

KERRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD NEWSLETTER

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BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA CHIARRAÍ
KERRY EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

Summer 2015 Edition

Aontas Star Award

The Adult Learners' Festival 2015 is a nationwide celebration of adult learning. The festival is about celebrating adult learning and the achievements of adult learners; showing the work of adult education providers; promoting the work of AONTAS and the adult education sector and ensuring that adult education is placed firmly on the political agenda.

Killarney Adult Literacy and Basic Education were one of the centres shortlisted for an AONTAS Star Award with their project 'The Power of Partnership'. AONTAS Star Awards is an awards initiative to acknowledge the fantastic work undertaken by adult learning projects throughout Ireland. The partners with Killarney ABE are Lime Grove Recovery and Therapeutic Centre, Radio Kerry, Killarney Library, Kerry ETB Training Centre and NALA's Student Development Fund. 'The Let Down' came about as a result of a themed literacy programme, which was delivered to participants from Lime Grove Recovery & Therapeutic Centre. This programme allows learners enhance their literacy skills including reading, writing, numeracy, ICT, listening and speaking. Tom Crean was the subject of our programme. One of the learners wrote 'The Let Down' which is about Tom Crean's disappointment of not being chosen to go to the South Pole. The shortlisted projects were judged in Limerick on the 5th February, 2015.

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Monday 23rd February, 2015 AONTAS Star Awards Ceremony, Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin. L to R: Elaine Clifford, Aoife McCormack, Mary Concannon

Opportunities Fair demonstrates that Education and Training is the key to all our futures

Over 1,000 people attended the Kerry Education and Training Board Education and Training Fair for the county which targeted adult learners in need of retraining, as well as students, young people and those who are unemployed or under employed.



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Kerry Music Education Partnership

Kerry Music Education Partnership (KMEP) is a music education Partnership initiative, the aim of which is to broaden access to affordable, multi-genre performance music education programmes for children and young people across County Kerry.

Since 2013, lead agency Kerry Education and Training Board, with the support of project partners Kerry County Council Arts Office, the Institute of Technology, Tralee, Ealain na Gaeltachta, Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) and local music educators, has been providing access to music programmes for young people to complement and expand upon existing provision across the county.

Over the past year a number of 'Take-Note' music programmes and initiatives have been launched.

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CEO's Welcome

As we approach the end of the academic year 2014/15 it is important to take time to reflect on the year that has been. This year has been a busy, productive and positive year for the Education and Training Board right across the county. During 2014/15 the full reality of the new enhanced role of the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) came clearly into focus. Essentially, the

work of the ETB can be considered in terms of three streams of activity - Schools, Further Education and Training and Corporate Support.

Over the past year our schools have continued to enhance their reputation as providers of quality post primary education to our students. The many articles celebrating achievement at individual school level contained in this newsletter are very reflective of this reality - BT Young Scientist, the many sporting achievements, academic success etc. The annual Kerry ETB Student Awards ceremony provides an opportunity to recognise the excellent work ongoing in our schools on a daily basis and this year's ceremony was a tremendous success, with awards categories right across all aspects of school life. Great credit is due to the management and staff in all our schools for their dedication and commitment in ensuring that the students reach their full potential.

The level of change in the Further Education and Training (FET) area has continued unabated over the past year. The year commenced with the staging of the Kerry ETB Further Education Training and Opportunities Fair in Tralee. This event was very successful as it provided an opportunity for members of the public and other agencies to engage directly with the many different areas of our FET provision. The valuable role of the Further Education and Training Forum was evident over the year as it provided a focal point for the effective communication of ongoing changes and helped in ensuring that the new FET Planning and Reporting Systems were successfully mastered. I wish to thank all the management and staff involved in the delivery of our extensive Further Education and Training Programme right across the county for a very successful year.

At the corporate level there have been many significant changes during 2014/15, beginning with the establishments of the new Education and Training Board. Over the past few months the process for the establishment of school and centre Boards of Management (BOMs) has been ongoing. The new Kerry ETBs Parents' Forum has also been established. A training and induction programme for the Kerry ETB Board, and the school/centre BOMs is ongoing. The role of the Kerry ETB board and the individual school/centre BOMs is very important and on behalf of the Kerry ETB executive I wish to convey our appreciation and gratitude to all the members of the Kerry ETB, BOMs and the Parent's Forum for their very valuable contribution to the organisation.

Kerry ETB is a large organisation with over 1000 staff, over 3000 students in full time education, circa 1500 FET courses catering for approximately 16000 learners and an annual budget of circa €55 million. The organisation's greatest asset is our staff. My heartfelt thanks to Ann O Dwyer, Education Officer, all the staff in Head Office, schools and centres for ensuring another successful year for Kerry ETB. Members of staff who are retiring are a great loss to the organisation and I wish them all, a long, happy and healthy retirement. The key driver for all of our provision on a daily basis is meeting the needs of our students/learners. A special word of thanks to all of our students and learners who have participated in our programmes over the year.

Finally, I look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead during 2015/16 as we continue to work together to develop and enhance our provision to meet the evolving needs of all our learners. Guím gach rath ar obair na n-daltaí agus ar an bhfoireann sna blianta romhainn.

Le meas,
Colm Mc Evoy
CEO Kerry ETB

Adult Basic Education

We are grateful to all the ALO's and tutors who gave their time to participate in the following case studies. They are very valuable resources for every adult literacy, numeracy and family learning tutor to have. They are available to download free of charge from the NALA website or you can request a hard copy from NALA.



Read all about it: Case studies of teaching reading to adults in Ireland. This research presents six case studies on reading practice in adult literacy in Ireland. The case studies in this report focus on different aspects of practice including: • approaches to teaching and learning, • general teaching practices, • specific reading strategies, and • the use of technology as part of a blended learning approach in the classroom. The case studies provide valuable insights into how adult learners read, their motivation for learning to read and reading as a social practice. They also provide useful examples of the strategies tutors found useful when working with adults to improve their teaching skills.



Numeracy Report - What really counts: Case studies of adult numeracy practice in Ireland. This report, carried out by the National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA), presents five case studies on practice in adult numeracy in Ireland. The case studies in this report focus on different aspects of practice including general teaching practices, teaching mathematical concepts and the use of technology to teach numeracy in the classroom. The data was collected at five selected sites throughout the country. The research is a follow up phase to an initial piece of work that was carried out in 2012 by numeracy consultant Daniel Sellers. The initial piece of work researched and described a range of adult numeracy programmes across Ireland, focusing on various aspects of practice and did not focus on teaching practice, which is what this second phase of the research aimed to do.



Family Learning in Action. Family learning programmes can help to overcome the barriers to learning, felt by families who find it difficult to relate to school learning. It is an important way of recognising and building on the strengths of families who beforehand have felt excluded or marginalised from the expectations of school and society. This research provides an overview of family learning as it takes place in local communities and details the benefits of participation to the families involved. A case study design was used with the purpose of interviewing parents attending the family literacy programme, Adult Literacy Organisers (ALOs), course tutors and school staff who support the programmes. The findings show that participation in family learning is beneficial to families and has a positive impact on the relationship between home and school.



Aontas Star Award

continued from front cover

This play was recorded by John Herlihy, Radio Kerry at the Radio Kerry Studio. Killarney Library provided the learners with valuable resources and information to help with their project. 'The Let Down' recording is an example of how organisations working together results in a positive outcome for the learners and the various people supporting these learners and the organisations themselves.

The AONTAS Star Awards ceremony took place in Ballsbridge Hotel, Dublin on Monday 23rd February, 2015. While we did not receive an overall award we were presented with a certificate to mark our project being shortlisted.

AONTAS Adult Learners' Festival 2015

23rd February to 28th February 2015

As part of Adult Learner Festival week, Killarney and Killorglin Adult Literacy & Basic Education Centres held a get together in Killarney on Thursday, 26th February, 2015.

Margaret Scully, Learner Ambassador with NALA, welcomed the visitors from Killorglin and spoke about her experiences as a Learner Ambassador.

The group visited the Hugh O'Flaherty Statue and the new Tir na nÓg sculpture. The visit ended with a tour of Killarney Library. Learners completed worksheets about Hugh O'Flaherty and Nora O'Mahoney won the competition which was organised as part of this event.



Hugh O'Flaherty Statue, Mission Road - 26th February, 2015

Initial Tutor Training Programme - Isabelle Dumont, Tutor Support

Sixteen participants completed their volunteer tutor training in Tralee and received certificates in December 2014. The sixteen tutors will join our team of more than 180 volunteer tutors who already provide a valuable and vital service to adult literacy learners around the county. Our volunteer tutors are fundamental to the success of our learners and our service and we wish all our new volunteer tutors well in the future!

Waterford Institute of Technology

Thinking and Learning Skills, Developing Literacies One & Professional Practice Modules. Adult Literacy and Basic Education tutors who attended the Waterford Institute of Technology's Thinking and Learning Skills and Developing Literacies One modules in Tralee in February 2015. Tutors also participated in the Professional Practice Module in Tralee in March 2015. These modules lead to the Higher Certificate in Arts in Literacy Development.

Teaching and Learning Using Tablets

John Leahy delivered an eight part inservice for tutors who want to develop their own basic skills and learn about how to use mobile devices effectively with their learners. Below are photos of the tutors at work on ipads and android tablets.



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Castleisland Adult Literacy and Basic Education Centre

NALA Student Development Fund:

Castleisland NALA Student Development Fund event was held on October 15th and our learners attended “Just Cooking” with Mark Doe in Fíries.



Mark Doe of “Just Cooking” gave a demonstration on preparing healthy nutritious food and basic cooking techniques, students assisted Mark in the demonstration which students gained valuable and practical knowledge. Some new recipes on healthy eating and nutritional knowledge were learned. Students really enjoyed the event and the food that was prepared.

How did this event benefit the Learners own development:

- Self-esteem and confidence increased
- Valuable knowledge on healthy eating and nutrition
- Being able to work with others (team building skills)
- Working as a team to make the event happen and applying their learning in the classroom.

Cahersiveen Adult Literacy and Basic Education

Stitch & Sew Project

In this project parents were involved with their child in planning and designing their project. Literacy & numeracy skills developed through parent/child journaling their project and developing their piece which was an apron by use of measurement, addition and subtraction.

AN TÓCHAR ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE

It has been a very busy period for An Tóchar Adult Education Centre. In the BTEI programme, a full award in Healthcare Support QQI Level 5 commenced in October, as well as many minor awards across a wide range of subjects, such as:-

Pastry, Baking & Desserts	Level 5
Desktop Publishing.....	Level 3
Art & Design	Level 3
Information Technology.....	Level 4
Occupational First Aid.....	Level 5
Spreadsheets	Level 3
Vegetable Crop Production.....	Level 3
Database Methods	Level 5
Plant Identification, Care & Maintenance.....	Level 4



Participants from the Men's Shed erect the new tunnel which was funded by NEKD under community development funding.



The propagating and planting begins!

An Tóchar centre secured funding under the Momentum initiative and we ran two courses in Killarney, Professional Cookery QQI Level 5 and Diploma in Food & Beverage Service & Professional Bartending City & Guilds.



The programme is funded through the National Training Fund. This is the second funding round for MOMENTUM which is an outcomes-based model of education and training that draws on national and international experience to optimise the programme in an Irish context. The courses are tailored to the needs of employers who require relevant skills to build their business. These courses were welcomed by employers in Killarney and students are currently doing work experience and many will secure employment at the end of their work placements.



Several courses have been run under Community Education, such as Zumba, Art & Craft, Image & Style, Cookery and Drama.



Art & Craft class showing their Christmas lanterns

The Equality for Women measure has received continued funding and three Personal Development Courses have run in Ballyunion, Duagh and Lixnaw. These groups will now be supported by NEKD and Kerry ETB to set up women's groups in their perspective areas.



Women of Causeway women's group GLOW, enjoy Zumba dancing.



Awards Night November 2014

We commenced our Foundation in Counselling course in October, and the group of 16 students received their certificates on 21st March 2015. This course has been run very successfully here for the past five years and students have the option to progress to a Diploma in Counselling with Cork Counselling Centre, this Diploma course is delivered in Causeway. For information on courses for 2015/2016 please contact the centre on 066-7131977

Tech Amergin



Tech Amergin at Sunset

General

Spring 2015 has been a very busy time for the staff & students in Tech Amergin. Many new courses and workshops started in February and our short-term workshops will continue up until the summer. New exciting workshops on offer this term included 'A day of Rock Art', 'Aromatherapy for Gardeners', 'Herbs for Life', 'Beekeeping', 'Appreciation of Wine' & 'Macro, Photography for Beginners'...

Great activity took place in the centre coming up to St. Patrick's Day when local community groups took part in an exciting street art project where groups made lightweight sculptures and banners for the parade. Thank you to the parents of the children from St. Finian's National School and Waterville First Aid Responders who took part in the class.

A big thank you to Roísín Ní Chionnfhaolaidh who encouraged the volunteers to create beautiful street art.

Monday night is a busy night in the Tech. A group of women started a woodwork class and are enjoying themselves immensely. Local photographer Michael Herrmann delivered a 6-week class in using Adobe Lightroom 5 to a very dedicated bunch of amateur photographers. Terry O'Doherty was in another room delivering a Start Your Own Business class and Bernie Kennedy continued with her painting class followed by her Irish dancing in the theatre.

The lifestyle classes with Lesley MacVean also grew in attendance this term with an extra evening of Pilates introduced into our schedule. Deborah O'Connor delivered her very successful Mindfulness class to local women of all ages. And our knitting class has become an established Friday morning session again - made up of women from the South West Kerry area.

A new class offered this term was Bookkeeping Manual & Computerised using the Big Red Book with Gerry Kennedy. This class comprised of people hoping to start their own small business, and as always our very active retired students attended their enjoyable classes in great numbers. Once again this group had their annual tea-dance in Tech Amergin on Tuesday 31st March.

Arts/ Cultural Programme

While providing a varied number of classes and workshops throughout the year, Tech Amergin also runs a Arts/Cultural Programme. In February, The Liam O'Connor Show took to the stage and received a standing ovation for their outstanding performance on the night. We look forward to welcoming Liam back again next year. Upcoming events this year include comedy acts, bluegrass, trad and jazz concerts, drama by Peter Sheridan, Frankie Gavin & De Dannan and much more. Please keep an eye on our website www.techamergin.com for current details.

Tech Amergin (in association with Access Cinema, Dublin) kicked off our Spring / Summer Culture Cinema season with the highly acclaimed film 'The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window & Disappeared'. Access Cinema is the resource organisation for regional cultural cinema exhibition in Ireland giving local people an opportunity to see minority interest films. Tech Amergin Culture Cinema night will take place on the last Thursday of every month and will run up until July 2015.

Street Sculpture with Community Groups:

Tutor Roísín Ní Chionnfhaolaidh:

Two groups participated in this exciting class. We used willow, wire, tissue paper & spray paint to create vibrant lightweight sculptures and banners for the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Waterville. Parents of the children from St. Finian's National School made a fabulous banner, shakers, painted up old runners & stencils... to create a visually exciting display for the parade advertising their 10K mini marathon on 2nd of May. Their creations, in strong fluorescent colours, were stunning and the group picked up the prize for the Best Walking Group. Waterville First Responders also created a fantastic float using willow & tissue flowers, 2 large signs and a 'heart' for the front of their vintage tractor. Wonderful work from a great bunch of volunteers! This Community Education art class was a great success.

Navigation / Radio Course

In February 2015 leaders of community voluntary groups got together and established a course aimed at providing a better understanding of navigation on land and at sea and the use of radio. The class was made up of members



from the local rescue groups including Waterville & Valentia Coastguard, Derrynane & Ballinskelligs Inshore Rescue. The course ran over 4 weeks. Facilitators on the course included Seanie Murphy (ex Valentia Lifeboat) and John Draper (Valentia Radio station). Mike Crean and Noelle Gillesby from the local observatory in Caherciveen were also involved in the programme providing information on the connection between Met. Éireann and South West Kerry, weather & forecasting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Seanie, John, Mike & Noelle for giving their time to this course. Thank you also to Waterville & Valentia Coastguard, Derrynane & Ballinskelligs Inshore Rescue for supporting the course. A big thank you to John Galvin.

Art Class

Old friends and New! As we approach the end of another term I can very honestly say I have had the privilege of teaching a great bunch of students. The Art project was a Community Education class where we tailored the class each week to meet a specific student's needs. They ranged from the beginner to more experienced students. The class bonded brilliantly, each student had quite different interests in art so the cross fertilisation of ideas was amazing as was the motivation of the group as a whole. They decided they would attend enmass my Abstract Painting Workshop held on the weekend of the 25th of April where we all got an opportunity to learn a little more about some of the theories behind abstract painting and unleash ourselves over the two-day workshop on some v-e-r-y large canvases. We were joined by some of my old friends from the painting doctor class which is now one of the longest running self-financing classes in Tech Amergin. Helen Richmond.



