



lwetb

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

NEWSLETTER

www.lwetb.ie

May 2018
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CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ADDRESS

Hello Data or Ta-Ta Data?

Data is, quite literally, all around us these days. GDPR sounds ok but General Data Protection Regulation sounds just a bit scary. As the 25th May approaches we will hear a lot more about GDPR one way or another. As the term suggests the era of GDPR will have huge ramifications not just for all companies but also for every person and Irish society as a whole.

As sometimes happens with change the first focus is “How does this affect me?” “Do I have to change how I go about my daily business?” “Is there any way out of this?” And our first reaction sometimes is “not more new things that I have to get used to”.

It is important that we are aware of our obligations and responsibilities as professionals working in education and training. But as we undertake training in what GDPR really means, the implications it has for how we do our work will become clearer and over time become embedded in our daily practice.

As this happens I would like to think that our focus will change away from the dread of GDPR and the burden it imposes to something else. And that something else is at the centre of GDPR, namely a learner's rights in relation to personal data. The focus on the rights and needs of learners is at the heart of what we are all about in LWETB. Our five year Strategy Statement has as one of our core values in LWETB that we are learner centred. We place the learner at the centre of everything we do.

GDPR is an opportunity for us to refresh how we put the learner and their needs and rights at the centre of everything we do. What may have been acceptable in the past may not now be considered good practice. As we keep the learner at the centre of our attention we as professionals need to review and revise our work practices so that we can move on and meet the needs of learners in this GDPR era.

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Bus R Us

Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board is delighted to announce the introduction of a new Bus App called 'BUS r US'. This new Bus App simplifies the logistics of organising once-off trips for extra-curricular school activities in schools and centres. The transport service is broken down into 8 individual Lots – Mullingar, Athlone, Ballymahon, Lanesboro, Longford, Granard, Castlepollard and Killucan.

BUS r US has gone live in all our schools and centres and trips have been awarded successfully. The Bus App can be operated by using your email address on your PC, iPad or phone. BUS r US is fully compliant with Procurement,

Health & Safety and Child Protection legislation. All buses satisfy roadworthy requirements and bus drivers are fully garda vetted. The organiser is notified on the day of the trip with the full registration details of the nominated bus and a photo of the designated bus driver.

Reports can be generated to monitor trip dates, times, location, security and accounting for all trips and it will ensure good value for money. It is still early days for the rollout of the new App and further enhancements may be introduced in response to feedback from users which will improve the functionality of the Bus App.

General Data Protection Regulation

The new law

The General Data Protection Regulation will come into force across the EU on 25th May 2018, and with it the enactment of the Data Protection Act 2018 here in Ireland.

As a result, in just a few short weeks everybody – staff, learners and students, as well as students' parents or guardians – will have stronger rights in respect of their personal information, including the right to question or challenge how it is used, the right to request a copy of all of it, or even the right to ask to have it corrected or destroyed.

For ETB staff, these rights will impose serious obligations on all of us; to tell people clearly the purpose we will be using their data for, to stick to that purpose, and to safely get rid of that data when it's no longer needed.

Keeping data safe

But above all, we will have to do everything in our power to keep that data safe and secure and out of reach of anyone who is not entitled to see or use it.

This means keeping paperwork off work surfaces and noticeboards, locking paperwork away, minimising copying and unnecessary emailing, using strong passphrases to protect data held on computer, logging off computers when unattended, and being very careful when discussing personal matters in public or on the phone. If we mess up, we are vulnerable to significant financial penalties and lasting reputational damage.

In short, we need to establish and continually practice a culture of treating data as the precious commodity it is, relating as it does so closely to people's lives and personalities.

Questions?

You can find out more about the changes to come at www.gdprandyou.ie

And for any more questions about data protection in LWETB, and how it affects you as an ETB staff member contact David on 044 9394015 or at dmcgreal@lwetb.ie



Workplace Wellbeing Day



National Workplace Wellbeing Day took place on Friday, 13th April 2018. The event which is in its fourth consecutive year now has over 500 businesses confirmed to take part annually. Ireland is the first country in Europe to devote a day to the event.

LWETB's Guidance Service organised a "Lunchtime Mile Walk" in Mullingar to highlight National Workplace Wellbeing Day with a light healthy lunch being provided afterwards in the FET Centre, Marlinstown. There was an excellent turnout of staff from both FET and Head Office and many thanks to Caroline Cornally and all in FET for organising such an enjoyable event.

SCHOOLS

A snapshot of JCSP in Mullingar Community College 2017/18

Ciara Maguire, MCC



This academic year was a busy one for 2nd and 3rd year JCSP students in Mullingar Community College. A total of 27 students participated in the programme which has been running successfully in the school for many years.

For those unfamiliar with the acronym, JCSP (Junior Certificate School Programme) is a social inclusion programme that is aimed at students who are identified as being at risk of becoming socially or academically isolated or leaving school before the Junior Certificate has been achieved. It is a national programme sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment, and students are awarded a profile folder of achievement upon completion in 3rd year - an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Skills.

This year in MCC, under the guidance of co-ordinator Ciara Maguire, JCSP students were involved in six targeted initiatives ranging from film-making to sugar crafting. In addition to these initiatives, students felt engaged with school in a general sense, and the wide variety of subjects covered meant all students benefitted through their involvement with the programme.

The year began for parents with an informal coffee morning, and for students with a team building event in Base Entertainment, Celbridge. There, students worked together to enhance both their confidence and social skills in a number of team centred activities.

"It was nice getting everyone together. I didn't really know the third years before it"

Each JCSP student was given a folder to store curricular and cross curricular statements of work, and a core team of teachers for each group was established to monitor progress, both academic and social. As such, students felt engaged with and responsible for their own learning, and were able to see their personal progress on a regular basis.

"I liked that I could see what the teachers thought of my work, and what I needed to do to get my statement ticked"

Throughout the year, JCSP students were encouraged to think about their place in the world. In English class, after studying a novel focusing on a homeless teenager, 2nd year JCSP students discussed how homelessness affects many people and so decided to assemble a box of essentials for the local homeless people they knew of. This was presented to Brian Fagan from the Simon Community, who thanked the students most sincerely for their thoughtfulness.

