mind-set and a different attitude towards education, that they leave understanding how invaluable education is, its importance in order for them to flourish as young people but also that they leave with drive, motivation and the willingness to work to achieve their goals.

“The only person who is educated is the one who has learned how to learn and change.” Carl Rogers

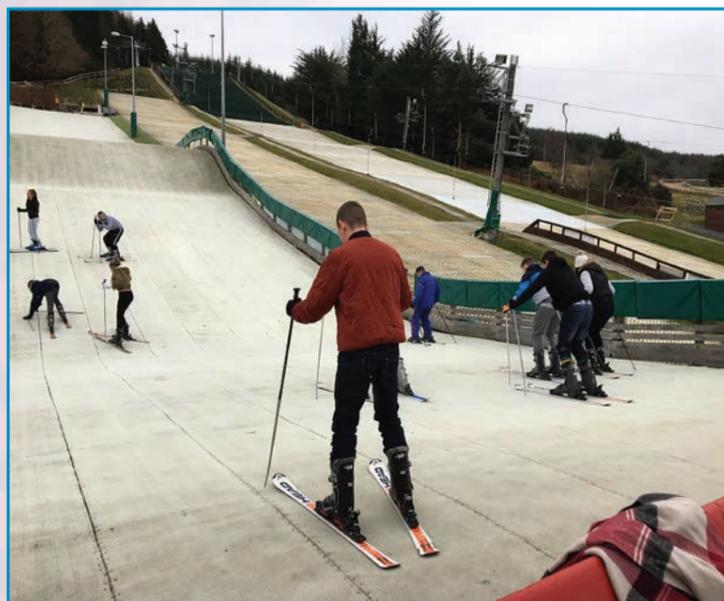
LWETB has four Youthreach centres, and contact details for each of these are set out below:

<p><b>Claire Gormley,</b> Co-ordinator Ballymahon Youthreach Upper Main Street Ballymahon Co. Longford N39 D9P3 09064 32558 admin.yrb@lwetb.ie</p>	<p><b>Bridget Geagan,</b> Co-ordinator Delvin Youthreach The Courtyard Main Street Delvin Co Westmeath N91 T634 044 9664289 info.yrd@lwetb.ie</p>	<p><b>Rayon Farrell,</b> Co-ordinator Kilbeggan Youthreach Midland Gateway Business Park Kilbeggan Co Westmeath 057-9333471 N91 NX98 info.yrk@lwetb.ie</p>	<p><b>Seán Ó Súilleabháin,</b> Co-ordinator Longford Youthreach Battery Rd Longford Co. Longford N39 K7W4 043-3346220 admin.yrl@lwetb.ie</p>
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## BALLYMAHON YOUTHREACH

We kept up our proud record of challenging ourselves by trying out new things, and had a great but bruising day out into the bargain recently at Ski Club of Ireland, in Kilternan, Co. Dublin, the National Snowsports Centre for Ireland.



We had the honour of hosting seven of our fellow Youthreach centres for the Midlands Mathletes Challenge. Well done to everyone who travelled and participated, making the day such a success. Congratulations to the overall winners Kilbeggan, and to the runners-up from Athlone CTC and Clara.



## FURTHER EDUCATION

### DELVIN YOUTHREACH

As part of their team working module our Level 4 group cooked a two-course lunch for the entire centre: cajun chicken in pitta bread with side salad and wedges, followed by peanut butter and chocolate squares, to the unanimous approval of everyone here.



The local St. Patricks Day Parade Committee asked us to commission a piece for the parade this year, so we decided we would make a snake. Lisa and Aidan took on the project with the students, who slithered with style on the big day.



### KILBEGGAN YOUTHREACH

Congratulations to our Midlands Mathletes Champions, who emerged triumphant out of a total of seven Youthreach teams at the tournament hosted by Ballymahon Youthreach recently.



Kitted out for combat at Ambushed Paintball, Tyrrellspass.



### LONGFORD YOUTHREACH

Our recent trip to Madrid took in visits to the city's two famous football club stadiums, the Bullring, the Queen Sofia museum and the world-renowned Prado Museum. Plans to set up a bullfighting class back in Longford are under consideration.



# YOUTH SERVICES

## GATEWAY YOUTH PROJECT, ATHLONE: DUBLIN TRIP



A group of young people from Athlone travelled to Dublin recently for a day trip Gateway Youth Project in St. Mary's Hall. The group, all between the ages of 10-16 were welcomed by local TD Kevin 'Boxer' Moran, who arranged for them to view both the Dáil and Seanad Éireann in session. The students were also given an historical tour of the parliament buildings.

Deputy Moran spoke to the Gateway youngsters about his experiences growing up in Athlone and his journey to the Oireachtas and answered all questions openly, including those regarding the operation of the parliament, his pay packet and how he got his nickname. The warm welcome from all in Leinster House led to a very enjoyable experience.



Following a short visit to the Natural History Museum in the afternoon, the open spaces of the Phoenix Park were a welcome antidote to the more formal surrounds of the morning's tour. The native wildlife, equally as curious, were of particular interest as April brings the annual shedding of the buck's antlers. Lopsided, one-antlered deer brought a smile to many faces and the scrapped antlers were closely inspected by Gateway's many budding zoologists. There were no sightings of President Michael D. Higgins, but it was commented that his house would be a grand place to live – as long as you hadn't to cut the grass yourself. *Written by Kieran Burke*



# OTHER LWETB NEWS

## NEW DIRECTOR OF OSD FOR LWETB

Charlie Mitchell took up his post as Director of Organisation, Support and Development with LWETB recently.

Charlie previously worked in the Department of Education and Skills in the post of Process Lead with the ETB / SOLAS Project Management Office, working on the development of the Finance Shared Services. Prior to that, Charlie worked in the education sector in Galway Mayo Institute of Technology and then in County Galway VEC and Galway Roscommon ETB.

Previously, Charlie was the Financial Controller of a Bailey's subsidiary, Terra Limited which went through a Management Buy Out (MBO) while he was there. In this critical period, he managed to secure the future of a substantial number of jobs and can proudly say that the company is still operating in rural Cavan today over 20 years on.

Charlie has also worked for Thermo King in Galway, Bord na gCon (the Irish Greyhound Board), and was the Deputy CEO of

Líonra, a third level umbrella body for the Border Midland and Western (BMW) Region of Ireland. In the latter role, he successfully saw through a huge initiative in introducing Recognition of Prior Learning in the BMW Region. In all of these roles the organisations were going through major changes at the time.



Charlie holds a Bachelor of Commerce, a Higher Diploma in Education and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

In his new role, he will support the ETB in leading on Corporate Services, Finance, Human Resources, Buildings and Project management, ICT and Procurement.

LWETB schools are funded by the Department of Education and Skills



Further Education and Training in LWETB is funded by SOLAS



Many of our awards lead to QQI qualifications