Meitheal Amergin

Meitheal Amergin students have been busy designing and creating a mural art piece for the art centre using a theme from Irish legends. This project is funded under Community Education and takes place over 10 weeks. The students are working well together and thoroughly enjoy the class run by Anja Gnauck. When finished, the mural will be displayed outside to form part of the community garden - a project which can be extended to future projects.



On Thursday this group attend a literacy class with Eileen O'Flaherty, this term working towards a level 2 literacy course. The group really enjoy this class and are making great headway. A new enthusiasm has evolved around the community garden co-ordinated by Sue Jackson who has a very winning way with the students and volunteers. All good! A big event is being planned for June 2015 to celebrate the

progress made in the design and output of the garden. Sue and the volunteers are busy setting seeds in anticipation of a bumper crop of vegetables for sale to the community and community groups (meals on wheels).

Tech Amergin Community Sensory Garden Report for Spring 2015

The Community garden had a great season in sunny 2014.

Our great successes were tomatoes, jalapeño pepper's, cucumbers and courgettes last summer with many customers and restaurants/cafe's using our produce during June, July and August.

For 2015 we want to go MINTY so we plan to plant every variety of mint we can find or buy, mint grows so well in the wild here we hope to have great success and the freshness as you walk around the Sensory Garden will be stunning. There are some amazing new creations going up from the Woodwork and Pottery groups so why not come and spot what's new

We have a Long Term Aim to make the garden wheel chair accessible.

- Does anyone know of any funding we can draw down for this project?

Volunteers needed, please come along on a Friday morning, there are tasks, big and small for those who want to get their hands dirty and those who want a bit of company and some outdoor time.

- Remember the place is in a stunning location - the sound of the sea, the warmth of the Polytunnels!!!
- Good company, we have fun and enjoy being with the plants -tomatoes need stroking and they all need talking to. The people are friendly too!!

Poem by Nora O'Sullivan (Meitheal Amergin student)

Tech Amergin Garden

There is a lovely garden in Tech Amergin by the sea
Anyone can visit for you and me
It is run by friends and people near and far
I think it should get a gold star
I work there on a Friday
I'd do it anytime it makes me okay
It is really therapeutic, relaxing
Forget the stress as life can be taxing
It is open nearly all year round
Spuds organic are grown on prepared ground
God bless all the helpers and friends who help out
I hope it keeps going for eternity no doubt.



**Summer by Nora O'Sullivan**

Summer is here at last
 We can forget the rain and bad gales of the winter past
 Time to bring out the sun tan lotion and go on a foreign location
 See the monkey, elephant in Dublin zoo
 Have a party on the beach
 Visit one or two
 People come from all over the world & beyond
 They stay a few weeks - they find it grand.
 They love the Irish music & craic
 Sometimes they don't want to go back
 Children play on the beach, a cat
 Bites their toe, & they screech
 Cold drinks & ice-cream galore
 Fab fun need I say more
 The kids are off school for months
 They hate going back when it comes to the crunch
 My friends enjoy your holidays
 That bad Winter is on the way

Seaweed Discovery Workshop and Feast

In Autumn 2014 a Seaweed Discovery Workshop complete with 10 Course Tasting Lunch took place at Tech Amergin. This has become a bi-annual regular event in Tech Amergin.

The Saturday began with a slideshow presentation and display of the various sea vegetables that thrive along the shore line. On a guided low tide foreshore walk at Ballinskelligs Beach, the group learned how to find, forage and sustainably harvest seaweeds. Back at Tech Amergin a 10 course tasting lunch made with various sea vegetables was enjoyed while the amazing nutritional, horticultural and cosmetic benefits of seaweeds were discussed. The history of seaweed use was explained from gunpowder to medicine, as was its inclusion in the diets of the ancient monks and the Vikings. The eager seaweeders spent five hours rediscovering these superfoods.

The course was given by Caherdaniel based John and Kerryann Fitzgerald of www.atlanticirishseaweed.com

**Community Education**

by Michelle Anne Houlihan (Community Education Facilitator)

SONNET ONE AND ONLY

When love is on the wing or out the door
 Our hearts break with sadness and confusion
 Love leaves aside our passion on the floor
 And helps us continue the illusion
 Of being part of someone else's life
 Even though they die or leave you cold
 That thought "they love you" cuts you like a knife
 When truly they care not... if you are old.
 Then women smile and bring you back to earth
 You start to live and passion soon ignites
 Your life takes on a new, exciting mirth
 And soon your hunger takes you to new heights
 Though love may come and love may fade away
 The power of seduction wins the day

Barbara Derbyshire - December 2014

Barbara Derbyshire is a member of the Listowel Writers group that is funded by Community Education. This group is facilitated to meet in the ABE Centre in Listowel and we wish to thank Mary Barrett Swaine for continuing to accommodate us.



The Community Music Project in Lantern Lodge was facilitated by Ruti Lachs and was a huge success. Instruments used included percussion (triangles, tambourines and samba instruments such as guiro and cabassa) and tuned instruments such as guitar, keyboard, boomwhackers, and chime bars. No previous knowledge or experience of an instrument was needed. However the group in Lantern Lodge are a talented bunch and include musicians and singers. This ensures that the project was great fun as well as an opportunity for the group to participate in a course that promotes group work, creativity, public performance. Community Music gives everyone the opportunity to take part in musical activities - singing, playing instruments, and creating new music. The aims and values of Community Music compliment the objectives of the Community Education Programme i.e. that every adult in Kerry regardless of their educational attainment, level of ability, gender or income that they should have access to locally based education provision that improves their quality of life or supports individuals and groups to tackle social, educational or economic disadvantage.

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A number of community music projects under the auspices of Kerry ETB have been facilitated in Caherina House and Killarden House in Tralee, and Lantern Lodge and St John of Gods in Killarney. Some of the projects culminated in a performance, either in-house, or at a Day Care centre. Performances included original music created by the group, as well as dancing, poetry, art displays, and well-known ballads and pop songs.

The Partnership between the HSE centres and HSE supported group has been a very positive experience for both partners. The relationship between Community Education and the HSE ensures that difficult to reach adults experience community learning that they might otherwise not feel motivated to participate in without the referral system that exists.



Currow Women's Group who recently completed an Art and Craft class with their tutor Breda Galwey. This project was supported by the Community Education Programme.



Community Arts and Crafts Class in Ionad Pobal Baile 'n Sceilg

This Community Education funded programme was facilitated by Roisin Ni Chionnfhaoilaidh, in the Community Hall in Baile'n Sceilg. During this workshop the group explored some native crafts. They began with making Brigid's Crosses and progressed to making simple objects from yarn and natural fibres. The group was fortunate to be joined by a lovely visitor to Ballinskelligs, Gae Grey from Australia who shared the art of crocheting and knitting with the

group. There were many experienced knitters in the group and the joy of knitting was rekindled. Beautiful knitted squares were created, which were joined to create baby blankets that will be raffled to generate vital funds for the centre. The group is continuing to meet up on Thursdays to continue their journey of lifelong learning!



Inspired

Inspired is a newly established community based project, serving adults with intellectual disabilities in Tralee and surrounding areas. People with intellectual disabilities are operating within a disabling social, cultural, economic, and physical environment. They have an extremely diverse set of needs and abilities which leads to them encountering a number of specific barriers to community inclusion.

Inspired has been created with the aim of developing the employment, education and personal skills of these adults, with the vision of leading them to become active and participatory citizens that contribute positively to their local community.

Inspired's experience so far has been extremely encouraging. In addition to successful fundraising events which included a fashion show and most recently a Zumbathon, the participants are taking part in numerous trainings and workshops such as retail skills, life skills and work experience. There has been art classes, photography outings and, of course, plenty of fun.

Inspired continues to grow from strength to strength thanks to the generosity, support and heart of our local community and volunteers. We have also been supported by Kerry Education and Training Boards Community Education Programme.



Article by Courtney Sheehy, Administration Support Worker

Achievements of the SHEP/ Kerry ETB MOU

The Social and Health Education Project and Kerry ETB have collaborated since SHEP offered its first Foundation One (Personal Development Experiential Group-work) training in Kerry in 1996. In the intervening years there has been on-going contact, information sharing and collaboration. Kerry ETB has also provided financial support to The Social and Health Education Project as a contribution towards the costs of providing SHEP Foundation One training in Kerry. Over the years the collaboration has grown and deepened. In recent years, the Kerry ETB Community Education Facilitator had employed SHEP trained tutors to facilitate the delivery of Kerry ETB Community Education programmes. Kerry ETB has also advertised and promoted SHEP Training Programmes and referred individuals to SHEP as possible learners.

On 26th September 2011 a Memorandum of Understanding between Kerry ETB and SHEP was signed with the shared Mission that "Kerry ETB, as the statutory body with the mandate to support second level, Adult and Community Education, and SHEP, as a community-based organisation providing continuing education in the non-formal sector, work in partnership in order to contribute to the development of a learning society in Kerry. To this end both organisations have been working together in collaboration with Family Resource Centres and Community Groups all over the County from Ballyduff to Caherciveen and Annascaul to Sneem, with organisations providing services to people with disabilities, TWRC, Women 2000, Tralee Women's Network and recently NEKD.

In 2012, a total of 43 participants completed four SHEP/ Kerry ETB organised community courses. Of the 43, 18 were men and 25 women.

In 2013 five community courses were run in conjunction with Family Resource Centres in Tralee, Castleisland, Caherciveen, and Castlemaine. 45 participants completed the courses of which 11 were men and 34 women.

In 2014, 76 participants completed seven SHEP/ Kerry ETB organised community courses in collaboration with Castlemaine FRC, Kenmare Family Centre and

Abbeydorney FRC, Tralee Women's Network, St John of Gods Killarney and a group of Women in Dingle completed an Introduction to Personal Development course. In 2015 there are 10 Community Education Courses running funded by Kerry ETB, facilitated by SHEP trained tutors and organised and promoted locally by FRC's and other organisations across Kerry. Two of these are Men's Well-being courses, other courses include Effective Communication for Better Relationships, managing Stress in our Daily Lives, Seasons for Growth Living with Grief Loss and Change an Introduction to Personal Development.

The success of the partnership comes down to the good working relationship between Kerry ETB staff and SHEP staff both past and present, in collaboration with local organisations responding to local needs and the capacity and skills and presence of the Tutors facilitating the groups.

All courses are evaluated and participants are invited to the Presentation of Certificates for SHEP courses held in June each year up to now! SHEP staff Tutors and Trainers look forward to continuing to serve the spirit of our MOU with Kerry ETB. Our partnership is working well in ensuring that we can deliver quality, tailor made personal development programmes to the most disadvantaged groups and areas in Kerry.



Alice Tiernan, 80 years young with her first paintings. She is part of an active community group in St. Brigid's Resource Centre, Hawley Park, Tralee. They meet weekly for an art class which is funded by Community Education and facilitated by tutor, June Cournane.

Anne Fitzgerald attends St. Brigid's Resource Centre for weekly art classes. She likes to paint subjects from nature. This is evident in the rich autumnal colours of her painting 'Autumn Leaves' and the vibrancy of 'Fuchsia Flowers'.



Artists display their work at C.D.P. Rock Street, Tralee. This project is funded by the Community Education Programme. Previous art classes in this centre have progressed to QQI accredited courses under the auspices of the BTEI Programme.

In September 2014, a beginners' course in acrylic painting commenced in C.D.P. Tralee. Adults come to art classes with the clear intention of learning a new skill or to build on previous experience. Some are in a classroom setting for the first time since childhood. Students express a lifelong ambition to learn how to paint. Interest may also have been triggered by painting programmes on TV, a visit to a gallery, or, information on the course given to them by a friend. Community Education programmes open a door to learning for many adults.

Students' introduction to art involves names of materials and explanation of their uses. They progress to colour mixing and using complementary colours effectively in painting. It is important to give students the freedom to personalise their art with their choice of subject i.e. landscape, objects, memories and imagination.



Submitted by the Art class.

Listowel VTOS

From Rena Liston



Listowel VTOS Year 1 Students - Seizing the Day and the Sunshine

As part of group guidance at Listowel, a keen part of group work is to help the group experience a freedom and develop a confidence to seize and make use of the opportunities as they arise be it possible future courses, employment, or indeed a well needed break.

The day was sunny, after many weeks of rain and overcast skies. Instead of sitting in the class and wishing one could be outside to enjoy the sun, the VTOS Year 1 class stepped out for an impromptu group "walk and talk" for their group guidance session that day.

A simple thing that made learning happen in a different way on that beautiful March morning, acknowledging the students' interest of wanting to be outside on such a beautiful day, and by going outside for a walk as a group, learning the importance of seizing opportunities to create a positive memorable experience while on a course, the importance of clearing the head for a bit of mental well-being and perspective by going for a brisk walk, and the importance of creating opportunities to talk with each other and learn about each other in a different way all of which helps one to come back to the routine of a VTOS course refreshed for the rest of the day, and with a smile.



Listowel VTOS with cameras in hand, on a day out in Muckross as part of their Digital Photography Module

Killarney VTOS

My Journey with Killarney VTOS



The best decision I ever made after I was made redundant was to return back to education. My confidence was low and I felt stuck.

I was apprehensive but as soon as I entered the door of Killarney VTOS, I knew I had made the right decision. Immediately I was made feel part of a family and developed real positive relationships with staff and students. The modules were very interesting and were reasonable challenges - It was all very achievable and I used to look forward to

going in every morning. I successfully acquired a Major Award in Information Communication Technology Skills to FETAC (QQI) Level 4 standard.

The personal development was the biggest part for me and because I was doing something constructive and bettering myself, my confidence grew. The staff showed us how to achieve our dreams and gave us practical approaches on how to be successful at interviews, CV preparation and Job searching. Confidence grew for all of us students and we were all prepared to look forward to the future with the possibility of going forward into higher education or enter the world of work, which I did.

I have to declare that without VTOS, I would not be where I am today. I needed that break to get the job of my dreams and VTOS made it possible. While at VTOS my skills were fine tuned. The experience brought out the best in me and prepared me to find the right job, it was like a new lease of life. 'I now hold an administrative post in a very busy Killarney office'.

I would highly recommend anyone who is unemployed, or perhaps needs a career change or just wants some direction to go to the open day. It truly was the best move I ever made. The team of teachers and all staff at Killarney VTOS are phenomenal. The respect and support on every level they provided to each student was extraordinary and the atmosphere was pure gold.

I am truly blessed that I had this experience as it has benefited my personal life and the career path that I have chosen to take. I love my current job and I give the credit to all my dear friends and staff members of Killarney VTOS.

Sheila O'Leary Leavy



I really feel that VTOS was a vital stepping stone for me returning to the educational system as a mature student. The Leaving Certificate course delivered in Killarney VTOS equipped me with the tools and confidence necessary to progress to 3rd Level Education.

Without these acquired skills, I may never have contemplated let alone succeed in completing a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical and Electronic Engineering. The staff at Killarney VTOS instilled in me

their passion, confidence and commitment to self improvement. Through VTOS, I learned the importance of effective communication, time management. This enabled me to prioritise my goals and see a challenge through to the end.

As a graduate of a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, I am currently employed by a maintenance company in Killarney.

Bernard Moloney

Killarney VTOS Open Day



Shivaun Shanahan AEO Kerry ETB, Mary O'Connor Co-ordinator Killarney VTOS





A Painting of Spring and New Beginnings

Margaret Murhill a student of Killarney VTOS Adult Education and Art Teacher Ronnie Moore hold a painting which is a class project organised by Margaret to present to The Killarney Nursing Home, Rock Road, Killarney in appreciation of the tremendous care given to her late sister Breda Murhill.



Killarney VTOS has just announced the launch of its new website www.killarneyvtos.ie



Kathleen Keating IT Teacher Killarney VTOS, Shivaun Shanahan AEO Kerry ETB, Mary O'Connor Co-ordinator Killarney VTOS.

The website will provide information on the free Kerry Education and Training Board accredited courses available in the Killarney VTOS Centre for Adult Learners who wish to re-enter the work force or progress to further education. It is hoped that the website will enhance the learning experience and provide a forum for past and present adult learners who wish to keep in touch with developments in the centre. We would also like to thank all those who visited the Killarney VTOS centre on Friday 27th March and for making it a very successful Open Day. Staff and Adult Learners were available throughout the day to offer information and advice on Leaving Certificate and QQI courses on offer.

Tralee VTOS

Last September VTOS opened its doors to new first year students and welcomed back its second year students. It has been a very busy centre both academically and socially. The following is a sample of what we have achieved, our various Field Trips and what we have taken part in over the course of the academic year to date.