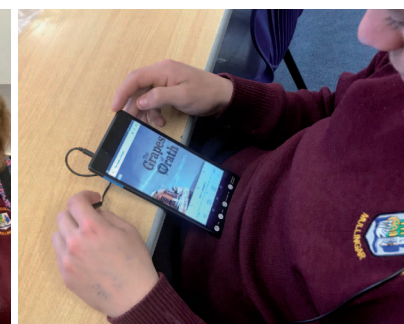
In addition, throughout the year, each student had their birthday marked with a card and a small gift from their coordinator, as well as postcards home from teachers praising them for their participation in various subjects. As such, students felt a sense of community within JCSP, and were proud to see their effort was being recognised.

In the latter half of the year, more initiatives encouraged students to engage with their learning in a positive manner. Tablets were purchased for a Readalong challenge, in which students signed up to a digital library and read books of their own choosing for pleasure.

JCSP Home Economic students were treated to a morning of sugar crafting with a local chef. The students were shown how to create their own Easter bunnies using fondant, and it has to be said they thoroughly enjoyed the experience and were very proud of their creations.

To finish off the year, parents of 3 JCSP students will be invited to a Celebration of Achievement at which students will be awarded their Final Profile Folders, and an exam pack to ensure they are prepared for their exams.

The JCSP is such a worthwhile programme to have in a school, and students feel rewarded and enhanced in their own learning.



BT meets LWETB!

LWETB enjoys a strong and successful tradition with the BT Young Scientist Competition every year and this year was no different. We would like to congratulate all those who took part in this year's competition. It's wonderful to see the interest and innovation among all the students throughout our schools and credit also to the committed staff who work with and assist the students with their projects. Well done to everyone involved.

LWETB's 2018 entries were:

ARDSCOIL PHÁDRAIG:

Ardcoil Phádraig's project on 'Bird Boxes; Are They of Any Benefit?' was an investigation into the GLAS scheme which focuses on the rural environment, particularly on the preservation of various habitats and species, mitigating climate change and improving water quality.



Above: Ardcoil Phádraig students pictured with Micheal Martin TD



This year's projects covered a variety of topics grounded in biological, ecological, psychological and statistical themes showing the rich diversity and innovative young minds in our schools.

The hands-on science experience that the BT Young Scientist Competition affords students is hugely beneficial in promoting and encouraging students to apply theory to practice and is key in nurturing the talent of future scientists and engineers.

ATHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Athlone Community College's projects were: 'The impacts of attending crèche in later life' 'To Crèche or not to Crèche'

'Is Clean Country Air a Myth?' This project looked at the effect the prevailing wind has on air pollution.



Above: Athlone Community College students pictured with Minister Katherine Zappone

BALLYMAHON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL:

Ballymahon Vocational School's project was 'Suicide Awareness'. This project was aimed at raising more awareness of suicide among their fellow students.



'Exploring the 'Classroom CO₂ levels and their Effect on Student Cognitive Performance'



CASTLEPOLLARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Castlepollard Community College's project was 'Why don't you drink?' - Project which looked at the drinking culture in Ireland, with a particular focus on underage drinking.



LANESBORO COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Lanesboro Community College's projects were:

"The cure for poor health literacy:

An investigation into the readability of public health resources. This project investigated if the readability of public health information was acting as a barrier to people understanding their own health care.

"Smartphones – can they affect the neuroplasticity of babies and young children." This project aimed to investigate if smartphones affect the neuroplasticity of babies and young children.

"Every day counts: A statistical analysis of the impact of attendance on Junior Cert results

"An investigation of the effects of the use of illicit substances on attainment" The aim of this project was to investigate if the behaviours and attitudes of students had an effect on their attainment level at Junior Certificate.



Official Opening of Science and Autism Building



Left to Right: Cllr Frankie Keena, Chairperson, LWETB, Bríd Nevin, Deputy Principal, Garrett Buckley, Principal, Dr Christy Duffy, CE, LWETB, Mary Sharkey, Learning Resources Coordinator, Fr Simon Cadam, Cllr PJ Reilly, Cllr Michael Carrigy, Ms Maura Kilbride Harkin, Chairperson (BOM)

There was great cause for celebration in Ardscoil Phádraig when the Official Opening and Naming of the new Science and Autism Building took place before Easter. Mr. Garrett Buckley, School Principal, spoke about how the ASD Unit has grown from an initial enrolment of two students to now having eighteen students whose presence in the school complements school life in so many ways. The new Science laboratories are among the best facilities in the country and emphasise the importance placed on STEM subjects by the school and LWETB. We were delighted to welcome back Peter Bennett and Matthew Byrne who were the first graduates of the ASD Unit to cut the ribbon. There were many distinguished guests including Dr Christy Duffy, CE, LWETB, Cllr Frankie Keena, Chairperson of LWETB and Mrs. Maura Kilbride Harkin, Chairperson of the Board of Management. A competition was held among the students to name the new building and the winning entry, The Discovery Building, was submitted by James Brennan.

Hola Barcelona

On Friday 23rd March, 65 excited students and 7 staff left Ardscoil Phádraig for a five day school tour to Barcelona led by Ms Doyle. The highlights of the week were the visit to the home of Barcelona Football Club, Camp Nou Stadium, where students and staff were able to take a self-guided tour of the magnificent stadium and relive the history of the club. Other sights included the famous La Sagrada Familia, a monumental church dedicated to the Holy Family and Gaudi's most famous work. The group also visited Montserrat, a spectacularly beautiful Benedictine monk mountain retreat about one hour North West from Barcelona with simply breath taking views.

All enjoyed a fun filled day at Port Aventura where they were spoilt for choice with exhilarating rides, magical parades and exciting shows on offer. On the last day the group visited the famous CosmoCaixa Science Museum.



This interactive museum allowed them to try out lots of experiments. They also managed to fit in some shopping in one of the biggest shopping centres in the area.

All arrived back in Granard at 2am on Tuesday night tired but happy after a very enjoyable trip

ATHLONE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

BT Young Scientist Silver Success!

A rapturous welcome awaited our Young Scientists as they returned from the BT Young Scientist exhibition in the RDS. Athlone Community College came second in the Intermediate Chemical and Mathematical and Physical Sciences section. The project was under the direction of Ms. Martina Roache, Chemistry & Science teacher.

Indeed there were three fantastic teams who took part in the BT Young Scientist competition. The first project looked at the impacts of attending crèche in later life with the submission 'To Crèche or not to Crèche'. The second project posed the questions 'Is Clean Country Air a Myth?' This project looked at the effect the prevailing wind has on air pollution. Our third team received a silver medal, their project explored the 'Classroom CO₂ levels and their Effect on Student Cognitive Performance' Their prize was second place in the Intermediate Chemical, Mathematical and Physical Sciences section. The objectives of their winning project were to determine what the CO₂ levels within the classrooms are, using sensors, and to use these values as a surrogate for determining if the rooms are adequately ventilated. It also tried to determine if CO₂ levels are affecting student's cognitive abilities and memory. The achievement by the Transition Year students is a tribute to the emphasis being placed on STEM subjects in Athlone Community College. Principal Eileen Donohoe congratulated all the girls, their parents and their teachers Ms. Roache and Mr. Niall Carty.



Athlone Community College students pictured with Minister Katherine Zappone at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2018

ACC Young Women's Network

Athlone Community College has recently started a Young Women's Network. The network provides an exciting opportunity for ACC girls to feel empowered, explore leadership skills and prepare for the next stage of their journey. The programme will focus on topics such as health and fitness, nutrition, confidence building, communication skills and self-care.

BALLYMAHON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Tidy Towns Teamwork

Second year Geography students were busy helping to clean up the town just in time for St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Students showed great enthusiasm during their activity!

Great effort by all!

Many thanks to Ballymahon Tidy Towns for working in partnership with our school.



BALLYMAHON VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

Future Dragons - Longford Enterprise Competition



At Longford's Enterprise competition there were seven Transition Year entries representing Ballymahon Vocational School.

Students have worked exceptionally hard over the year to establish and run their company and in March they got the opportunity to show case their work!

There was a brilliant effort from all involved and Ballymahon Vocational School are very proud of them.



One entry by Ballymahon Vocational School received a Special Merit Award for their "Wheelie Planters". The students sourced old car tires from a local garage and transformed them into decorative flower points.

Both students were highly commended for their innovation and ingenuity. Huge thanks to Mr. Galvin and Mr. Farrell for their support and guidance over the year.



CASTLEPOLLARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

RTE Irish Playwriting Finalist



One of Castlepollard Community College's TY students has been awarded for her creativity and has been placed in the Top 6 scripts in the country for her one act play "Pride". 231 plays entered the competition. The Awards Ceremony in the Dean Crowe Theatre, Athlone will take place on May 1st.

Well done on this magnificent achievement.

SCIFEST

Castlepollard Community College was the setting for a range of scientific projects which were put on display before a group of judges. The projects were completed by the Junior Cycle year groups and our TY students and involved fresh, exciting and new ideas in a range of different areas, from Biology through to Physics. Students also put their communication skills to the test as they presented their projects to the judges, explaining the value behind their research and conclusions.

Below are the winners for the represented year groups who will go on to AIT to represent the college on a national level:

- 1st Year Winners: Agrifeed
- 2nd Year Winners: Chicken Manure as a Fertilizer
- TY Winners: "Why don't you drink?"

Sheila Porter, founder and CEO of Scifest was on hand to help with the judging and spent the afternoon discussing the various presentations with the students.

Commenting on the success of the science fair, Deputy Principal James McGrath said: "We are delighted to host SciFest@School in our school because the SciFest competition allows students to develop their study of science, technology, engineering and maths, outside of the classroom and apply it to everyday life. All of the students have worked very hard on their projects and should be very proud of their achievements. We all wish the best of luck to the students going on to the next stage of the SciFest competition which will see them compete in SciFest@College in Castlepollard Community College.

Well done again to all involved and best of luck to those going on to the competition in AIT.



ROAD SAFETY READY

On the 10th of April the RSA Interactive Shuttle bus visited Columba College.