Awards Night

On the 4th September we hosted our Annual Barbeque to mark Awards night. All our students received Certificates to honour their achievements in the Leaving Certificate, QQI Level 4 and QQI Level 5. Our Student of the Year was Louis Begley.



Key to Your Future Event



Donna O'Brien (right) being presented with two All-Ireland Tickets which she won at the 'Key to Your Future' event hosted by Kerry ETB on 18th September in The Brandon Hotel.

The Day Sam Visited



The staff and students at Tralee VTOS were delighted when Sam took the time to visit.

Gaiety School of Acting on Stage at St. John's Theatre, Listowel



Last November as part of the Leaving Certificate English Course, Leaving Cert students were given the opportunity of seeing Othello on stage. It was a great show and was enjoyed by all.

Visit to Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin



In December Bríd O'Connor (History Tutor) organised a trip to Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin for Leaving Cert Students. They also visited Dáil Éireann and The National Museum.

Geography Field Trip - Killarney National Park



Leaving Cert students with their tutor Norma Breen in Killarney working to complete their Geography Field Research Project.

Permaculture QQI Level 5



QQI Level 5 students discuss their permaculture efforts.

Ecology Trip to Killarney National Park and Knockreer House



Knockreer House provided the perfect location for nature study with its safe environment, teaching laboratories and other facilities as well as the picturesque views of the lakes and mountains of the National Park.

Pieta House Play



QQI Level 4 students who performed Anti Bullying Plays to raise funds and awareness for PIETA House.



Pancake Day

Marie Jeanne Harkin busy making pancakes for students.

Grow Healthy Food Project

Vertical Tower Gardening March



QQI Level 4 Tralee VTOS students share the fruits of their 'Grow Healthy Food' Project at 'Grow Healthy Food' demonstration in association with Moyderwell Allotments, and Tralee VTOS students as part of their Entrepreneurial Studies module.



John MacSweeney showing how food can grow in vertical containers. Many different types of foods can be grown for almost free in tiny spaces in many kinds of recycled containers. For further reference



The Great Debate

Kevin Martin, Cecilia Keane & Michael Pitman taking part in a debate as part of their English Leaving Certificate Course.

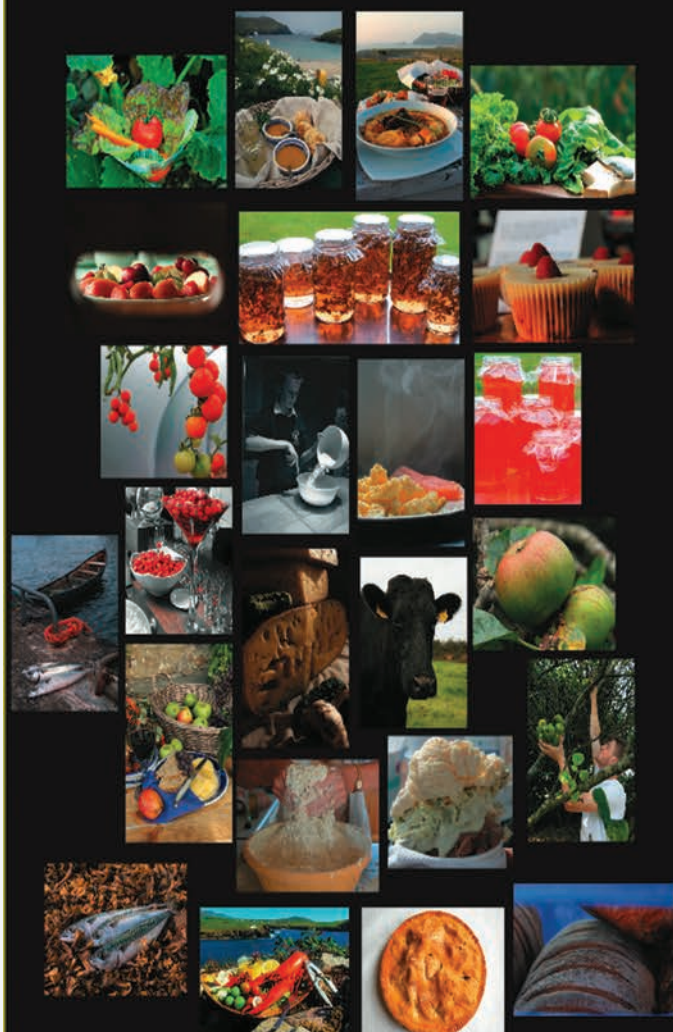


Back to Education Initiative

FÉASTA

*A feast of photographs celebrating the delights of food
sourced and available on the Dingle Peninsula's Wild
Atlantic Way by locally sourced photographers.*

BAIN SÁSAMH ASTÚ.



All photographs by participants of Kerry Education and Training Board FETac accredited Photography, Visual Arts Practice and Digital Media Technology courses

This Back To Education Initiative project is funded by the Department of Education & Skills under Kerry Education Training Board



Dingle Photography class, the picture is from their exhibition at the Dingle Food Fair.

The Digital Photography Classes started a number of years ago as a Community Education Class. They progressed onto QQI Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5. Each student in the group got a distinction for their work and one student progressed onto the ITT multimedia studies. The group have displayed their work in the Dingle Food Fair and were invited to display their work in the Listowel Food Fair.



Back Row from left: Ann Sheehan, Máire Uí Léime, Noel O' Neill, Siobhán Dempsey Tutor, Helen Matthews, Boscó Ó Conchúir. **Front Row from left:** Kathleen Fitzgerald, Colm McEvoy, CEO Kerry Education & Training Board, Margaret O' Shea, Áine Uí Dhubhshláine.

Missing from photo Anna Marie Fitzgerald and Anne Healy

Kenmare Adult Education Centre held an Arts and Crafts exhibition to showcase the students work. Students accumulate a considerable amount of products from all the classes they attend over the year and it is an ideal way to show their work and demonstrate the skills they have learnt in these classes. These products were made while the students were completing the following Level 5 QQI modules Painting, Drawing, Ceramics, Design Skills and Batik. The students have progressed from Level 3 and Level 4 into Level 5 and are working towards a major Level 5 award in Art, Craft and Design. The BTEI tutors are Caitriona Varley and Chris Shaw.



BTEI in Listowel Family Resource Centre



BTEI Level 3 - Arts and Crafts Group from Listowel Family Resource Centre, making their Stain Glass Pictures. Participants: Patricia Galvin, Kathleen McCarthy, Michelle Somers, Kelly Saint John, Maria Scollard, Marie Lavery, Valerie O'Donnell, Ella O'Sullivan, Mary Corridan, Maura McConnell, Rita Kelly, Tutor: Pricilla Sweeney

Transforum Alley Schools Mile Challenge 2014-2015

The GloHealth Schools Mile Challenge is a one mile fun run challenge done in conjunction with the Irish Schools Athletics Association and Athletics Ireland. Transforum Alley have introduced the initiative in order to track learners progress and the increase in learners' fitness levels. All learners have at least two hours of sport per week and are all currently completing the Dingle Way (179Km circular walking trail in Kerry), walking approximately 10 km every Thursday during Outdoor Education.

We have marked out a mile route along the canal in Tralee and all learners are timed during their gender sport session on the first Wednesday of every month. The focus is on individual participation and personal improvement walking, jogging or running. There is also a competitive element to the challenge in order to get a colour coded wristband for their efforts. Each learner is timed over the mile and rewarded with a colour coded band. Colour coded bands are available in over 10 minutes (purple wristband), 9 minutes (blue wristband), 8 minutes (green wristband), 7 minutes (yellow wristband), 6 minutes and under (red wristband) categories.

All learners either improved or remained in the same wrist band category during each challenge. The fastest time initially was by a young man who ran the challenge in 5.46. We thought this time would not be beaten but he achieved a new personal best of 5.38 recently. The most improved learner ran the mile in 5.55 minutes, an improvement from an initial time of 11.32. There is always a great buzz around taking the challenge. On each challenge day we constantly hear sayings like "I'm not able", "I'm broke up", and "I can't do it" but everyone has attempted it, jogged some, if not all of it and improved each time. We hope that everyone will keep improving throughout the year.

Outdoor Education and Sport

Every Thursday the Learners on the programme take part in Outdoor Education. This year the Learners are completing the Dingle way which is 179km in total. Outdoor Education is an important part of the programme and provides an opportunity for staff and learners to chat and develop relationships outside of the classroom setting. This is the third group to complete this challenge and is a massive achievement for all involved.



Cooking

Every week from Monday to Wednesday, two learners are chosen each day to cook with our Home Economics teacher on a rota basis and two learners are chosen each day to be on clean up duty. They make a snack for break time and a dinner for lunchtime. This has proven to be very successful with both staff and learners. One of the learners in Transforum Alley Youthreach has been chosen to take part in The Apprentice Chef in conjunction with the ITT. The Apprentice Chef challenge is for students to create a recipe for a main course using only fresh and local ingredients that represent good mood food.



My Journey in Transforum Alley

I started in the KDYS to do QQI Level 2 and 3. The following year I went on to finish QQI Level 3 and I completed it in June 2014. When I started looking at my progression I found out about the Level 4 sports course. I decided to ask Maaiké if I could do it. She suggested going for LCA and if I didn't get in, I could apply to do the Level 4 program. I did a week's induction with LCA and was unsuccessful in my application. So I then managed to get a place in the Level 4 sports course. The Level 4 programme is working out good for me as I love sports and the subjects are really interesting. I found out during my personal and interpersonal development that I am a kinaesthetic learner. This means I learn better by doing things such as sports rather than learning from a book. At the moment there are 6 boys on the Level 4 course. The work is done in a small classroom setting which I find easier to work in.

The QQI subjects we do are: Communications, Maths, ICT, Teambuilding, Health Related Fitness, Work Experience, Nutrition and Personal and Interpersonal Development. The other activities we do are Gym Work, Running, Web Wheel and Outdoor Education. Tony has been my keyworker since I started; I had to put up with a lot from him! But he has supported me in getting here He is also good fun to be around because of his Dublin humour. After this course I am hoping to get into the Kerry College of Further Education to get my Level 5 and 6 QQI. If I don't manage to get in, I will apply for a Sports PLC course in Cork. Transforum Alley is a good place for people like me, that drop out of school early, as it will make you get out of bed and keep yourself really occupied!

Outdoor Education Programme – Adventure Tourism

By John Conway

On the 29th of October 2014, as part of the Outdoor Education programme, the whole group took part in an overnight in Killarney National Park. This overnight was planned by students from the ITT Adventure Tourism Course. The first activity we did was the high ropes course in Aghadoe. I thought it wouldn't be that good, but it was fun and enjoyable. I nearly fell a few times because it was difficult to balance on the ropes. It turned out to be a long, hard challenge.



The second activity we did was bush craft. The Students from ITT thought us how to find and clean water out in the forest by passing dirty water through a sock. We also learned how to make a shelter. Then we were taught how to start a fire without a lighter or matches. Finally we learned how to set snares and how to find food. We then had a spear throwing competition to see who could hit the target.



The third activity we did that day was the night walk. It was the day before Halloween and we went for a walk in the forest. I thought the walk was going to be a nice and easy walk; it turned out to be a scary walk. We saw loads of eyes lit up in the forest. The scariest part of the walk happened when we were walking on a path with a fence besides us. All of a sudden someone appeared dressed in all black, with a cape and no face. It frightened the life out of me

and a couple of the boys. We went to the hostel where we were staying. We had something to eat and we watched a movie to chill. The movie was a scary DVD and after when it was over we all went to bed. We went upstairs and we had laugh before we got into our beds. It was getting late so we decided to get into bed and go to sleep. When I got into bed I fell straight to sleep, because I was wrecked.

The next morning we had to get up a 7am because we had to go cycling. It was a pity it had to be in the heavy rain. We cycled everywhere in the national park. At one place we had to cycle up this steep hill. I couldn't cycle up it, so I had to get off the bike and walk the bike up the hill. It was a very tough cycle. I was glad when I got back to the hostel. The bus journey back to Tralee was very quiet, because we were all wrecked!



Kerry ETB Adult Guidance and Information Service Hosts Second Annual Inter- Organisational Day

Since 2012 the Kerry ETB Adult Guidance and Information Service (KAGS) has been focusing more and more on looking at what trends we are observing in the course of our work during the year and what needs are arising for our client group. The learning from this reflective exercise is captured in the form of an annual publication which we produce called 'Client Trends, Needs and Recommendations*'. This publication is shared with both Kerry ETB staff, including the Board and our network of contacts in other organisations, particularly those who work with a similar client group to us.

In addition, since last year, we have prepared a section of the publication recommending changes in policy and practice which the Board has approved and agreed to implement Kerry ETB wide. Coupled with this initiative, since 2013 we have invited those same staff and contacts to an annual presentation day where different organisations who work with a similar client group, share the client trends and needs that they are encountering in their work. This then forms a basis for shared learning, group work, feedback and collective recommendations for change.

2014 Event: Our most recent inter-organisational presentation day took place last December and was attended by representatives of the following organisations: Citizens' Information Service, Comharcumann Forbatha Chorca Dhuibhne (a Gaeltacht Cooperative for local development), Department of

Social Protection, LES, Jobs Club, Employability Kerry, Kerry College of Further Education, Kerry Diocesan Youth Service, Kerry ETB Training Centre, National Learning Network, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, as well as Kerry ETB Adult Education staff from our Adult Education Centres, Adult Literacy Service, Community Education, VTOS, and KAGS itself.



Special Award: A special feature of this year's event was the awarding of a Certificate of Appreciation to the Society of Saint Vincent de Paul on behalf of KAGS by the CEO and Chairman of the Board of Kerry ETB. This was done as a token of our gratitude for the continued SVP educational funding support of our clients around the County.

Presentations: Presentations were then delivered by National Learning Network, VTOS, Citizens Information Service, Employability Kerry and LES on the topic of client trends and needs. Not surprisingly, there was a lot of commonality in what was being highlighted by the different organisations.

Group Work: Following the presentations, participants were facilitated by KAGS Adult Guidance Information Officer Angela O'Sullivan in focussing, first in small groups, then collectively, on identifying the most urgent needs presenting across the County and recommending actions to address these needs.

Results: The top three issues identified by the participants of this year's event were:

1. More travel/transport supports for adult learners and clients
2. Need to change the focus from statistics to client/person
3. Increase guidance and counselling supports.

What next? It was unanimously agreed by those in attendance that they would like to see this event carry on each year. In order to strengthen the impetus for change, it was suggested that next year we should invite county and local politicians to attend in order that they might listen to what's being said and learn from it. Hopefully then, they would use their influence to effect positive change for our clients at both local and national level.

As an aside, these inter-organisation presentation days have also yielded great opportunities for networking, information exchange, and fostering and strengthening of relationships between the different organisations to the real benefit to the clients we serve.



Kerry ETB Student Awards 2014

Over 220 people attended the Kerry Education and Training Board Annual Student Awards event which was held in the Institute of Technology Tralee, North Campus, Dromtacker, Tralee, on Friday 16th January 2015. Guest of honour, Karen Gearon humanitarian and equality activist and one of the original 11 Dunnes Stores strikers was the guest speaker and presented the awards to 78 exceptional students on the night.

Colm McEvoy CEO Kerry ETB emphasised that "This is one of the most important annual events for all involved in Kerry ETB. It is an opportunity for the organisation to celebrate and highlight the achievements of students in Kerry ETB schools and in Youthreach Centres which Kerry ETB provide in partnership with the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS) in Tralee, Killarney and Listowel."

Colm stressed that "a good education system is beneficial for society and education plays a very important role in personal development. In education today we are currently preparing students for future that we cannot predict. Students who entered first year in secondary school this year will retire from work in 2065. What jobs will they retire from? One thing that we are sure of is that most of these job titles don't currently exist. In some cases, the careers they'll take on haven't even been invented. Thirty years ago, 'Apple' was still a fruit. Fifteen years ago, Google was a funny word. The challenge for the education system is to ensure that the education we provide to our students fosters creativity and innovation and ensures that the students maximise their talents as they progress through life. Human development is an organic and not a mechanical process. We cannot predict the outcome of human development. We must create the conditions where the natural talents of our students begin to flourish."



Over 3,100 students attend Kerry ETB post primary schools and 120 participants attend Youthreach centres. Kerry ETB is very proud of their schools and centres which provide a comprehensive education for all their students. Over the last six years through the Kerry ETB Developing Schools Enriching Learning initiative Kerry ETB schools have put huge additional efforts into improving the quality of teaching and learning and pastoral care.

According to Education Officer Ann O'Dwyer "This awards event celebrates both academic achievement and also awards personal growth and leadership development which is strongly emphasised in each school and Youthreach centre. Voluntary work is also rewarded through the Leadership and Active Citizenship Awards. These activities provide excellent opportunities for learning and personal awareness which will benefit our students in every area of their lives in the future." Ann went on to highlight a new Digital Literacy Award introduced this year. "This is the first year that the individual students will receive a Digital Literacy Award for their achievements in ICT and highlights the commitment and expertise of Kerry ETB in the area of technology in post primary education."

Paul Lucey husband and the family of the late Kathleen Lucey a former Irish Teacher of Tralee Community College have kindly commissioned a special award for Oral Irish in Kathleen's memory. This is now an annual award for the student who achieves the highest results in the Optional Oral Irish in the Junior Certificate. Jim Finucane Cathaoirleach Kerry ETB welcomed "a new school award which has been introduced in collaboration with the ITT and Aspen Grove Solutions, Tralee. This programme involves students receiving technical training to run and manage lunch-time coding clubs in their school. The aim of the programme is to expose more students to the vital skill of computer coding and eventually encourage a higher uptake in third-level technology based programmes." The iMentor Award sponsored by Aspen Grove Solutions is being presented to the school which best engaged with the iMentor programme. The winning school was chosen through their blog which outlined the student's experience of setting up and managing the coding clubs. Jim Finucane as Cathaoirleach Kerry ETB presented the Gold Medal Awards for best overall Academic Achievement to Peter O'Brien Causeway Comprehensive and Róisín Ní Dhomhnaill Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí who both achieved 600 points in their Leaving Certificate in 2014. Peter is currently studying Pharmacy in UCC and Róisín is studying Medicine in Trinity College Dublin. Kerry ETB wishes to warmly congratulate and thank all the students who received awards for their courage and commitment. School and Youthreach centre management, teachers, resource workers and parents/guardians also deserve our appreciation for their enormous contribution to education.

Kerry Education & Training Board Christmas Card Art Competition

Kerry ETB ran a Christmas Card competition open to all students in the eight Kerry ETB Schools. Entries were asked to incorporate the Kerry ETB logo into a Christmas themed card.



Kerry ETB Would like to thank all the students who took part and congratulate the winners:

OVERALL WINNER:

Christopher O'Gorman, 3rd Year Student, Listowel Community College

FOUR RUNNERS UP:

Lucilla Martino, 5th Year Student, Causeway Comprehensive School

Liam Flaherty, 1st Year Student, Causeway Comprehensive School

Niamh McNamara, 5th Year Student, Causeway Comprehensive School

Esel Acun, 1st Year Student Killarney Community College

Kerry ETB would also like to thank Kingdom Printers who kindly sponsored the publishing of the card and Harvey Norman's who kindly sponsored the 7" Tablet for the overall winner. Each runner up received a €25 One4all Gift Card. More pictures can be viewed on www.kerryetb.ie

Kerry Music Education Partnership

continued from front cover

Youth Band Mentorship Initiative

KMEP, with support from Kerry County Council Arts Office, was delighted to have nationally-renowned group Walking On Cars, agree to mentor a number

of young Kerry-based bands in January 2014. Three local bands, Walter & Co (Dingle), Mad Alice (Killarney) and Jousting with Chairs (Tralee) participated in the initiative which aimed to develop higher standards of practice in contemporary and popular music performance. The initiative was extremely well received in local and national media and KMEP hopes to run a similar mentorship again in 2015/2016.

Composer-in-Residence (Youth Music)

With funding support from Kerry County Council and the Arts Council, Composer-in-Residence, Kevin Gleeson, recently completed a 20-week residency working with young people in over 40 schools in the area of contemporary creative composition. Kevin, a talented young composer with experience in sound design, sound engineering, recording and creative production and composition, has completed a number of creative projects in recent years and his work has been reviewed in both Hotpress Magazine and the Irish Times.

Vocal and Instrumental Tuition

In November 2014, KMEP launched its 'Take Note' vocal and instrumental tuition programme in a number of primary and post-primary schools across the county. Current participating schools include FOSSA NS, O'Brennan NS, Killarney Community College, Causeway Comprehensive, Coláiste Gleann Lí, Killorglin Community College, Castleisland Community College and Colaiste na Sceilge. Tuition takes place in small groups where children are facilitated in learning music with their peers. Schools also have the opportunity to host School Ensembles which provide performance opportunities for children through glee clubs, bands, instrumental ensembles and choral initiatives. Since its launch, approx. 150 children across the county have been receiving tuition in guitar, drums and voice.

Music Technology in Education

Since September 2014, Laurence Counihan, MA student in Creative Media, has been working with the project as part of the IT Tralee INC Scholarship scheme. Throughout 2014 and 2015, Laurence has been working with music teachers and tutors and providing workshops and tutorials on the use of technology in music education settings. Laurence has also given music technology workshops to students throughout the county to develop their skills of creative composition.

Kerry County Library

Kerry County Library has recently partnered with KMEP and is supporting the project through the provision of additional music resources for project participants, music students and music teachers around the county. Resources include access to Naxos Music Library, a music streaming service, as well as new tutor books and recordings. Details of resources can be viewed online through the library catalogue at <http://www.kerrylibrary.ie/>

Summer Workshops 2015

A series of 'Kerry Banditz' music workshops are planned for July 2015. During the week-long workshops, students will learn to play instruments and write songs, perform as part of a band, create electronic music and make a recording. The workshops will target 12-14 year olds and 15-17 year olds. Funding support, for the delivery of workshop in the Killarney area, is being provided by Killarney No Name Club.

Further Details

Queries in relation to current and upcoming project initiatives can be directed to the project coordinator, Miranda Cournane, at Kerry ETB Head Office on (066) 7121488 or via email mcournane@kerryetb.ie Look out for our new website, www.kerrytakenote.ie, which is currently in development and due to 'go live' in June 2015!



Castleisland Community College

5 Peak Mountain Climbing T.Y.

As part of the Transition Year Course we climbed a total of 5 mountains Strickeen, Torc Waterfall, Mangerton, Brandon and Carrauntoohil. The first Mountain we climbed was Strickeen on September 24th it took about forty minutes for the first group to reach the top, giving them some time to take in the breath taking view from the top.



We climbed Torc Waterfall on a miserable, wet day on the 9th of October. Taking about 30 minutes to climb there was no view visible through the dark, heavy rain clouds; we reached the bottom of the mountain at full sprint within 10 minutes. We climbed Mangerton on the 20th of March. On the 20th of April the Transition Years climbed Mt. Brandon with high hopes and great excitement and anticipation for their holiday to Italy the day after. On the 14th of May the Transition Years climbed Carrauntoohil to finalise their Transition Year.

121 Digital Programme

This is a very enjoyable programme we started on Tuesday the 24th of February. The whole idea of this project was to teach older people in our community how to use their smartphones, laptops, tablets etc. For the first lesson we focused on getting to know them and identified their major problems with the technology in order to sort what they needed help with.



During the second lesson for the first 20 minutes we sorted out any other problems they had with their technology e.g. how to use PayPal and buy goods on the internet. They really enjoyed it and so did we as their teachers. 1,000 Learners have completed 121 Digital courses since 2010, in 24 schools. 1,000 TY volunteers were their Tutors.



Special Merit for Certified Irish Angus Beef Schools Competition

Before midterm we entered an essay competition for the opportunity to win the prize of five Aberdeen Angus. The initial essay was 200 words long and had to show the knowledge we have of the cattle. We sent off the email on the Friday and two weeks later we had got word that we got through to the last 40 from 140. We were delighted with the news so the next step was a presentation and interview on the cattle, where we planned to keep them and ideas on how the group could advertise and promote their brand. We had two weeks to write this presentation and send it off. We also spent this time preparing for the interview.



On Monday 9th of March we travelled to the Firgrove Hotel in Mitchelstown Cork. On March the 18th we received word that we were not part of the four teams of finalists that had won the cattle but that we would be receiving a special merit for our presentation. We were delighted to be given the opportunity to get this far and was a great experience.

By John McMahon and Niall Brosnan

Christmas Shoe Box's 2014

Last year we sent our shoe boxes to Romania and Kenya. We had great support throughout the school as we collected over 100 shoe boxes. We also had great help from Miss Murphy and Miss Killington who collected the shoe boxes and added small things that were missing from each one. Some of the 3rd year CSPE class held a bake sale to raise money for buying teddy bears, soap, face cloths etc. to put into the shoe boxes. This was a great help as we made a lot more shoe boxes with the money that was raised. We are very grateful for each and everyone who helped and who sent in shoe boxes.

Fair Trade for Castleisland Community College

Castleisland Community College has been granted the status of a Fair Trade school. The Fair Trade organisation achieves a better deal for farmers in the developing world. Transition Year students as part of their Geography class along with their teacher Doreen Killington undertook market research by identifying the supermarkets in the town that supply Fair Trade products. A cost analysis was then undertaken to see if Fair Trade products such as tea, coffee and chocolate had prices comparable to other brands. They established that Fair Trade products have very competitive prices. The staff of the Community College then sampled and voted on the Fair Trade products that they preferred. Fair Trade tea and coffee is now available to staff, the After School Study programme provides Fair Trade tea for students and the canteen provides Fair Trade chocolate. Fair Trade tea and coffee was promoted for the Open Night last December with Transition Year students displaying the various Fair Trade brands available in local shops and the price comparison between local supermarkets. Fair Trade tea and coffee was available to all courtesy of Mary O'Sullivan (House keeping) and her Transition Year helpers. Mary and her team also spoke to members of the general public regarding questions about what Fair Trade does.

Fair Trade is part of the global interdependence section of the Leaving Certificate Geography course. Transition Year students have certainly gained valuable practical experience and knowledge of how the Fair Trade organisation operates. They have also learned how ordinary people can make a positive difference to the lives of farmers in the developing world. Well done to all!



Girl's Football

This academic year has been a very busy one for the Castleisland Community College girls football teams. Both the boys and girls teams had training on Mondays at lunchtime with Jack O' Connor, Mr. Joy and Ms. Buckley. They worked on drills to improve football skills, reaction speeds and shooting on target.

The first outing for the senior football team was in early October, in the Munster competition against Presentation Milltown, the match was played in the Castleisland Desmonds pitch. Unfortunately after a fantastic first half by our girls, Milltown made a comeback in the second half that proved too much, and the final scoreline was 5-16 to 3-10 in favour of the visitors. The second game of the year was played in Abbeyfeale GAA pitch, against a tough Askeaton side, but on this occasion the girls battled hard for the full 60 minutes and came out victorious with a convincing win of 4-7 to 2-6.



The final game of the senior group was played against Millstreet Community School in Millstreet. It was a hard fought game, played in adverse weather conditions! But with some impressive displays of skill and determination Castleisland CC beat the home side by a margin of only two points, 8-9 to 8-7.

The senior team then progressed to the plate quarter final, where they were up against Glanmire, an experienced Cork side. Battling with some injuries, and a depleted team, Castleisland Community College played a good first half, but really felt the pressure in the second half and unfortunately on that occasion lost out.

The junior team had a great start to their Munster campaign in October with an easy win over St. Joseph's of Ballybunion. With some absolutely fantastic displays of football and wonderful teamwork, the junior girls netted a huge score of 5-4 to 2-0. In November the junior team had their second game, against an experienced Colaiste Íde side. With a great first half the girls were positive going in at the break, but unfortunately it was not to be, and Colaiste Íde pulled away with an impressive victory and progressed onto the quarter final, cutting our hopes of advancing to the next stage short.

All in all the ladies football teams had a mixed year, with some impressive wins, and some very entertaining matches. There has been major improvement in the sport in the school over the last year, with girls who play for a variety of clubs around the area really beginning to play as a unit on the school team. This shows great promise for next year, and hopefully we will enjoy an even more successful year in 2015/2016!

'One Good Idea'

Our 1st years are taking part in 'One Good Idea' run by Sustainable Energy Ireland. This is where students have an opportunity to inspire people to make small lifestyle changes that will use energy more efficiently and help tackle climate change. This year our one good idea is to run an awareness campaign in school to encourage students to plant trees in an effort to reduce CO₂ in the atmosphere.

As part of the awareness campaign our students designed and produced a short comedic and planted apple trees on school grounds. The group have already made it to the top 50 schools in Ireland and are hopeful to make the top 20 which will be announced soon and will take place in Dublin Castle.



Jack O'Connor & TY Primary School Coaching Initiative

The Transition Year students and Jack O Connor are teaching primary schools from the Castleisland area in the Community Centre nextdoor to our school every Monday morning . It's great for the children to get to meet Jack in person, have fun and learn how to play football from a great coach.



We are extremely lucky to have Jack O'Connor come to our school to coach football on Mondays at lunchtime also. He does general drills like kick passing and a few tricky drills. It was great as we have the space out the back of the school for football and soccer etc. Jack began training the senior and u16 for a few weeks and he then went to train 1st and 2nd years after that. He also trained the girls football team during the year.

Primary School Peer Mentoring Through Irish

As part of Transition Year, a group of students are mentoring the 6th class students of Muire Gan Smál. They are developing their own mentoring skills in Irish under the guidance of Ms Killington.



Every week three TY students undertake a selection of activities in Irish with the 6th class students. They include songs, games and quizzes. Transition year students will benefit from this as they learn to teach children a new language in an educational and fun environment and also to gain confidence and learn the skills involved in teaching. It is a wonderful opportunity for both sets of students to improve their Irish and to also enjoy the language.

Project Maths for Parents

Project maths for parents proved very popular again this year with large numbers signing up for the course. The aim of the project is to provide support to the parents of Junior cycle students. This course will help parents gain confidence to support their child/children with their maths homework. It should help dispel some of the fears that parents have in relation to the new Project Maths course. The course will cover the basics with parents and will introduce them to the language of Project Maths.



Picture shows parents receiving their certificates on completion of the course.

Causeway Comprehensive School

Causeway Comprehensive Forges Valuable Links with Local Community



121 Digital teaches Learners (adults in the local community) how to use laptops/ tablets/ smartphones. Lessons are FREE. 121 Digital offers six personalised 'one-to-one' lessons by a digital expert (Transition Year student volunteer) during a six week period. Learners of all ages / stages / abilities / learning speeds (from beginner

& intermediate to advanced) attend 121 Digital courses. Learners bring their own device, start at their own level and advance at their own pace in the privacy of a one-to-one. The 121 Digital course (content prepared by professionals) is tailored to the learner's needs. Pictured above, Transition Year student, Mateusz Tyrkiel and learner, Ann Leahy, Causeway, at the 121 Digital course in Causeway Comprehensive.

Book Club

I was delighted to be involved in the creation of our school's very own book this year. The book was produced as part of the "We Are Writers" project and it also integrated well with our literacy plan within the English Department and cross curricular.



We decided to hold our book fair in December 2014 and we found that the book proved to be a popular Christmas present for family members. We in Causeway Comprehensive, are continuously searching for new ideas to promote literacy in our school and

this year the 1st year English teachers, brought the wonderful idea of the "We Are Writers" project which thankfully proved very successful.

Emer O'Brien

Kerry Minors

Students of Causeway Comprehensive School who were involved in Kerry's victory over Meath in the All Ireland Minor B Hurling Final in Nenagh. The team manager was Ian Brick (a former student of Causeway C.S.)



Front: Jamie Barrett, Jack Goulding, John Buckley, Jordan Conway, Deputy Principal, Anne Marie Hassett. Back: Jason Diggins, Brian O'Riordan, Fionán Mackessy, Robert Collins, Stephen Murphy, Billy Lyons, Brandon Barrett

Senior Camogie



Colm Cooper Visits Causeway Comprehensive School

In March, GAA football legend and eight time All-Star winner, Colm Cooper visited the school to share his knowledge with students on Motivational Techniques, Health and Nutrition. After the talk it was time for some fun and games and the fifth year students had a great GAA Skills Training session with Colm.



C.S.P.E.

J2B students entered the SEAI One Good Idea Competition with their Greener Fashion Today project. The One Good Idea Competition asks students to come



and dried on the clothes line. When they used a high temperature it damaged the appearance of the t-shirt. The girls are through to the next round of the Junior Level of the One Good Idea competition.

Cólaiste Gleann Lí

Coláiste Gleann Lí - Innovative Expansion Plans Unveiled

Plans for the refurbishment works and expansion of Coláiste Gleann Lí were unveiled recently by Kerry Education and Training Board. Coláiste Gleann Lí-Post Primary School will be extended, refurbished and upgraded, this summer.

These plans mark the second phase of a two phased development process, part one of the project was completed last summer and saw the refurbishment of a cross section of specialist classrooms. This latest plan ensures that, in tandem with the usual second level subjects offered in all schools, Coláiste Gleann Lí will be enabled to offer modern courses in ICT, Robotics and Programming to prepare students for highly sought after third level courses and careers in these areas. "Coláiste Gleann Lí will be a market leader in education providing a wide range of subjects and facilities including a cutting-edge Design Communication Graphics (DCG) facility, an Arduino robotics software facility and integrated ASD supports to ensure equality and inclusion for all students" explained Ms. Ann O' Dwyer, Education Officer of Kerry ETB.