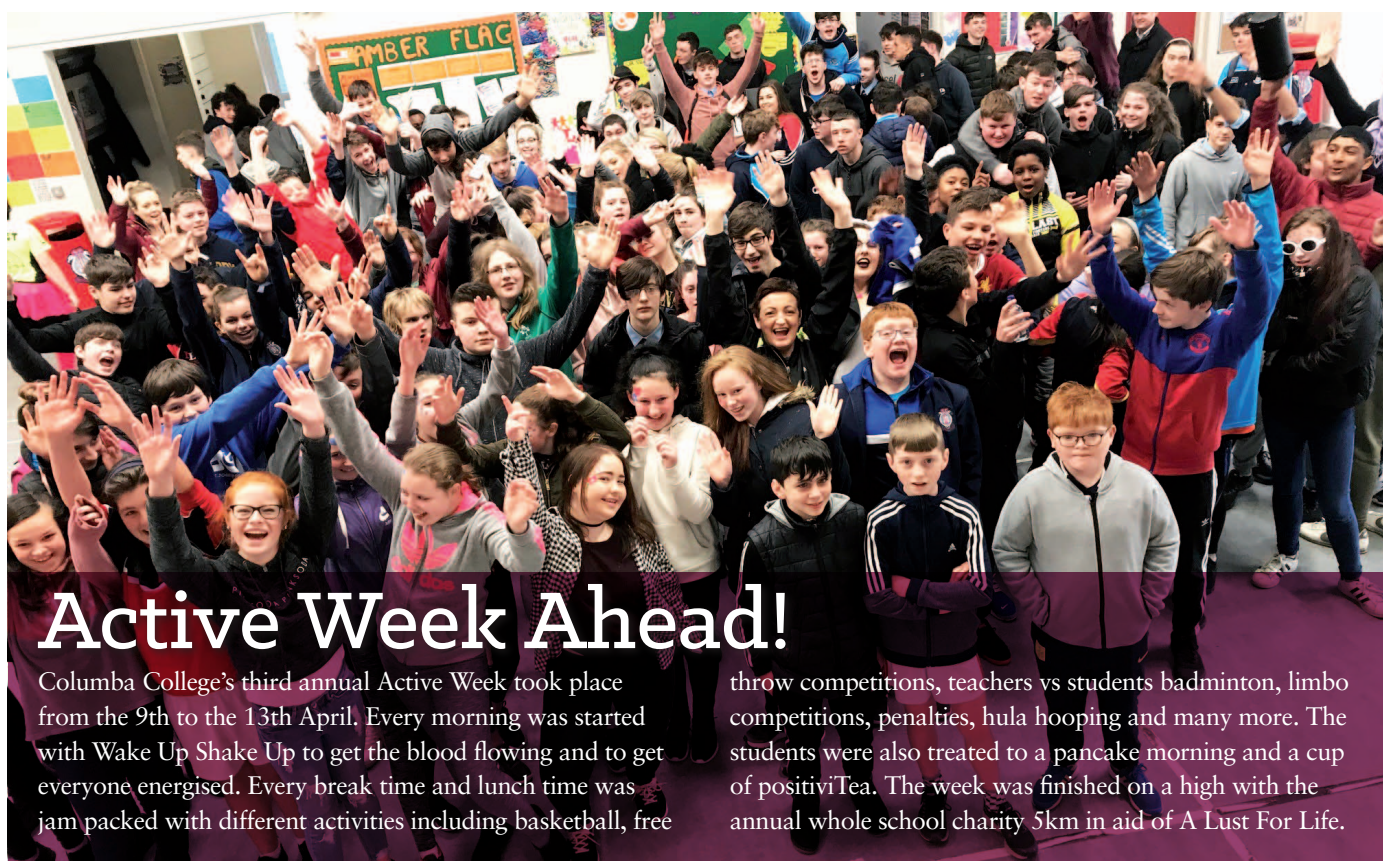
All of our students from first to sixth year had an opportunity to interact with various road safety campaigns and to spread the message about the importance of road safety.

There was something for everyone on the Shuttle and our students spent the day practicing the driver theory test, taking road safety quizzes, practicing safe cycling, experiencing simulated virtual situations in the virtual reality pods and experiencing first-hand the dangers of driving and texting and driver fatigue. If this wasn't enough

they even got the chance to test their fancy footwork by dancing the safe cross code!!

The senior students had the chance to experience the roll over simulator- which was not for the faint hearted! The simulator is a car body fitted to a rotating hydraulic platform. Students sat into the simulator and experienced a full rotation. The 'simulation' demonstrates how it would feel if you were in a car which turned over in a collision, and the lifesaving benefits of wearing a seatbelt should this occur.

The experience was fully interactive and the students had a wonderful day.



Active Week Ahead!

Columba College's third annual Active Week took place from the 9th to the 13th April. Every morning was started with Wake Up Shake Up to get the blood flowing and to get everyone energised. Every break time and lunch time was jam packed with different activities including basketball, free

throw competitions, teachers vs students badminton, limbo competitions, penalties, hula hooping and many more. The students were also treated to a pancake morning and a cup of positivitea. The week was finished on a high with the annual whole school charity 5km in aid of A Lust For Life.

'An Ollpheist' The Water Monster



The TY students from Lanesboro Community College under the direction of Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Donnelly were winners in the junior float section at the local St. Patrick's Day parade.

The float this year had an environmental theme and was made from recycled plastic and paper.

The project is entitled 'An Ollpheist' The Water Monster. The monster of our waterways today is plastic pollution. This has become a very serious issue and we need to respond urgently. Our primary aim is to draw attention to the amount



of plastic we purchase and have to dispose of each week. If each one of us takes a few simple steps to reduce our plastic footprint this will have a positive impact on our environment for us and for future generations to enjoy.

This has been a positive learning experience for the students as they were involved in every aspect of the project from the collection of household plastic to the creation and presentation of the float. It has increased our awareness of the issue as a school and hopefully it has had a wider impact also.

Congratulations to all involved.

Matheson National Debating Senior Championship

The Matheson National Debating Senior Championship final took place in UCD on the 24th of February 2018. Students from Lanesboro Community College took part in 3 different debates during the day where they were given an unseen topic and only 20 minutes in which to prepare a speech of 4 minutes in length. Students were encouraged to rebut what their opponents had said and there were

many lively exchanges on the day. At the end of a hectic round of debates we were very proud of our ranking of 4th position in the novice category and in the top third of the field overall which included some of the foremost debating schools in the country. We were delighted to have the opportunity to take part in such a prestigious competition and look forward to taking part next year.

MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

International Relations in MCC



Mullingar Community College held their Annual International Celebration Day on March 16th 2018. This day has become a school tradition since 2012 and is one of the highlights in the school calendar.

This year, along with the usual colourful and informative student displays and activities, the school welcomed several guest speakers. Dr. Helene O Keefe represented the Irish Heritage Council and discussed the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 with senior students. Ms. Sinead Hayes addressed junior students about her work with Irish Aid and the Dept. Of Foreign Affairs. Lastly, Ms. Emma Murtagh from The Wheel complimented students and staff regarding work related to the European Parliament Ambassador School Programme. *(continued next page)*

MULLINGAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE



International Relations in MCC continued

Mullingar Community College is one of 44 schools involved in this programme nationwide this year. It involves 5th year students learning all about the EU and increasing awareness of it in school and in the local community.

Well done to all students and staff involved, it truly was a great and most enjoyable learning experience for all participants.

On January 23rd and 24th 2018, Mullingar Community College welcomed thirteen students and staff from Xingfu Schoolhouse, Guiyang, Capital of Guizhou province, South Western China. The connection between Mullingar and China was a retired language teacher, Mary T. Irwin from Mullingar Community who helped to coordinate the visit.

The main objective of the school visit was to;

- Experience life in the Irish education system
- Learn about Irish culture and heritage.