Mr. Richard Lawlor, Principal of Coláiste Gleann Lí welcomed the plans describing them as a vote of confidence in the modern and innovative teaching approaches adopted by his staff. He welcomed the extension to the school describing it as highly necessary given the unprecedented increase in enrolments in recent times. "Last year's enrolments were a staggering 200% increase on the previous year and our recent Open Day was an overwhelming success". Mr. Lawlor went on to explain the reason for the marked increase in enrolments, "Our favourable class sizes mean that we are the only post primary school in Tralee that can offer the highest level of individual and personalised attention to students, ensuring that each student realises their full potential".

The plans will be submitted for planning to Kerry County Council shortly and building works are scheduled to commence in early June with an expected completion for students' return in late August 2015.



Unveiling of extension plans for Coláiste Gleann Lí by Kerry ETB earlier this academic year. Back (l-r) Gerard Heaslip (Chairperson of Parents' Council), Edward O'Neill (Kerry ETB), Stephen O'Sullivan (Architect), Jim Finucane (Chairperson of Kerry ETB), Richard Lawlor (Principal). Front (l-r) Maryanne Lowney (Assistant Principal), Aisha Hassan (Students' Council), Colm McEvoy (CEO, Kerry ETB), Paul McCarthy (Students' Council), Ann O'Dwyer (EO, Kerry ETB).

Lights, Camera, Action!

This year marked the introduction of a filming course at Coláiste Gleann Lí, where students were offered an opportunity to conceptualise and create their own short film. Since January a group of 2nd and 5th year students advanced their idea, from script to screen, with zeal and enthusiasm. The piece centres around positive mental health and issues affecting young people in modern society. The filming initiative has been deemed an overwhelming success by all involved and the entire school community look forward to the premier which is due to take place in May. The theme of positivity was also explored through music before Christmas when a group of talented students composed and recorded a contemporary rap song entitled 'You Are'. The rap features gripping lyrics which are explored through a range of solo voices and harmonies. The rap is also due to be released in May as part of our Coláiste Gleann Lí summer celebrations.



Arduino Robots & Programming Course

Coláiste Gleann Lí's 'Arduino Robots and Programming Course' in association with Michael Davern of IT, Tralee has been a major success with students. The course has been offered weekly in our cutting-edge Design Communication Graphics (DCG) facility. The course has provided students with the fundamental principles needed to pursue further third level study or training in robotics and/or programming. This initiative is part of our Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) strategy where our school is engaging and linking with STEM industries in the region. This strategy has enabled Coláiste Gleann Lí to link with and visit Kerry-based multinationals such as Liebherr in Killarney and Kerry Group, Tralee and Listowel.



Opening of Coláiste Gleann Lí Astro Turf Facility

Kerry stars Kieran Donaghy and Barry John Keane paid a joyous visit to Coláiste Gleann Lí with the Sam Maguire, earlier this academic year. While students got a chance to get their hands on Sam, it was also an occasion for the players to



officially open the school's brand new astro turf pitch. The pitch has been a major asset to the school, especially in their regular training sessions with Kerry Minor Manager Jack O'Connor.

Cólaiste na Sceilge

KSTA Junior Science Quiz



Congratulations to our third years Dervla Donegan, Grainne Donnegan, Lea Turner and Kate O'Sullivan and their teacher Ms G McGee. The students came third in KSTA Junior science quiz in Tralee. The team scored an impressive 45/48 and competed against nine teams from around the county. You did us proud.

Cultural Exchange with the Netherlands



In March of this year, Coláiste na Sceilge students and teachers welcomed students and teachers from Udens College, Uden, Noord Brabant for the first time to the school for a six day Cultural Exchange. The Dutch students arrived late from Dublin Airport on Friday 20th March, where they were greeted by the School Principal Mr John O' Connor, Guidance Counsellor Ms Mary Golden and Exchange Coordinator Ms Carol O' Brien along with the host families with whom they would be staying in the Iveragh Peninsula.

Paris Trip 2015

On the 26th of February this year, 45 students and four teachers headed to Paris from Cork for their three night, four day school tour of the city. Upon arrival, the students enjoyed a guided tour of the City of Lights and afterwards an unforgettable evening of swimming and fun in the Aquaboulevard. Friday began with a walking tour of the Montmartre area and the Sacre Coeur, followed by a cultural visit to the Louvre Museum.

In the evening, students and teachers climbed the Eiffel Tower and after dinner and shopping in the la Défense district, we took an enjoyable, if chilly boat trip down the Seine on the Bateaux Mouches. No trip to Paris would be complete without visiting Eurodisney and students and teachers spent all day Saturday taking in the wonders of the theme park. On Sunday, we had just enough time for some last minute shopping for souvenirs on the busy Champs Elysées. It was a very busy but thoroughly enjoyable four days for both students and teachers alike.



NNI Press Pass Awards

Congratulations to Donna Fitzgerald on winning the news category of this years NNI Press Pass awards. This news story, outlining how the ISPC night time service was facing closure due to a lack of funding, tugged at the heartstrings yet had the hard-hitting structure and detail that you would expect from a news story in a national newspaper. Its killer line had to be the ISPC volunteer who questioned if she was supposed to tell children to "put that hurt on hold... ring us when the service is actually open".



Congratulations to Aoibhinn O' Neill and Sinéad O'Sullivan for their participation at the 2015 BT Young Scientist in Dublin. It was a tremendous achievement on getting to display their project "Personality Disorders: Improving Awareness among Young People" at the event. Well done also to their teacher Mrs. Anne Griffin for all her hard work. The girls work was also featured in a wellbeing article in a national newspaper.



Students from Mrs Casey Burns' 3C history class were treated to a talk from local historian Mr. Junior Murphy. Part of the Junior Cert History programme requires students to study social history and to examine changes that have taken place in Ireland since 1960. Junior gave the students a glimpse of his life growing up in Cahirsiveen, working in New York, returning to study in UCC and his subsequent teaching career in South Kerry. He pointed out changes that have taken place in education, communications, religious observances, to name a few and he passed on a few valuable life lessons along the way. It is envisaged to have Mr. Murphy make a return visit in the near future to share his wisdom with the remaining 3rd Year classes. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Junior Murphy for giving so generously his time to talk to us.

Hello to Happiness was a week of events organised by our L.C.A enterprise class to highlight the importance of staying positive and being aware of your mental health. 1st and 2nd Years enjoyed themselves at the "Hello to Happiness" week being celebrated at the school. The event culminated in the Dance Off in the Mall. It certainly brought a smile to all involved.



Colaiste na Sceilge Float in the St Patrick's Day Parade. Students involved in the 121 Digital with the Active Retired.



Well done to students Collette O'Shea, Dervla Donegan, Gallimh Donegan, Mikayla Corcoran and Erin O'Shea and their teacher Ms. Gráinne McGee on a wonderful presentation to the whole school on the importance of conserving water. The Green Schools committee completed this project on behalf of Trócaire and raised much needed funds for the delivery of fresh water to the less well off through a wear blue day.



Sporting Awards

Congratulations to Coláiste na Sceilge student Adam King who received a best of South West award. Adam is received the award for his amazing achievements in sport.



Garda Achievement Awards

Aoife Sugrue and Nicola O'Sullivan received the award for their work in bringing Joy to the patients of St. Annes Hospital through music. Aoife and Nicola give of their time freely to volunteer at weekends and holidays playing music for the patients. Caoimhe O'Sullivan won the award for her work in the community with Youth Club, Enable Together Residential Programme where she works with people with special needs and 121 Digital helping older people with new technologies.



Les MIS

This year's musical at Colaiste na Sceilge surpassed all expectations and people in Caherciveen are still talking about it! To our utter disbelief and excitement, we had a full house all three nights and three standing ovations.

Les Mis was always going to be a big undertaking but we knew the talent was there in abundance and auditions and rehearsals began in early September. There followed many late evenings and weekend rehearsals and as time went on, the music, acting and artistic endeavours became a spectacular performance all in one.

The cast, comprising mainly of Transition Year students along with the school choir, were exceptional in their performances and showed a true star quality. Well done on showcasing your talents!

Teachers Maeve Falvey and Grainne McGee spearheaded the performance along with Honor Hurley, director. Many thanks to students, parents, teachers and management for their support and enthusiasm.



Student Council

The Student Council has been busy and productive since September. Having conducted a healthy eating survey the students are preparing a report for the Principal and Catering Manager. The students are also planning to raise money for picnic benches so students can enjoy lunch outside. Wellbeing is important to the Student Council and as a result generated ideas for Respect Week. The students also came up with a novel way of promoting Wellbeing by organising music at lunchtime. In relation to teaching and learning the Tec savvy Students Council introduced teachers to a variety of ICT programmes that enhance student learning. Feedback has been very positive from both students and teachers.



Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí

Ceiliúrtha 25 Bliain



Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí celebrated twenty five years in existence this year. We kicked off with the whole school (apart from first years), along with some parents and members of Tralee mountaineering club, climbing Mount Brandon in September.

This was followed by a day of celebration in November when past pupils and teachers visited the school and a dinner and dance that night.

Former and present Principals and Deputy principals of Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí: Ruairí Ó Cinnéide, Éamonn Mac Muiris, Pádraig Ó Dálaigh and Austin Ó Seachnasaigh.



The celebrations finished with a football match between past pupils.



Coiste na Gaeilge

This year saw the establishment of Coiste na Gaeilge in the school, launched by Micheál Ó Muircheartaigh in September, with the ultimate aim of achieving a Gaelbhratach for the school.

The coiste have organised many activities throughout the year along with a very busy Seachtaine na Gaeilge. Activities included Tráth na gCeist, Biongó, Céillí, tóraíocht taisce, Sean-Nós dancing, a visit by the Cinemobile, Bliain 1 had a class trip to Dingle and also "Cupán agus Caint" le Bliain 6 to help prepare for the Irish Oral.



Michael Ó Muirheartaigh with the Coiste na Gaeilge at the launch of the Gaelbhrtach initiative.



Bliain 1 sa Daingean

Kerry ETB Awards

Bronnadh gradaim ar ochtar dalta ó Ghaelcholáiste Chiarraí ag Ócáid Bhronnta Gradaim Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna Chiarraí. Bronnadh na gradaim orthu de bharr an sár-oibre a dhein siad laistigh de, agus lasmuigh den seomra ranga le linn na scoilbhliana seo chaite. I mbuaic phointe na h-imeachtaí bronnadh an Bonn Óir ar Róisín Ní Dhomhnaill Rang na hArdeiste 2014 de bharr na torthaí iontacha a bhain sí amach an samhradh seo chaite.



Gaelcholáiste students who received various awards at the Kerry ETB awards night.

BT Young Scientists

Two projects were selected for the BT Young Scientists exhibition in the RDS in January.

The first project by Laura Ní Eidhin, a second year student, was Highly Commended for her project on 'Reducing Carbon Dioxide Emissions and Road Deaths', and the second project by Transition Year students, Ursula Ní Mhochóir, Lorraine de Nais and Janine Ní Chonchúir won a Display Award for their project 'Using water energy buoys to reduce coastal erosion whilst generating electricity'.



Laura Ní Eidhin



Ursula Ní Mhochóir, Lorraine de Nais and Janine Ní Chonchúir



Killarney Community College

Transition Year Programme Introduced to Killarney Community College

What a year it has been for 30 fantastic students who have completed Transition Year in the college. A school year that was filled to capacity which allowed our students to excel. The air of excitement around the college in September was contagious as both teachers and students were fully engaged and looked forward to a tremendous year ahead. The transition year programme is a unique one year programme that promotes the personal, social, vocational and educational development of students and prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society. Killarney Community College endeavours to promote academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self directed learning. TY provides a bridge to enable students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with junior cycle to the more independent learning environment associated with senior cycle. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem solving skills. The students also discovered their individual talents, aptitudes and abilities and will learn a variety of new skills. Another element of the programme involved preparing the students for the world of work by enabling them to develop skills that will benefit them throughout their lives. The programme was co-ordinated by Ms. Kerri McCarthy and Ms. Lorraine Crowley. A huge amount of planning and dedication was undertaken to ensure that it was a year that our students developed new skills to help them to reach their full potential in their Leaving Certificate. The TY programme offered our students a broad and balanced curriculum with certification in many different modules at their end of year graduation. Activities and highlights of the year included; Surfing, Photography Course, the Ploughing Championships, Blackwater Outdoor Activities, Volunteer work with Legion of Mary and Killarney Celtic Football Club, Work Experience, Film making, Fashion Show, Build a Bank, AWARE Life Skills Programme, First Aid Course, Introduction to Law Programme, Public Speaking with Alan Devine, Young Social Innovators, Driver Safety Course, Etiquette Workshop, Music Technology Workshop, Apprentice Chef, Business Enterprise Awards, and achieving their Bronze Gaisce Award.

1st Year Mini Company

LIAM PICTURES mini company was set up and ran by 1 Liam students. Their entrepreneurial idea of hosting a "Movie Day" became a reality. Over the past 11 weeks the students learnt about entrepreneurship, their skills and qualities. They took part in group work and created their own collage of what entrepreneurship is, they researched local and famous entrepreneurs and learnt the steps in how to set up their own mini company. They brainstormed many different business ideas and the one that was voted upon was a Movie Day. They took part in Market Research, they created and designed surveys to give out to first years, transition years and leaving cert applied students. They analysed the results and positive feedback was returned. The movies were decided, the date was decided and permission had been granted. Well done to the permission committee who sealed the deal. Advertising their business took place and also their brand name "LIAM PICTURES" was decided upon. Over the course of the next few weeks, students volunteered to do research jobs after school and

priced the resources that they needed e.g. popcorn holders, red cups, etc.. They carried out product testing and some of the production team with Ms. McCarthy went to get there stock in Killarney town. They sourced the best prices around! Students had invested €5 each so this money was used to buy the goods needed for the day. The Home Economics room was a hive of activity for the day. The production team were excellent and ensured each student received their order and cinema ticket before taking a seat. A fantastic day was had, students excelled in their organizational and leadership skills. I think we have some very enthusiastic aspiring entrepreneurs around us, according to teacher Ms. Kerri McCarthy. The best news for the students was that they made a profit!!



Left to Right: Brian Harrington, Dominik Kolodeziejski, Evan Looney, Kamila Fudyma, Laurel O'Neill, Patrick Dineen, Karolina Gunia, Adam O'Connell

Garda Youth Achievement Award Winner 2014

Well done to our student Seán Kelliher, A TALENTED young musician from Killarney who scooped the overall prize in this year's Kerry Garda Youth Achievement Awards. Seán Kelliher who was nominated by Ms. Kerri McCarthy and was honoured for his great community work and for bringing traditional Irish music to the homes and hearts of senior citizens in their own homes and at a parochial level. In January at a gala reception in Tralee, 16-year-old Seán, who comes from a very musical family, was presented with a specially commissioned crystal trophy and the overall winner certificate to mark his achievement. The Killarney Community College student, a past pupil of Fossa National School, was one of 27 people recognised and he was praised by the adjudicators for his fundraising through music initiatives. Seán is also a member of the school's traditional Irish music group and he spends much of his spare time helping and tutoring other pupils preparing for music examinations. The awards, which are held in association with Lee Strand Milk, recognise the voluntary efforts of young people between the ages of 14 and 19 in Kerry.





Paris School Tour (5th - 8th March 2015)

66 students and 7 teachers from Killarney Community College set off to Paris on Thursday 5th March. This was the College's first school tour. When we arrived in Paris, we got a City Tour that took us through the city showing us all the sights including the Arc de Triumph, Champs Elysees, The Louvre and stop off at The Eiffel Tower viewpoint. This was a great start to our trip.

On Friday, we spent the day in the two parks of Disneyland. Both students and teachers had a fun filled day! We finished off the day with a fantastic meal in a French Cuisine in the centre of Paris.

Saturday was a jam-packed day. At 9am we left our accommodation and made our way to Versailles Palace. We spent 3 hours here exploring the Palace and the Gardens. All the students were amazed with the Palace. After lunch in Versailles, we set off again back into the city where half our group went up the Eiffel Tower and the other half went on the Boat Tour of the River Seine. Both of these trips allowed the groups to take in breathtaking views of the city of Paris. When these tours were finished, we visited Notre Dame Cathedral and surrounding area where we were then treated to an 'all you can eat' Chinese Buffet before our evening appointments. After dinner the groups got to complete the other afternoon activities and so experienced Paris in all its splendour both day and night.

Sunday morning before travelling back to Killarney we visited Sacre Coeur and Montmartre Area where the students got to enjoy some last views of the city and do a little bit of shopping.

The sun was shining for the four days we were there. The students had a trip of a lifetime where the memories and laughter will live on forever. We would like to thank the teachers who volunteered to go on the trip including Ms. Denise O' Sullivan, Ms. Loretta Maher, Ms. Eilish O' Leary, Ms. Carmella Sheehy, Ms. Michelle Mahony, Mr. Klaus Woesner and the School Tour Coordinator Ms. Lorraine Crowley.

Killarney Community College Students Saving for their Future!

During this academic school year Transition Year students in the school set up their school bank and have been very busy recruiting new members in conjunction with Bank of Ireland, Killarney.

Prior to the opening of the bank, interviews took place in order to secure a place on the Bank of Ireland Team. Killian Young and Sean Brosnan interviewed the students and recruited who they thought were the best people to fulfill the positions in the Bank of Ireland Team.

The Bank of Ireland School Bank has been designed to support schools in providing financial education to students. It gives students the opportunity to work in the School Bank branch across a variety of roles from Bank Manager to Customer Service Official learning about banking and how to work as an effective team. The School Bank also provides the opportunity for students to open a bank account and makes it easy for them to save on a regular basis, via frequent onsite School Bank visits.

The Student School Bank team is supported by experienced Bank of Ireland staff member Mr. Sean Brosnan from the local branch to ensure the smooth operation of the School Bank, and to support the team with any questions and queries they may have. The school bank team developed their communication skills

while participating and running the school bank. Their efficiency was second to none and they provided a very professional service in the college. Sean's expertise and excellent rapport with the students allowed the smooth running of the bank to take place.



Back L-R: Mr. Sean Brosnan (BOI), Dominika Gwizdzinska, Mutaz Almusawi, Broghan Edmonds, Sarah Finnan. Front L-R: Nicole Riordan, Abigail Graham

Transition Year First Aid

During the month of January, our Transition Year students successfully completed their Emergency First Aid Training Course with Ms. Sheilah Nolan. The objective of the emergency first aid training course was to provide our Transition Year students with knowledge and skills to allow them to act quickly and safely in an emergency until the arrival of the emergency services. It also allows students to support the occupational first aiders and cardiac first responders in an emergency. Our students covered the following:

- The Aims of first aid and responsibilities of someone administering first aid
- Casualty Assessment and monitoring vital signs
- Respiratory Emergencies- Asthma, Choking, Anaphylaxis
- Recognition and management of partial obstruction and complete obstruction - choking (Adult, Child, Infant)
- Recognition and management of chest pain / heart attack - what to do
- CPR and introduction to the Defibrillator. (Adult, Child, Infant)
- Stroke and management
- The unconscious casualty- causes and management
- Fainting, Shock and management
- Bleeding and management
- Medical Emergencies - Epilepsy, Diabetes
- Fractures and Soft tissue injury

According to TY co-ordinator Ms. Kerri McCarthy "the students thoroughly enjoyed this practical first aid course. Sheilah was a superb professional instructor who instilled the knowledge and skills to our students. It has given them the confidence and knowledge to act safely and quickly in an emergency situation. It is a critical life skill that will benefit them throughout their lives". All students received certification for taking part in emergency first aid.



Front Row L-R: Dominika Gwizdzinska, Sarah Finnan, Abigail Graham, Megan Brosnan, Sheyenne Kehoe, Mutaz Almusawi, Mark Stack, Chelsea Coffey, Christian Mayse.

Middle Row L-R: Fiona O'Brien (principal), Shane Courtney, Grainne Dineen, Nicole Riordan, Laura Daly, Leighanne Herlihy, Louise Langian, Broghan Edmonds, Jake Grunfeld, Nelu O'Doherty, Ms. Sheilah Nolan (Occupational First Aid Provider)

Back Row L-R: Dean Cronin, Christopher Marshall, Peter O'Brien, Donagh O'Leary, Rory Carroll, James Flynn, Ross Brennan, Megan Duggan, Jordyn Tuohy, Oliwia Gramza.

Killarney Community College Invitational Primary School Tournament

On Wednesday 5th November 2014, a perfect morning for Gaelic Football, seven primary schools from in and around the Killarney area participated in the first ever Killarney Community College invitational primary school tournament on the college grounds. Teams from St. Olivers, Fossa, Kilcummin, The Gaelscoil, Loughquittane, The Monastery and Lissivigeen all battled it out in this keenly contested seven aside blitz. Games were over seen by current Kerry Minor Manager and Killarney Community College's resident coach Jack O'Connor who also gave each team their own coaching session.

The winners of the competition were The Monastery who eventually overcame a determined Kilcummin side to win by six points. Lissivigeen eventually came out winners in the shield beating St. Oliver's by a goal in a real cliff hanger. The event was such a success that it is hoped the competition will grow and become an annual event. The level of skill, sportsmanship and athleticism was a joy to watch according to KCC teacher Mr. Brian O'Reilly. A competitive and fun day was had by all, schools already with an eye on the prize for next year's tournament.

Green School Flag

The students and staff at Killarney Community College are awaiting an important letter from An Taisce. After two years work on their first Green Flag, the College were inspected by Environmental Officer Mícheál O'Coileáin in February. According to Ms. Martina Hegarty, Co-Ordinator of the initiative, "he was very encouraging and praised highly the work of the Committee and the Green ethos of the school." As part of the tasks of the project, the school has introduced a new waste system for lunchtimes, taken part in Tidy Towns flower planting and clean ups and held a Day of Action where every student got to play their part in the care of the building. "We have a fine building here at KCC and it is important to us to showcase it well", says Green School Committee Chairperson, student Andrew Brosnan. "We are proud to take responsibility for our own actions and our own space. Anything worth doing is worth doing well and if we want our

school to be in pristine condition we have to do it together. The Green Flag recognises and acknowledges this work", he added. It is a credit to the work of the entire school community and we are looking forward now to official confirmation from An Taisce and especially an invitation to the awards ceremony in Cork in May.



In picture: Committee Members: Andrew Brosnan, Aaron Healy, Leo Whieldon, Robert Giles, Daniel Ciemiega and Valentina Puotkalyte

Art Trip to Dublin

On the 26th November 2014, 5th year Art students went on a trip to Dublin with Ms. Michelle Mahony and Ms. Lorraine Crowley to visit the National Gallery, the Hugh Lane Gallery, the National Museum of Archaeology and also Trinity College to see the Book of Kells and the Long Room Library. They all really enjoyed their trip as they got to view a lot of the pieces they learn about as part of their Leaving Cert Art History course





Business in the Community

The Schools' Business Partnership is an education inclusion programme that partners schools with business. Killarney Community College has been partnered with Marks & Spencer, Killarney for the past four years. Our Transition Year students completed The Skills @ Work Programme which provided them with a unique insight into the world of work. Over a number of sessions, our students were provided with the opportunity to learn about our partnering company Marks and Spencer. In February 2015, we completed a site visit to Marks and Spencer, Killarney. The students got a detailed tour of the business from the Operations Manager Mr. Kieran Fenton and Foodhall Manager Mr. Donal Casey. All daily operations were explained to the students and they got a behind the scenes look at the business and the life of a product.

Part of the morning involved the students being given virtual money to dress a mannequin. This task for the students was most enjoyable as they worked in teams and an overall winner was chosen. It was a great experience for the students to see the reality of how a business operates on a day to day basis. Over the past few months the students also engaged in preparing their CV and interview skills with Mr. Paul Daly Manager of M&S, which lead to mock interviews for each student with Marks and Spencers. "This type of an experience for our students will be hugely beneficial to them when entering the world of work. The initiative equips the student with necessary interview skills which ultimately we hope would give them an advantage over other interviewees" according to teacher Ms. Kerri McCarthy.



Group picture includes: Front Row L-R: Christopher Marshall, Donagh O'Leary, Shane Courtney, Nelu O'Doherty, James Flynn. Middle Row L-R: Mel Quinn (M&S) Louise Lanigan, Dominika Gwiddzinska, Chelsea Coffeyk Abiail Graham, Jordyn Tuohy, Nicole Riordan, Michelle O'Sullivan, Megan Duggan, Sarah Finnan, Mr. Donal Casey (Foodhall Mgr M&S). Back Row L-R: Mr. Kieran Fenton (Operations Mgr M&S), Rory Carroll, Dean Cronin, Ross Brennan, Mutaz Almusawi, Daniel O'Connor, Christopher Sweetman and Broghan Edmonds.

Drumdance Workshop

During January and February, Urs Wenk of Drumdance Ireland arrived in Killarney Community College. He worked with 1st year Music students, drumming some great rhythms, rapping and playing games. This project was funded by JCSP music initiative.



Water Safety Certs

1st Year Students who successfully completed their Irish Water Safety Certs as part of their Physical Education Programme in the school. Thanks to the Aquila Club in the Gleneagle for facilitating this course.



Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty Award Winner

Katie Mai Moloney in 5th Year who won this years Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty Art competition and was awarded a framed cert and money prize for her efforts in depicting his life in a poster by the Hugh O'Flaherty Memorial



Killorglin Community College

Another busy year is coming to an end at Killorglin Community College. As we cast our minds back it is difficult to mention everything taking place in such a vibrant school, however, a few events stand out apart from the excellent teaching and learning that happens on a daily basis.

Our football pitches re-opened in September after a major improvement works took place. The first competitive fixture took place on the pitch after a 10 year interval when our senior played a Tralee/Listowel combination in October. This resulted in a win for Killorglin, a statement of what is to come! Football has undergone a resurgence in the past few years thanks to the work of our football coach Ian Twiss and the support of Jack O'Connor. Our under 16 team got to the Munster Championship quarter final this year, the seniors got to the Kerry final and our first and second years got to the O'Callaghan Shield final.



Boys GAA

Our Christmas Concert took place on Friday December 19th and incorporated singing and drama for a live school audience. We hope a full school concert can take place in the coming year and plans are already a foot for this.

The Parent's Council ran a very successful fashion Show at the Manor Inn on Friday October 17th. The large attendance had a great night. Parents of the school and local businesses contributed a huge number of spot prizes for the night. Thanks to all involved for such a successful night.



Fashion Show Staff



Fashion Show Students

Many trip's took place over the past year. First Year & Second Year students had a trip to the BT Young Scientist competition in the RDS in Dublin on January 9th. This was in support of two first year Students; Donal and Timothy who had qualified for the finals of the competition. They won the Comreg award for the best technological idea in the communication area. The project on Nearfield Communication and its ability to help the visually impaired gained a lot of attention from the judges. The students in question went on to meet President Higgins at IT Tralee on February 25th last.



BT Winners meet President Higgins



BT Young Scientist Award Winners



JCSP iPod

Fourth and Fifth year Students had a trip to the AXA Road Safety show in the INEC Killarney and Romeo and Juliette in Listowel. Various other trips were undertaken as the year progressed. We wish our students well as they prepare for a trip to the Gaeltacht and also for a trip to Barcelona in June.

Our fourth year students have won the inter-schools Tag Rugby competition for the second year in a row. They have also got involved in training in Wheelchair basketball and a team is now being formed for a county wide competition.



Basketball Bootcamp

On Saturday March 14th our second annual school cycle took place with a choice of 3 routes this year. One route of 60k another 40 and a family friendly 12k. The numbers of cyclists was greatly up from last year and the level of organisation and hospitality was excellent on the day. Our thanks to the Parents Council and others from the community for making the event such a success. Thanks also to Donal O'Reilly, Donal Brosnan and Anthony Griffin for their work in pulling the event together.

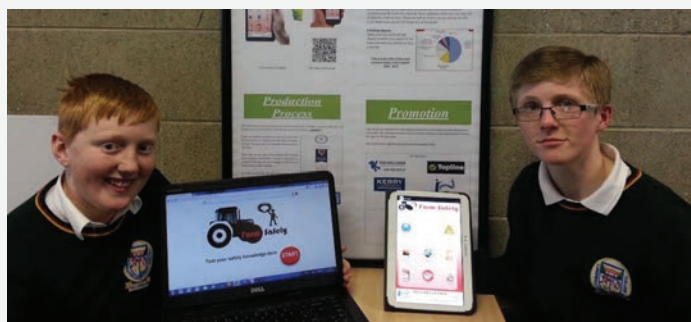


School Cycle



School Cycle

On March 20th, two second year students won the intermediate category at the student enterprise awards at Tralee. Hugh Hurley and Padraig McMahon won the top prize for their app on farm safety. They now go on to the National finals in Croke Park in April. We wish them well.



Business Enterprise Award Winners



First Year Walk



Garda Youth Achievement

Finally, thanks to everyone for making the year such a success at Killorglin Community College.

Listowel Community College



New Developments for Listowel Community College

Listowel Community College has undergone a number of developments in the past year since the appointment of a new Principal Cathal Fitzgerald in September. The management team along with staff are working together in developing a strong co educational post primary school and Further Education College. A number of investments within the school has taken place. The college has now attained 100MB broadband, a new ICT network system, and 25 new computers which were installed and refurbishment within the school new flooring and paintwork. Over the summer, Listowel Community College will be rebranded as North Kerry College of Further Education and will move to a new location over the summer. This has also led to the creation of a new second level school, a rebrand on the former Listowel Community College Post Primary site called Colaiste na Ríochta. The school has agreed a new uniform with all stakeholders which will be introduced to all years in September. This new post primary school will provide for those wishing to have a co educational experience in the Listowel area.

This year the college had our Anti-Bullying awareness week in the first term. The College has introduced a very unique Anti - Bullying programme which will enhance its present school policy. This programme has been established in only one other school in Munster. This programme has created an anti bullying committee called the Personal Safety Board (PSB). This board is made up of teachers who volunteer to investigate any bullying issues within the school and apply restorative practice methods in dealing with such issues, and help to promote any anti bullying environment. During the week, the college had a number of activities from lesson plans, competitions in English and Art as well as Humourfit Theatre Company. It was a great success.

Our girls Futsal team who participated in the county girls futsal blitz! They played games against Coláiste Gleann LÍ, Kilorglin Community College, Causeway Comprehensive School and Intermediate school Kilorglin.



They won two games and lost out to Causeway in the semi-final. Well done to all the girls involved and excellent performances by Tara Downey, Rebecca Bambury, Viktoria Hyps, Katelyn Flynn, Chloe Murphy and Edel Mulvihill.

Listowel Community College produced silver medals in seven a side Gaelic Football!

Congratulations to our 1st and 2nd year boys team who defeated St. Michael's College, Ballybunion and St Pats Castleisland and only lost to Tarbert Comprehensive School by a point in the first game! Listowel Community College

came second in the group and received their silver medals!!!! Well done to all the boys and their coaches Pat O'Sullivan, Luke Mulligan and Jack O'Connor.



Listowel Community College started up an U14 boys Basketball Team this year and had three friendly games defeating Causeway Comprehensive School twice and lost out to Castleisland Community College. The team is developing very well and will be entering the competitive world next year in U16's. Many thanks to coach Luke Mulligan

Our Sixth year students enjoyed a very informative and interesting day exploring Killarney National Park as part of their Geography field trip, they got the opportunity to have a hands-on experience learning about water velocity, depth and erosion at Torc Waterfall!



Students had the exciting opportunity to work with Irish film director, Éanna de Buis. They created a set, designed costumes and organised props in English class and shot a short film under his direction in conjunction with their media studies. It was an absolutely brilliant day as well as an interesting insight into the film industry.



Students from eight Kerry Education and Training Board (ETB) schools around Kerry were honoured at a special ceremony at the ITT for Kerry ETB Student Awards. Yet again, Listowel Community College students were well represented and picked up a number of awards. Congratulations to our third year student, Mark Fealey who won a prize for his metalwork project at the Tralee IT engineering day.



Christopher O'Gorman a 3rd Year student in Listowel Community College won the Kerry ETB Christmas Card Art Competition. Christopher was invited to attend Kerry ETB Head Office on Thursday 4th December 2014 for the presentation of his prize from Colm McEvoy CEO Kerry ETB where he received a tablet as a prize. Well done to Christopher and Ms. Sugrue, Art Teacher.

Fundraiser for Listowel Community College

This year Listowel community College organised a fundraiser event "A Night at the Dogs" on Friday March 13th 2015 in Tralee Greyhound Stadium. This event was a great night out, with plenty of races and prizes for all. With a number of developments within the school, this fundraising event was vital. The community and businesses of Listowel came out and supported this event by sponsoring the various races and prizes. The college greatly appreciate their support.



Donal Walsh loved and lived his short life to the full. The Creative Media Department IT Tralee in collaboration with the Donal Walsh Live Life Foundation has run a national film competition to help spread Donal's wise words of "Live Life". Our second year students planned, acted, filmed, edited and produced a short production for this competition. They had great fun along the way and thoroughly enjoyed the celebratory 'Live Life' day which centred on Donal's message in Fels Point Tralee where the films were screened. The students really enjoyed the experience and we look forward to entering again next year.