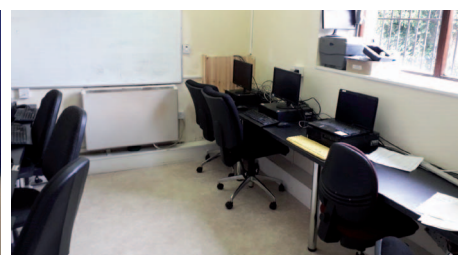
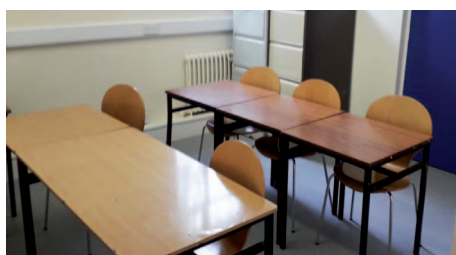


To that end, an itinerary was planned by the EAL co-ordinator for the visit. This included

- A welcoming ceremony with the Music department students
- Gaelic Football skills exercise with PE department
- Timetabled class attendance with teachers
- Coffee morning with EAL co-ordinator
- Chinese / Irish presentations about school and country to include Irish and Chinese language with EAL co-ordinator
- Local tour: canal, cathedral with EAL co-ordinator and SNA

The Chinese school Principal was very impressed and would consider sending his son to Ireland to complete his education. The use of MCC's Irish Ambassador students worked very well so much so that they were invited to attend the Kingdom of Sport and Bowling on two other occasions when the Chinese students had returned to their base in Mullingar. A pizza party was provided to thank students for their participation in the visit.

ST. ANTHONY'S ATHLONE



In the last newsletter I said that we were in the middle of a major refurbishment of the school, the first in many years. I am pleased to say that this has now largely been completed. The premises is now at an acceptable standard for both students and staff. The first phase included repainting of all classrooms, construction and fit out of a new cookery/ staffroom, construction of an office, and fitting out the IT room with new purpose-built computer desks. The second phase consisted of repainting all remaining areas, new flooring throughout the school, refurbishment of toilets and improvements to the main entrance.

The students and staff have been busy since the last newsletter. Six new students have enrolled since November. We now have students of six different nationalities and speaking four first languages other than English. This adds to the variety and challenge of working in St Anthony's.

A number of school trips have been organised to places such as the National Gallery and National Museum, Kildare St. The students are also undertaking a photography course one day a week facilitated by the Gateway project who share the building with us here in St Mary's Hall.

Rowing for Refugee Rights



Students and staff from Temple Michael College took part in an exciting challenge as they collectively attempted to row the distance from Syria to Cyprus. This project was in conjunction with classwork covered in CSPE, English and Geography and furthermore with a series of talks given to students by our guest speaker Rakan, a Syrian refugee now living in Ireland. Rakan was accompanied by Debbie from Refugee Support Ballaghaderreen who also spoke to the students about the Syrian Refugee Crisis. The action day was part of one of our many WorldWide Global Schools initiatives.



Many thanks to all our teachers for their encouragement and help and to all those who took time out of their classes and accompanied the students to participate in the day. Thanks to Mr. Murtagh, Ms. Mc Gauran and Ms O' Reilly for organising the day and to all the students for their participation and enthusiasm in both the rowing and the talks.

Well done to our fastest student on the day Mr. Jakub Dudka who managed to empty Mr. O' Rourke's pockets! Thank you to Mr O' Rourke for organising the rowing machines and to Mr. Wallace for transporting them.

Excelling on Erasmus+

Beauty therapy students from Longford's College of Further Education in conjunction with the Erasmus + Programme completed a three week work placement in some of Tenerife's top 4 and 5 star spas. As always the feedback was great and once again all the students involved have done all proud at LCFE!

The students would like to thank the Erasmus Coordinator Louise Morgan for all her hard work.



Erasmus+



Athlone Training Centre

Athlone Training Centre are delighted to be announced as finalists for two awards in this year's Athlone Business Awards the following categories:

- Environmental Award
- Leadership in CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility)

This is a fabulous achievement for Athlone Training Centre to be nominated for two awards and is testament to the significant contribution ATC has made over the last 40 years in the Midlands to both individuals and businesses. This follows on from winning the Professional Service Provider Award in 2016. Athlone Training Centre

continually works to identify local business and workforce needs and to successfully provide training and courses to meet industry demands.

Projected figures are in excess of 2000 including an expansion of employer-led apprenticeship programme.

Congratulations to all involved.

This operation is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020

Longford Literacy

Since January, just over 1000 adults have participated in part-time courses organised through the literacy service in Longford. This included 575 attending general courses such as Mathematics, Communications, Childcare, Horticulture and Computer Skills. Many courses are certified and lead to QQI certification at levels 1-3. Uncertified courses include courses aimed at helping parents of children attending DEIS schools. These incorporate helping your children with Maths, Internet Safety, Mindfulness and Parenting Skills. Another course was Maths for Apprentices as many apprentices struggle with the Maths demands of their courses and need extra support.

Longford has a very diverse population and there is huge demand for English language classes. Over 300 adults attend English language classes. There are beginner and elementary level classes covering oral, aural and written skills. There are separate classes for people who have never used the Cyrillic alphabet, for example, people from an Arabic, Chinese or Russian background.

Another successful programme is Skills for Work which offers part-time courses to employers, employees and self-employed. These courses are scheduled around the working needs of participants so classes may take place in the evenings after work or at different times to suit

shift-workers. Almost 80 people have attended courses to learn or enhance their computer skills for their work needs. Courses have included Internet skills, Word Processing and Spreadsheets for Farmers.

An Open Day was held on the Longford Campus on Thursday 8 March to mark Adult Learners' Week and International Women's Day. It was an opportunity to invite people in to see our facilities, meet staff and find out about the different services and upcoming courses. Visitors could meet staff from the Adult Guidance Service, and staff who organise part-time courses in Adult Literacy, Back to Education Initiative and staff from full-time programmes such as Vocational Training Opportunities (VTOS) and Post Leaving Certificate courses. They could also meet existing students and see examples of work complete for QQI.