This year Listowel Community College received their first Green Flag, the Green school committee had been working hard all year to achieve this. The school already have the Active School Flag. Well done to the committee and their teacher Ms. Iseult Glynn

Further Education

The decision was made by all stakeholders to split the college into two distinct identities on two separate locations. By March Listowel Community College Further Education was no longer in existence and North Kerry College of Further Education was created for PLC and VTOS. A new logo, new website, new location, and new courses were developed, the future looks positive for North Kerry College.



Listowel Community College FET Bursary

Congratulations to Valerie O'Connor and Emma Ryan who both received €500 each from Listowel Community College of Further Education as part of their Bursary Award.



Pictured Stephen Goulding Deputy Principal, Iseult Glynn Staff Representative of the Board Of Management, Emma Ryan, Valerie O'Connor and Cathal Fitzgerald Principal / Sec. of Board of Management



The Health Care Support Group & Hairdresser PLC Learners here in the college organised a Health Promotion Week where they organised runs, walks, zumba classes and healthy eating information for all the students in the college! It was a fantastic week packed with great activities and raised awareness of healthy living in the college. Well done to all involved!



Opportunities Fair demonstrated that Education and Training is the key to all our futures

continued from front cover

Colm Mc Evoy, CEO of Kerry Education and Training Board explained the importance of this event, "We set out to highlight and put on public display the full range of Education and Training courses that we offer here in Kerry. People don't always knock on our door to see what is on offer when they are faced with a decision about learning and new skills development, so I think we reached those people who need to know what we have on offer and they can follow up with the new course directory which was launched by Minister Jimmy Deenihan, who is very impressed with what is on offer here".

Course details were displayed beside demonstrations of professional skills by teachers, instructors and trainees. Large display tables simulated a range of work settings. Advice on career choices and course options from Kerry ETB were available. Specialist instructors were on hand to offer guidance and advice to those on the hunt for new skills training across a wide range of disciplines.

Entrepreneur and former Dragon's Den participant Mr. Sean Gallagher, who gave a motivational talk on the day, highlighted the need to constantly acquire new skills and develop a positive mind set. He added, "successful people invest in themselves, they study and develop a range of skill sets and commit to continuous improvement".

Sean Gallagher stated "Wherever you are now you need to set a goal to where you want to be. When I became unemployed for the second time I said to myself that I am done now with being unemployed. So in 1995 I set out to be an entrepreneur. I didn't have any money because I was unemployed, I didn't have a business idea and I didn't have a huge amount of experience about running a business. So I decided I needed to build a bridge to get from where I am to where I want to get to. Here today I invite you all to do the same. Kerry Education and Training Board can provide you with the bridge you need to follow your goals and dream. You can make a difference if you follow your passion. I invested in myself through education and you can do the same with all the opportunities that are here on your doorstep",

When he visited Kerry ETB Training Centre Sean Gallagher said, "I am particularly impressed with the high tech training facilities available and with the wind turbine technician training course, which I see as a major innovation with Kerry leading the way on what is clearly a growth industry that has jobs waiting at the end of the course".

Owen O'Donnell, manager of Kerry ETB Training Centre said, "We are constantly developing our training courses and the wind turbine maintenance technician course is a major initiative with a €1.2 million government investment. It targets a growing industry that requires trained specialist maintenance staff. As of now the employment opportunities in wind turbine maintenance are extremely good and we are the main centre where this specialist training and certification are delivered".

Colm Mc Evoy CEO of Kerry ETB pointed out that the main reason for the Education and Training Fair was to explain what Kerry ETB is and what it does, "The biggest change is that Kerry ETB now has a new expanded role that includes Training as well as Education. Prior to the enactment of new legislation KES and FÁS operated under the aegis of different government departments. As a direct result of these changes the responsibility for the training function now lies with the Education and Training Board. These changes should lead to improved co-ordination and ultimately provide a more seamless service to the public as part of the Government's wider reform of public services".

Close to 1,000 people visited the event, where the public were able to see skill demonstrations in a number of areas, such as, Culinary, Health Care & Pre-Nursing, Beauty, Nails & Holistic Therapy, Hairdressing, Engineering; TV and Video Production, Sports & Recreation, Animal Care & Dog Grooming, Construction; Furniture Making, Art, Craft & Design and Music.

Talks and workshops ran throughout the day giving vital information to the public. SUSI gave special workshops to adults, parents and students on how to apply for Student Grants. The Department of Social Protection / Intreo provided talks on Job Vacancies & Job Bridge Internships as well as on Funding & Supports they offer to unemployed people and to employers. The Institute of Technology in Tralee were on site to explain about progression options from Kerry ETB courses to higher education.

"The focus of this entire process has been about making access to training and career paths easier for adults here in Kerry and that's exactly what Kerry ETB is here to do. Our aim is to make it easier to access courses that will give people the knowledge, skills and competencies they need. This year we will provide over 1,500 Further Education and Training Courses across the county from levels 1 to 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications. Details of all these courses are provided in our Education and Training Directory for Adult Learners" stated Colm McEvoy.

Last year Kerry ETB delivered 1,500 further education and training courses to 16,000 learners. 77% of those who complete courses progress to further education or employment.

KOWC Global Schools Network and Kerry ETB

Since September, 2014, Kerry ETB has been actively engaged with Tralee based Kerry One World Centre's Global Schools Network (GSN). The Global Schools Network is designed to enable students to become active global citizens by supporting teachers to deliver effective teaching and activity based methodologies about development and global issues. It is supported by Irish Aid's Worldwide Global Schools (WWGS) programme, which promotes a whole schools approach to Development Education in schools throughout Ireland.

Kerry ETB Education Officer Ann O'Dwyer has been committed to GSN from the start. She has encouraged Kerry ETB principals to access KOWC's support services which are designed to assist them to engage in a 'whole schools' approach to Development Education.

This year, KOWC's Education Officer Rita Hogan has delivered presentations on GSN and a whole schools approach to several Kerry ETB school principals as well as outreach presentations to Killarney, Listowel and Castleisland Community College (human rights) and to Killorglin Community College (fair trade). Schools interested in accessing GSN supports can contact her by emailing 'info@kade.ie'. See also www.kerryoneworldcentre.ie.

Last year, with the assistance of GSN, Causeway Comprehensive School became a Fairtrade School. This May, its Transition Year students, under the guidance of teacher Margaret O'Mahony, will make a presentation to the board of Kerry ETB to persuade head office to adopt a Fairtrade procurement policy and to buy Fairtrade tea, coffee and other products. Well done to Causeway TY students!

Become a Fairtrade School in 2016

Teachers, Kerry One World Centre is available to assist all Kerry ETB post primary schools become a certified 'fairtrade school'. KOWC's Education Officer in 2014 assisted Causeway Comprehensive to become certified by Fairtrade Ireland. Causeway teacher Ms. Patricia McGrath compiled useful practical tips on the experience into a document for other interested teachers to consult. This document is available on KOWC's Global Schools Network Moodle platform-www.kowc-moodle.org. If you would like support from KOWC's Education Officer for your school to undertake the process in the next school year, email Suzanne in KOWC: info@kade.ie or ring 066-7181358.



Teacher Patricia McGrath and CSPE class students, 2014 with their Fairtrade school certificate

IT Tralee present awards to Kerry ETB Special Needs Assistants

On Friday, September 19th thirty one Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) from eight Kerry ETB schools received their awards from IT Tralee President Dr Oliver Murphy for successfully completing modules of the European Inclusive Physical Education Training Programme (EIPET) which was developed by the Institute of Technology, Tralee, in 2009.

The CARA Adapted Physical Activity Centre in collaboration with Kerry Education and Training Board delivered training and education on the inclusion of people with disabilities in PE through a variety of theory, practical and reflective learning approaches to this group of SNA's.

CARA promotes the use of the European Inclusive Physical Education Training (EIPET) throughout Europe as a tool to up skill teachers and teaching assistants on the inclusion of people with disabilities in their Physical Education and Physical Activity classes.

There is an increasing number of children with disabilities attending mainstream schools and CARA is working to engage with Education and Training Boards, Education Centres, Schools, Teachers and SNAs to offer more of this type of training throughout Ireland which will enable all school sports, physical activity and physical education classes to be more inclusive.

The SNAs who received their awards are employed within the following Kerry ETB schools; Castleisland Community College, Causeway Comprehensive School, Colaiste na Sceilge, Killarney Community College, Killorglin Community College, Listowel Community College, Colaiste Gleann Li, Tralee and Gaelcholaiste Chiarraí.

For further information please contact:

Michael Gilroy (Training and Education Coordinator)
CARA APA Centre, IT Tralee
caratraining@ittralee.ie
066 714 55672 / 085 1678790

e² Easter Expedition 2015

On Tuesday April 7th 2015 eight intrepid travellers left Cappanalea Outdoor Education and Training Centre (OETC) looking for adventure. The plan was to hill-walk and kayak 25 kilometres across South Kerry, camping in the wild and finishing in Renard 3 days later on Friday afternoon. All Students from Kerry ETB programmes were given the opportunity to participate, the expedition forming part of the Kerry ETB Active Schools Initiative. Participants had spent a day training in Cappanalea OETC in February learning about pitching tents, using camping stoves and packing a rucksack etc. in preparation for the expedition.

The cast of characters featured Daniel Chung, Saoirse Hussey, Holly Touhy, Hatim Seif and Maria Sands, students from Kerry ETB schools and Youthreach programmes, Donal Dowd and Mary Nash from Cappanalea OETC, Jeremy Wrenn from Kerry ETB, John Creagh, Physical Education teacher from Colaiste Gleann Li, also joined the expedition for the last leg to Beginnish on Thursday afternoon.



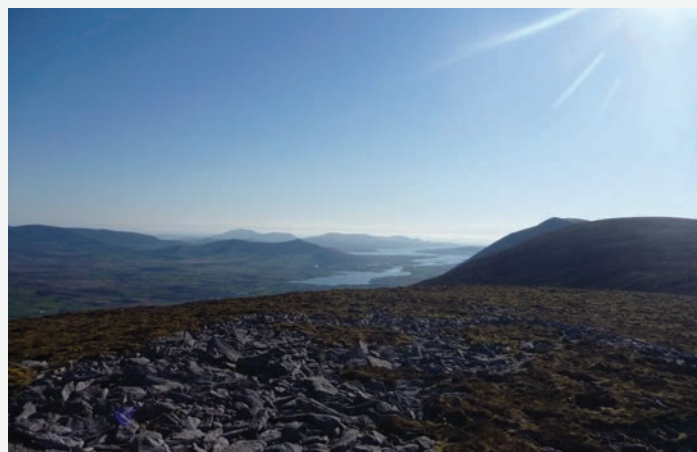
Kells beach, with our first climb in the distance

The atmosphere was muted on the bus trip from Cappanalea to Kells, where the expedition proper was due to kick off from Kells beach. None of us knew what to expect, being separated from family, warm beds and the comforts of home, and of course the internet, for four days. Would we be strong enough to last the course, would we get on well with the other explorers, there was definitely some tension in the air. It was the first multi-day school / centre expedition in Cappanalea's history so it was uncharted waters to a degree.

The first day's hillwalking was difficult, with the sun was splitting the stones but the heat brought its own challenges, and some of the group found the going tough on the initial climb. We camped at approximately 500 meters above sea level, with Donal and Mary showing everyone how to pitch their tents and cook their food. They also taught us all how to leave no trace, using a fire-blanket and stones to not damage the soil beneath the fire, and leaving the pristine countryside exactly as we found it. Energy levels were low and the temperatures dropped sharply as we huddled around the camp-fire for warmth. It was an early night for all after the arduous of the day.

Spirits were high on the second morning as we set out to climb Knocknadobar, even though one of the group had been ill during the night. However the group was starting to gel as a team and members of the group pitched in to carry their pack to give them some time to recover. Views from the summit were spectacular, stretching from the Scelligs to the Blaskets. Smoke shadowed our descent, as we followed the Stations of the Cross down the mountain, with a farmer lighting the trail behind us.

After a brief pause for food at the bottom we struck off for Cooscrome. Two fire engines blocked our path not far from the base of Knocknadobar but after Mary conferred with the firemen, we were able to skirt around the edge of the fire and resume our journey. The pace was relaxed and the terrain accommodating, giving everyone the chance to have a chat and get to know each other.



View from the summit of Knocknadobar

We reached the coast and hiked along the edge of some breath-taking sea-cliffs to reach the blowhole at Cooscrome, where we made our camp. There was a big change in the mood of the camp from the night before, with all the group having risen to the challenge of the second day and people were also starting to relax in each other's company. After a challenging first day, a bond had been forged from adversity. Indeed, some felt that without a tough first day the group would not have united as strongly. There was a military type efficiently to the chores, with tents being pitched and food being cooked like clockwork. Everyone enjoyed

eating freshly prepared Spaghetti Bolognese and stewed apple while watching the sun set over the Blaskets.

The next morning we set off for White Strand where our kayaks would carry us to Beginnish. John Creagh was waiting for us on White Strand, where we had lunch and packed all our tents, sleeping bags, food and equipment into the hulls of our kayaks. Great care was taken to waterproof our sleeping bags in case of a capsized kayak, which would have made for a very uncomfortable night.



The blowhole at Cooscrome

Once on the water, Mary taught us how to manoeuvre our kayaks, how to make a raft and explained some signals to us. After some practice, off we headed for Beginnish. The sea was pretty calm and the day was glorious as we made our crossing uneventfully.

Upon reaching the island we unpacked, pitched our tents and scoured the island for firewood. Not a word needed to be said to students, who pitched their tents and cooked their food like they were old hands.

We had noticed the island's observatory, built close to the site of a Viking settlement, during our crossing from the mainland so after dinner we decided to hike across the island to check it out. The ground was uneven and there was much falling over and amusement. We reached the observatory just as the light faded, and we could see Knocknadobar aflame in the distance and the lights from the lighthouse on Valentia nestled among the rocks of Cromwell point. Our return hike in darkness tested our navigational skills and we arrived back in camp to a roaring fire which Donal had built in our absence.

There was great craic around the campfire as we roasted marshmallows and bananas filled with chocolate, while Maria taught us all about the constellations which were crystal clear in South Kerry's Dark Sky Reserve. Here's an extract from a blog by Daniel Chung which gets to the heart of the matter "When we were all around the camp fire I realised something, people of many different ages, from different places, some who have never met before, were together, having the time of their lives. It was amazing, we had all bonded so well"

Next morning after being treated to sausages by Hatim and Daniel everyone packed their kit into the kayaks and we gathered on the shore before embarking. The combination of tide and high crosswinds made the crossing to Renard tricky, so we decided on an alternative destination of Knightstown. Donal gave us all a team talk about manoeuvring our kayaks in the strong winds and explained that if the wind proved too strong and our kayaks were blown back to shore, we would try the crossing again later in the day. This really focussed the minds of the group and you could have thrown a blanket over the kayaks as we made the crossing in tight formation. Even the narrow entrance to the harbour in Valentia proved to be no obstacle.



Leaving Binnish

The kayaking proved so successful that Mary and Donal told the group they had fulfilled almost all the requirements of the Kayak Skills Level 2. The only one remaining was the capsize drill and everyone was offered the chance to do it if they wanted. Again, the challenge was met head on, and despite some nerves everyone emerged unscathed.

It's difficult to capture the scope of an experience such as this, where people are taken out of their comfort zone, put in unfamiliar territory with unfamiliar people, unsure as to whether they can succeed. I intended to finish with a quote from some famous thinker but I think Daniel Cheung summed it up best:

"It doesn't matter where you are or what you're doing, it's the people that make it good. I learnt a lot about myself on the expedition, it was a huge boost to my confidence and has changed the way I view things. Nothing mattered when I was out there, it was just where I was, what I was doing and who I was with. It was a complete escape from reality. I appreciate the things I have like a home, bed and fridge more now than I used to. I would highly recommend the expedition to everyone as it was the opportunity of a lifetime."

Kerry College of Further Education

Going to College in Tralee go to KCFE

Kerry College of Further Education has undergone a metamorphosis this year. Previously Tralee Community College the school has experienced a year of major change. Now branded with a new logo and ethos the college has been transformed into a campus of learning for our students. Architectural changes turned the building into a functional and stylishly modern educational environment. This includes a modern lecture theatre with a capacity of accommodating up to 50 students. Kerry College of Further Education is now one of 23 stand-alone further Education Colleges in the Republic of Ireland. The aim of KCFE is to give the student a college experience. Management at the college believe that this was achieved this year and that they will continue to develop this for their students. Small things that helped achieve this were such things as not having a bell to mark the end of every class, one hour classes, a rolling lunch time where there is no fixed lunch time, a new modern lunch area with state of the art canteen furniture for the students to socialise, students having access to photocopiers. Having a college feel with a student ID card, these cards double up as student campus cards, where they can be used for photocopying, ID and many other uses. Students top up their card using an app which can be downloaded from the app store or android market place. The Kcard has proved successful with the student body.