Most courses which started last September will finish at the end of May so students and tutors are finishing off assignments and tasks for their QQI assessments. However, when all the work is done, we always finish the year with a trip which will be to Bloom in the Phoenix Park this year.

This operation Literacy is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



European Union
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SOLAS

An tSeirbhís Oideachais Leanúnaigh agus Scileanna
Further Education and Training Authority

FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING

Adult Literacy South: *Coffee Morning Connections*



A coffee morning was held on the 13th of March in the Further Education Centre, Clonown Road, Athlone. This was organised by participants on a Level 4 Major Award course as part of their Teamworking module. They raised €145 for the Society of St Vincent de Paul, a very worthy cause. The donation was much appreciated!!

Well done everyone.

This operation Literacy is co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.

Athlone VTOS raises money for Pieta House



The students and staff of Athlone VTOS recently raised much needed funds for the local charity, Pieta House.

Athlone VTOS offers three areas of study: Business Administration, Software Development and Art/Craft/Design but all students must study QQI level 5 Communications.

In the communications module the students learn how to develop agendas, take minutes, chair meetings and learn other useful skills much needed in the modern workplace. This year the first year students decided to organise and hold a quiz and to donate all the proceeds to Pieta House.

The students approached local businesses who kindly agreed to sponsor them who then generously donated prizes for the

raffle during the quiz. In total, the sum of €561 was raised. Athlone VTOS was delighted.

Mr Gerard Tierney met with the students and was able to tell them of the fantastic free service on offer at Pieta house for those who may be feeling suicidal or had a family member in crisis. Pieta house has qualified staff who are able to help those feeling suicidal within 48 hours which is a great service to have in the Athlone area.

A first year Business student presented the cheque of €561 to Mr Tierney on behalf of all the VTOS first year communications groups. The money will go to a great cause and as Gerard put it will certainly save someone's life!



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020

Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



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Further Education and Training Authority

FURTHER EDUCATION & TRAINING

Longford VTOS news



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. Others are already securing interviews for jobs.

Our first years are completing some QQI components and are also busy completing their ECDL.

We took time out to have a guided tour of the Abbot Company in Longford which was extremely informative and it is great to have established yet another link with our local industries. Thanks to the Guidance Service for their co-operation in organising this.

Learners also paid a visit to Longford Library and were given a tour including the archives. All were enrolled as members of the library and now know how to use this as a resource to their learning.

Following on from our successful college awareness week AIT will talk to our learners about returning to third level as mature students

Longford Further Education & Training Services also hosted an Open Day on March 8th which was very successful and we received numerous enquiries about our VTOS programme.

The students are also organising a 5 aside soccer tournament with all money received going to the Irish Heart Foundation.

Mullingar VTOS

On Friday 23rd March 2018, Mullingar VTOS hosted a coffee morning in aid of Daffodil Day. A most enjoyable morning was had by everyone. Thanks to all the tutors who organised all the yummy cakes and treats for the event. In total we raised €145 for the Irish Cancer Society.

On Wednesday 7th March 2018, the Further Education Services in Longford Westmeath hosted a LWETB FET Open Day in the Further Education Training Centre, O'Growney Drive Mullingar. The event was organized

by LWETB FET Guidance Service, Mullingar VTOS, and Mullingar Adult Learning Service. As the event was organised during AONTAS National Adult Learners Festival the theme for the event was #LoveLifeLongLearning.

The event was very well attended, with over 50 people calling to the centre on the day to inquire about training courses on offer in LWETB. It was great to see such a keen interest in Life Long Learning in Mullingar. Many thanks to the staff from Athlone Training Centre, who also had a stand at the event.



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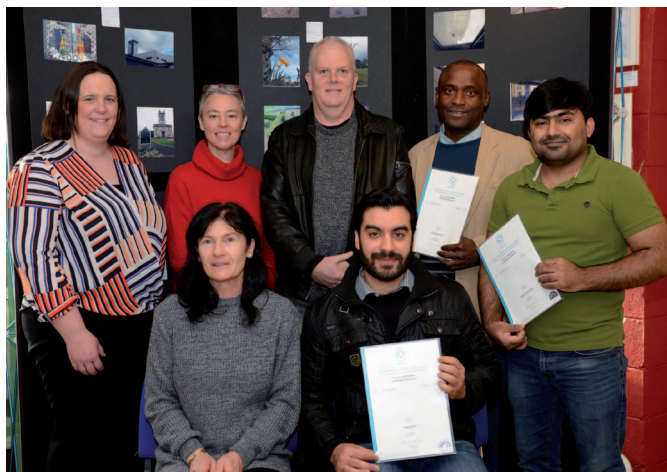


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LWETB's Community Education Service celebrates International Migrants' Day



Back row L to R: Shauna Doherty LWETB AEO, Nuala O'Brien LWETB CEF, Luke Danniells LWETB tutor and Helen Gorman LWETB pictured with students receiving certificates

Monday 18th December 2017 marked the United Nation's International Migrants' Day and a celebratory event was held in Longford Library to recognise the creative talents of members of the new communities living in the town and to acknowledge the work undertaken by different agencies and groups who support and develop that creativity.

LWETB used the occasion to present certificates to learners from the Asylum Seekers' Centre in Richmond Court, Longford town. What had started as a beginners' course in photography progressed to a certified course over a number of months. Five learners ultimately achieved a QQI Level 3 certificate in Digital Photography.

The certificates were presented to students by Shauna Doherty, Adult Education Officer with LWETB.

The ceremony was hosted by Longford librarian Mary Carleton Reynolds and was attended by representatives of the Richmond Court Centre, the Community Gardaí, Longford Community Resources, Longford Volunteer Centre, Engage Longford and LWETB.

Guidance News



Mullingar Open day - L_R: Nuala O'Brien CEF, Shauna Doherty AEO, Martina Kavanagh VTOS Co-ordinator, Tricia Egginton ALO, Caroline Cornally FET Guidance Co-ordinator, John Doherty FET Guidance Information Officer.

The FET Guidance Service has been busy in 2018 continuing to expand and provide our service to the general public and current students. Liz Glennon in Athlone offered a CAO workshop to trainees in Athlone Training Centre and is available to meet with students in the VTOS programme and the training courses. CAO workshops were also given to students in Mullingar and Longford. John Doherty and Fiona Murphy are available in Longford to meet with the students across all the programmes and referrals from DSEAP.

The service worked in conjunction with colleagues from Adult Learning, VTOS, Community Education and BTEI in organising Spring Open Days in both the Longford FET Campus and the FET Centre, O'Growney Drive, Mullingar. A lot of work and time went into making both events a success including building on our social media presence, advertising through local papers and radio stations and receiving support from the Department of Social Protection and Employment Affairs. We put an emphasis on promoting the logo with branded products to increase our profile and attracting potential students.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION



Caroline Cornally and John Doherty – FET Guidance Service



Aileen Maloney and Sephine Smyhe, Athlone Training Centre at our Longford Open Day

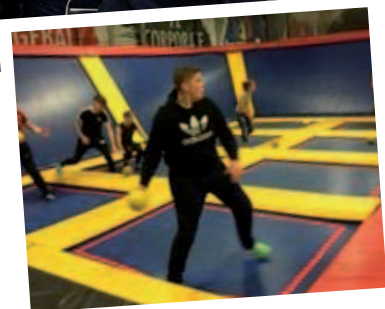
Our colleagues in Athlone Training Centre were also on hand to provide their information on up-coming courses on both dates.

In Longford we worked with our colleagues in Longford College of Further Education to promote the Longford Campus and also showcase what is on offer within the campus. We have courses from Level 1 to Level 6 available in a range of areas for the people of Longford. Caroline Cornally undertook an interview with Shannonside Radio station to highlight the Open Day and to explain to listeners what exactly was available to potential students. The service was also present at DEASP day in Ballymahon and the open day in Granard where Fiona Murphy was available to answer any queries.

Many thanks must be said to our AEO Shauna Doherty who was very supportive of both days and to all our colleagues across FET who worked very hard to make both days an enjoyable and informative experience for all.

To continue our work in promoting the service and LWETB the service opened a twitter account which we would encourage students to follow as we can highlight various other options e.g. SUSI grant dates through this medium, please follow us on @LWETB_Guidance.

BALLYMAHON YOUTHREACH



It's all go in Youthreach Ballymahon as we put the finishing touches to our QQI folders to be submitted in May. The students have enjoyed numerous activities over the last while with trips to the Viking Splash tour and Jump Zone being their highlight. The comradery between the students was noticeable as they came together in a giant game of dodgeball. Of course we are busy planning the annual mathletes challenge and the boys are preparing for numerous football tournaments that are coming up. Despite the excitement in the centre for the June programme it's tinged with sadness as the centre prepares to bid farewell to our level four year two group who are leaving us this year. We wish them all well on their future endeavours. The fun won't stop just yet as we have plenty of surprises lined up from now until the end of July.

Youthreach is co-funded by the Irish Government, the European Social Fund and Youth Employment Initiative as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning 2014-2020.



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DELVIN YOUTHREACH

Artists at Work

Those students working towards their QQI Level 4 at present will have the Painting Level 4 module completed by May for assessment. Learners are required to submit 8-10 mounted, finished pieces with relevant support work and written work.

We start the year learning a bit about paint and colour, completing straightforward tasks in colour studies.

Pop Art

Pop Art project where the students research Pop Art and attempt to recreate work by a Pop Artist of their choice. The aim here is to build trust and confidence. There is written work to be completed, based on the Pop Art movement. We then jump back in time to Pre-historic Cave Paintings. We do our research and attempt some cave paintings. We texture cardboard with glue and sand, giving an earthy, rocky look and then try our hand at some authentic cave painting. Another historical art journey brings us to Australia and Dot Painting.

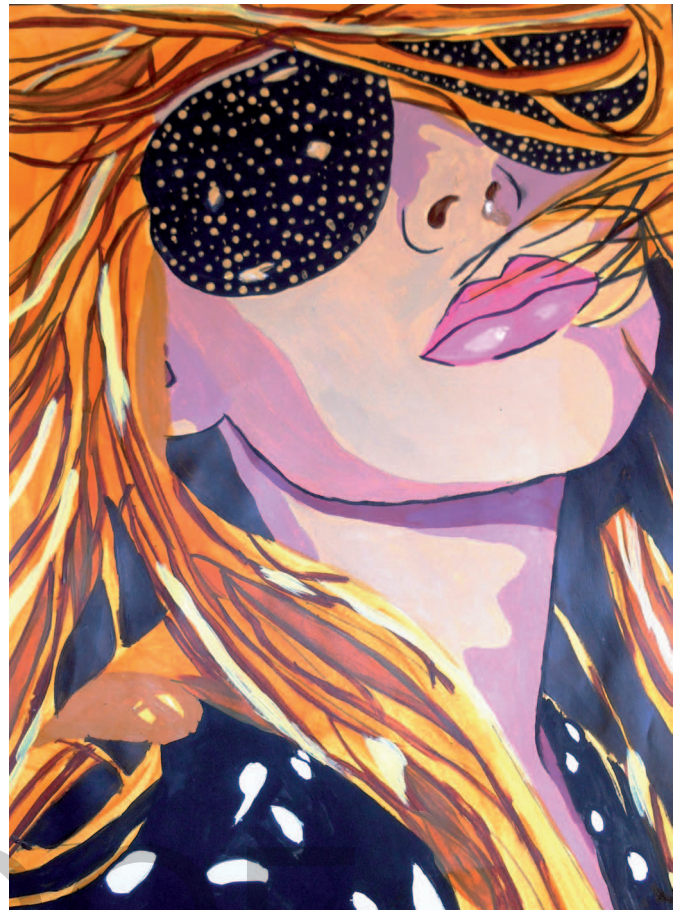
Spray Painting

We print images (some will draw their own) on A3 and make paper stencils. On a dry day, we bring spray paint and protective masks, gloves and clothing outside and get creative with the sprays. The process involved here works really well for the Health and Safety section of the module.

Tonal Studies and Portraits

We are presently working on tonal studies and portraits that are a bit trickier. We keep all research materials, thumb nail sketches, drawings and drafts to be compiled into their individual sketchbooks for the end of the year. Towards the latter part of the year we will be doing 3D mask making, and Identity Project, Watercolours, Anti Bullying poster design, Acrylic Pouring and, more than likely, more Spray Art.

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YOUTHREACH

KILBEGGAN YOUTHREACH

Fantastic gathering of minds in Kilbeggan Youthreach linking in with the Kilbeggan Men's Shed, Young at Heart, Tidy Towns Committee and the Community Garden Project for some tea, coffee and scones. Students gave one-to-one demonstrations on how to get the most out of various mobile phone models and all who attended got to try mindfulness for the first time. Great success and Kilbeggan Youthreach cannot wait to get involved with some more projects in the future

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LONGFORD YOUTHREACH



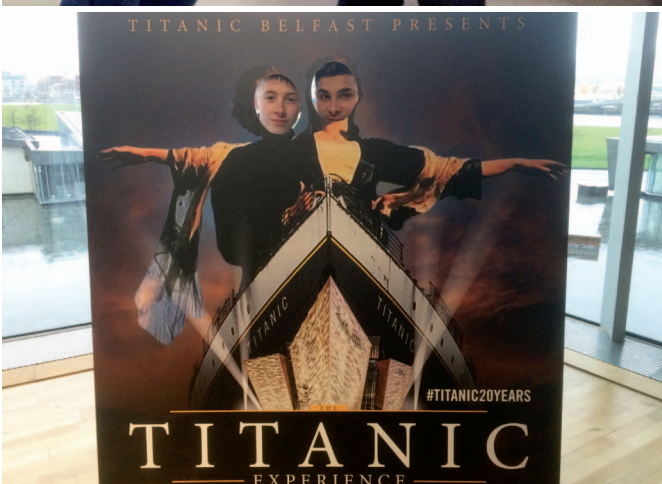
Longford Youthreach held a very memorable Presentation of Certificates and Celebration Day highlighting the excellent academic and social progress of the students in the Centre. Our guest speaker on the day was Mr. Michael McDonagh from the Navan Traveller Workshop, who delivered an inspirational talk to the group about the importance of education in their lives and the opportunities afforded to those who went onto third level.

We also had a very enjoyable and informative trip to the Titanic Centre in Belfast, followed by an open top bus journey through the Falls and Shankill Roads, Stormont and Queens University.

Some very relevant and beneficial workshops were also organised by the Centre covering topics as varied as Road Safety, Racism, Career Preparation and Management of Emotions.

Two students also departed the Centre to progress to full-time jobs in the locality.

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YOUTH SERVICES - LOCAL EQUIPMENT GRANT SCHEME



Westmeath Scouts Delvin



Granard Youth Club



Ballinamuck Foróige Club



District Foróige



Coder Dungeon Clonmellon

The importance of volunteer-led youth clubs and groups in supporting young people and their engagement with the National Quality Standards was recognised in 2017 by a once off equipment grant funded by the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA). The grant complemented and was additional to the grant scheme already in place and provided annually to various Foróige, Scout Ireland, Youth Clubs, Youth Drama, Guides and other voluntary youth clubs across Longford and Westmeath.



Rochfortbridge Club

The aim of this grant was to support the work of volunteers, enhance the experience of members and provide vital equipment to local youth clubs and groups. In total, €6.35 million was awarded by DCYA and the scheme was administered locally by LWETB on their behalf. The scheme focused on supporting youth work activities at a local level with priority given to clubs and groups serving young people aged 10-21 years. Clubs and groups could apply for the once off grant for the purchase of small scale equipment eg; storage, IT equipment, sporting equipment, arts and drama equipment etc. The maximum amount that could be awarded was €5,000.

Within LWETB 33 clubs and groups, benefiting 1,402 young people weekly were awarded funding under the Scheme, with €122,222 in total allocated. According to Maria Fox, Youth Officer, “the diverse range of grants awarded and equipment purchased highlights the variety of activities and interests of the young people who take part in the various clubs and groups across Longford and Westmeath.” Pictured are young people from some of the successful clubs and groups using a variety of the equipment purchased with the grants awarded by LWETB.

YOUTH SERVICES

Co. Longford Youth Services



A young man who has been engaged with LCRL County Longford Youth Service was given an excellent opportunity earlier this year and who is part of the youth service's alternative education programme, was invited by Minister Kevin "Boxer" Moran to shadow the Minister for a day in both the local constituency office and on a trip to Dail Eireann. With an early start and a late finish he got a chance to see first-hand what goes into a day in the life of a Minister - taking lots of phone calls, meeting local constituents, attending leaders question time, meeting with other Ministers, along with making key decisions. This gave a real insight into what it is like at the higher levels of the Irish political system. A special word of thanks to all the hard working staff and Kevin "Boxer" Moran himself, who made the day both enjoyable and possible and one that won't be forgotten for a long time.

Young people from the LCRL/County Longford Youth Service Edgeworthstown Youth Group were involved in a short film detailing drug use and decision making. This film is the first film that this group has produced and has been written, casted, directed and performed by the young people in the group. The aim of the film is to highlight the impact that different decisions can have on a young person and to show how one small decision can lead to either positive or negative outcomes. Well done to all involved.



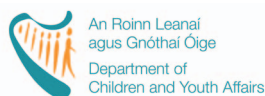
The Attic House have a rewarding St Patrick's Day in Longford



St Patricks Day Parade in Longford took on the theme of "Young People Our Future" so it was inevitable that the Attic House Teen Project would get involved. The voluntary run project leaders and young people were very busy on the run up to the day preparing their entry which was from the Wizard of Oz, "There's No Place like the Attic House". The Leaders and young people were rewarded for their efforts by the announcement that they were this year's



winner of the Youth Endeavour Award. Well done to all involved. It was great to see so many young people and adult volunteer involved in showcasing youth work in Longford Town.



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QQI AWARD