An approved commercial production/training kitchen and training restaurant with state of art equipment was recently installed at KCFE. It is meeting a demand for education and training due to the growth of national and international tourism in this area. With demand for higher standards the college decided it was necessary to upgrade the facilities to enhance the learning environment. As of September 2015 KCFE will be one of the very few FE Colleges in a position to offer professional cookery at level 5 & 6.



Nursing facilities are now more specialised with a new fully functioning hospital type ward and clinical skills room. Profile beds, electronic call systems and patient showering facilities are included in this upgrade. There is also a demonstration area for patient handling into and out of fully functional shower & bathroom facilities. With demand growing in this area KCFE now also offers nursing with maternity care. A new art room was also fully refurbished which included art studio study booths, and pottery making facilities.

KCFE Open Day

An open day was held on March 5th during which Radio Kerry provided an outside broadcast from 11am to 1pm, live from the college with Frances Jones. The event was aimed at school leavers, the unemployed, those wishing to change direction, up skill etc. Schools from all over the county and beyond the county attended in large numbers and availed of various talks on careers, finance whilst at College, student supports as well as having tours of the centre and meeting with tutors. KCFE witnessed the largest numbers attending the open day in the history of the college. This is no doubt testament to what KCFE has to offer.



One of the many changes that occurred at KCFE in 2014 was the relocation and expansion of the Beauty Therapy training room. The new training room is finished to a very high standard, offering all students access to commercial equipment with a full range of professional products

For September 2015 candidates applying for Beauty Therapy will complete their course over a 2 year programme at KCFE. This eliminates the need for students to look outside the county for progression opportunities within the industry. The suite of qualifications has been expanded to include complimentary therapy modules in year 2. The programme coordinator is delighted with the improved facilities; these offer immense benefit for the student.



Work experience in 1st year is offered in-house, the Beauty Salon is open on both Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3.30pm to facilitate students in developing their skills and techniques. Appointments can be made by calling to room 21. In year 2 students will commence their work experience within the beauty therapy industry.



A fully refurbished room was added for a new 2 year sports therapy course. This course is aimed at students interested in the area of sports injuries and their treatment. Students will study a range of subjects, with a particular emphasis being placed on anatomy and sports massage. In year 1 students must complete a minimum of 10 days' work placement in a relevant vocational area. Throughout the course, students will be required to work alongside a variety of sporting organisations as part of their course work. This is a fantastic opportunity for students to gain experience and qualifications in the sports injury field of study.

Youth Work 2015

What is Youth Work?

The Youth Work Sector actively works with young people outside, yet alongside, the formal education sector. Youth Work is defined as:

"a planned programme of education designed for the purpose of aiding and enhancing the personal and social development of young persons through their voluntary participation, and which is complementary to their formal, academic or vocational education and training; and provided primarily by voluntary youth work organisations." (Youth Work Act, 2001)

This definition clearly articulates youth work as being educational and elective, structured and systematic.



Kerry ETB Youth Work Committee

The membership includes representation from the Kerry ETB Board, the Child and Family Agency, Tulsa, Kerry County Council, the Gardaí, IT Tralee, KDYS, Scouts, two young people from Comhairle na nÓg and Kerry ETB Student Forum. This group will meet on May 21st. The National Youth Strategy and the Better Outcomes and Brighter Futures Framework will inform local implementation.

Local Youth Club Grant Scheme

The closing date for the local youth club grant scheme was April 27th. Applications will be processed and youth clubs/groups will be notified of their grant before the end of May.

ETBI Youth Work Committee

The ETBI Youth Work Committee chaired by Ann O' Dwyer meet regularly with the Irish Youth Officer Association (IYOA) and the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA) to progress the ETBI youth work legislation and influence youth work policy in Ireland.



From left to right; Ruth Griffin, Youth Officer, Cork ETB, Catherine Hazlett, Principal Officer, Youth Affairs, DCYA and Ann O' Dwyer, Education Officer, Kerry ETB.

Introduction of the National Quality Standards for Volunteer -Led Youth Clubs/Group

The standards apply to clubs/groups funded under the DCYA's Local Youth Club Grant Scheme administered by ETB's. While all youth groups/clubs in Kerry will be required to engage with the national quality standards, youth groups that are not in receipt of funding are also encouraged to use them.

Strengthening Families Programme Killarney

The SFP Facilitator training: May 18th and 19th, Venue: Ballyspillane FRC.
The Site Coordinator training: June 10th, Venue: Riverside Hotel, Macroom
Funded by the South Regional Drugs Task Force.

Kerry Education and Training Board Student Forum

The Student Forum held three meetings in the 2014/15 academic year. Topics covered this year include:

- 1 A consultation on Bullying and Relationships and Sexuality Education RSE (conducted by Seamus Whitty, Kerry Life Education and Ann O' Dwyer, KETB).

- 2 Healthy Eating and Living (Kevin Beasley, Metabolise Sports Nutrition)
- 3 Student Council Training (Miriam Galvin, Youth Officer, Margaret Godley, Special Needs Assistant Organiser and Colm McEvoy, Kerry ETB CEO)

The findings from the consultation will inform future planning. Kerry ETB is committed to tackling bullying in our schools.

Developing Schools Enriching Learning (DSEL)

Much has been achieved since Kerry ETB first set up the Kerry ETB DSEL Initiative in 2008. The purpose of the initiative was twofold; firstly to improve teaching and learning, and secondly to enhance pastoral care in Kerry ETB schools. The annual DSEL calendar of developmental in-service for teachers has made a very significant difference to student achievement and also to pastoral care and behaviour management. There is evidence of this change and improvement in results analyses; where, for example, after the 3 year programme of Gaeilge in-service the improvement in both take-up of senior cycle honours and results are very measurable.

Since the commencement of Kerry based developmental subject based in-service provided with the support of the PDST and UL and the introduction of the ETBI Instructional Leadership Programme (IL) and attendance of Kerry ETB teachers at the IL training, there has been a remarkable shift from foundation to pass and pass to honours in the Junior Cycle. Other important evidence to support these improvements is the consistent acknowledgement of effective instructional strategies from the DES Inspectorate both at subject inspection, incidental inspection and WSE level. This is very affirming for both teachers and school leaders who have invested hugely in instructional leadership in their schools.

In the year 2014/15 the Kerry ETB DSEL Calendar has been focusing on the following areas:

- Leadership and Management
- Teacher Development
- Events

Each of these areas is approached in a coherent and strategic manner to support and enhance the achievement of the overall objectives of improving teaching and learning and pastoral care. Below is a list of a variety of in-service and events which took place in the last school year to support the achievement of DSEL objectives.

Leadership Development

The school principals met monthly and DP's met twice over the last year. The focus of the agenda is primarily leadership and management, teaching and learning and pastoral care. A Middle Management Programme was provided by the school principals over eight nights for teachers interested in leadership and middle management. fifty five teachers in total attended this training and a number have indicated interest in post-graduate studies. The content of the course for 2014 included the following:



SEN Support in Kerry ETB Schools

Margaret Godley, SENST and Lucille O'Sullivan, Principal Causeway Comprehensive School facilitated the session held in January which was attended by fifty five teachers. Margaret Godley gave an overview of SEN Support in Kerry ETB and Lucille dealt with the practical details around making sure that the supports are in place to meet the needs of a student with SEN as soon as the school becomes aware of that the child will join the school community. Teachers were very positive about the session and a recommendation came that there would be further SEN training offered to staff.

IL and Lesson Planning

Carmel Kelly Principal Castleisland Community College provided the February session on effective lesson design using the following instructional strategies: Think, Pair, Share, Placemats, Jigsaw and creativity around lesson design. Carmel based her session on the Heaney poem "Mid-term Break". The session was attended by fifty five teachers with excellent feedback who noted that they would take the strategies and implement them in their classes with immediate effect.

School Self Evaluation and The Essence of Middle Management

School Self Evaluation and The Essence of Middle Management was provided by Austin Ó Seachnasaigh and Fiona O'Brien. The session held in March was attended by fifty five teachers. Austin spoke about the role of Middle Management in a Kerry ETB school, outlining some of the post duties and Fiona O'Brien spoke about a proposed new model of Middle Management and gave an update on where DES is currently with regard to SSE. The feedback was excellent with teachers noting that they were very positive about a proposed new Middle Management structure. Teachers were delighted to move SSE from outside their Subject Plan to looking at the bigger picture.

Positive Behaviour Management with Restorative Practice.

Niamh Mulligan teacher and Psychotherapist worked with School Leaders and newly appointed teachers on Restorative Practice which is as some members of management described "How business is done in Kerry ETB Schools". In December, Harry Freeman from PDST worked with school staff on Engaging the Reluctant Learner and Promoting Positive Behaviour. The session had thirty in attendance and was a great success.

Attendees: Principals/Deputy Principals/Line Managers/Head Office Staff
Number of attendees: 19

Teacher Development

Teaching and Learning with Newly Appointed Teachers

Theresa Lonergan Deputy Principal Castleisland Community College worked with the group on four Instructional Strategies and Lesson Design. The session was attended by 16 teachers and was a great opportunity for staff to meet and greet. Teachers were very positive in their feedback on the session.

ETBI Instructional Leadership

Two principals and nine teachers attended the IL in-service in Carlow in March. Kerry ETB continue to support schools to provide one day of IL in-service in each school annually by their own trained teachers with support from the PDST through Grainne Dennison.

Carmel Kelly, Principal, Castleisland Community College, sits on the National IL Steering Committee and keeps Principals informed of progress.

Gaeilge In-service

The session provided by Tomas O Searchaigh, PDST, held in October was attended by seven teachers and was rated excellent by all. The session addressed the Oral exam and the use of ICT in teaching Gaeilge.

Gaeilge Master Classes

Gabriel Fitzmaurice Poet and Author visited a number of schools throughout the year to work with students on Creative Writing as Gaeilge. These sessions continue to be very popular with students who enjoy working with a well-known published author in their classrooms.

Seachtain na Gaeilge

All schools ran a series of events to celebrate the week.

Maths In-service

This two hour session attended by eleven teachers held in October reviewed State Exam papers 2014. Michael Keating, Maths teacher Coláiste na Sceilge and author, facilitated the session which was deemed excellent and of huge benefit to teachers as reported in their feedback. Recommendations from the session included, more resources in ICT format made available to teachers, more of this type of session, greater support around Higher Leaving Cert topics and some work on TY maths programme. Work on supporting students with additional needs also featured as a recommendation.

Maths Subject Development School Visits

John O'Regan retired Principal, Maths teacher and a member of the DSEL Implementation Team visited schools on request to support Maths Subject Departments (see John O'Regan's Report).

English In-service

Grainne Dennison and Denise O Flanagan, PDST facilitated this session held in January. The focus was on Digital Literacy. Grainne and Denise worked with ten teachers on teaching students to use the Internet as a search tool to gather information effectively. Teachers were delighted with the session and noted the broad range of resources brought to the table on the day and the practical nature of the session made it possible to implement ideas in the classroom the next day. Recommendations from the session were more access to computers in schools with designated time in the computer labs. Staff training is also necessary in the school setting.

Modern Languages

Claire Matthews, PDST, supported Kerry ETB this year when nine teachers came together in December to work on using ICT in their teaching. Comments on the session were as follows: very informative, loads of ideas, lots of inspiration and food for thought. Teachers recommended more sessions with PDST and unblocking of YouTube in their schools. Teachers are keen to set up a Language Teachers Support Network. Two schools have commenced the provision of the JC oral option for modern languages.

Science In-service

The session held on November 20th was facilitated by Dr Joanne Broggy, UL. The teachers looked at the report from the previous three years work on IBL and Coursework B. Joanne also worked with staff on using ICT and IL to encourage evidence and argument in the Science classroom. Recommendations from the session were that teachers come together as soon as Coursework B topics issue to discuss and plan. It was also suggested that Kerry ETB buy resources and materials collectively and that schools share, thus reducing cost and promoting teacher collaboration. Science teachers are very keen to progress the Lab Technician Initiative programme in consultation with IT Tralee.



Guidance Teachers Meeting

The meeting was attended by eight teachers who gave very positive feedback. Ann O Dwyer, EO facilitated this session. The meeting addressed the School Guidance Plan and priorities for the year. Other items on the Agenda were PLC and ITT information sessions. Teachers also got an input on the Kerry ETB Training Centre.

Business Studies

Siobhan O'Sullivan from PDST worked with 6 teachers in February on the use of ICT in teaching business. The feedback was very positive with recommendations that Siobhan be invited to schools to work directly with Business teachers. Access to Computer rooms was highlighted as a difficulty to be addressed by Kerry ETB.

ICT in Teaching and Learning

A number of sessions were held throughout the year. Nineteen teachers including Principals and Deputy Principals attended a session on PREZI held in IT Tralee, facilitated by Head of Department Bridget Crowley and presented by lecturer Grainne Stack. All considered the session excellent and would use PREZI immediately in their schools for teaching and learning and promotion. This session built on the Digital Marketing session which was held in May 2014.

In March 2015 a session was provided by Seamus Ryan former EO Louth/Meath ETB on developing a School Based ICT Strategy. Twenty one school leaders attended. A number of Kerry ETB staff visited Coláiste Baile Chláir in Galway ETB to look at how they were developing their digital school. Two sessions will be held for School management in June 2015 where Sean Ryan will work with schools to roll out Microsoft Office 365 across Kerry ETB over the next five years.

iMentor

Four Schools Killorglin Community College, Causeway Comprehensive School, Gaelcholáiste Chiarraí and Castleisland Community College engaged with IT Tralee this academic in a very successful iMentor programme where senior cycle students mentor young students in their school in the use of technology and coding. It is proposed to extend this programme across all schools in 2015/2016

Music Generation

Kerry ETB in conjunction with our partners Kerry County Council Arts Office, IT Tralee, Ealain na Gaeltachta, Kerry Library, KDYS and local music educators are currently involved in a very successful music education partnership initiative, the aim of which is to broaden access to affordable multi-genre performance music education programmes for children and young people across County Kerry. Strands of the project include: Vocal and Instrumental Tuition in Primary and Post-Primary schools across the county, Youth Band Mentorship programme, Composer in Residence, Music Technology in Education and Summer Workshops in 2015.

Pastoral Care and Wellbeing

Niamh Mulligan worked with schools on promoting Positive Mental Health throughout the year. Niamh Mulligan carried out an evaluation of the implementation of Base Groups in October. Base groups were first set up as a strategy to encourage cooperation and kindness and prevent bullying in Kerry ETB schools in 2009. Base Groups are based on a model of cooperative learning developed by the Johnson brothers. The evaluation highlighted the impact of base groups on student integration into post primary school and their sense of belonging. It also highlighted the importance of peer support. Three schools

have further enhanced the base group model by providing trained student mentors from senior classes to support the base groups. This initiative has enhanced both the base groups and provided opportunities for leadership and responsibility for senior students.

All eight schools continue to provide Respect, Health and Wellbeing Weeks to provide student with a range of holistic health and wellbeing workshops and opportunities.

SNA Training

SNAs participated in a three day training event in June and two further days delivered during the year which covered: First Aid Training, Supporting Students with Down Syndrome, Managing the Reluctant Student and Restorative Practice.

EIPET Award Event

All SNAs participated in a Level 8 Module Programme on Adapted Physical Activity provided by CARA Centre, IT Tralee which focussed on promoting inclusion of students with disability in PE. In September, the SNAs attended a celebration and Award Ceremony at the end of their course. Principals and PE teachers have noted the enormous difference the training has made to participation in sports by students with additional needs.

Parents Forum

Four Parents Forum meetings were held over the school year with 95% attendance. Parents were advised of the DSEL Priorities for the year. The priorities for the parents forum are supporting ICT infrastructure, Healthy Eating and Music.

Student Forum

This year three meetings were held, one each term, where students and teachers from the eight schools came together. Miriam Galvin, Kerry ETB Youth Officer and Margaret Godley, SEN Support Teacher worked with the group dealing with training for the role of membership of the Student Forum, Healthy Eating Policy, Funding Applications, Anti Bullying Strategies and Relationships and Sexuality. Speakers were brought in to work with the group and students reported at each meeting on progress of the student council in their schools.

PE Teachers COP

PE teachers from the eight Kerry ETB Schools attended four Meetings during the school year 2014/2015 to plan the Rich Tasks and to coordinate teaching schedules, to discuss relevant issues in PE both within Kerry ETB and nationally.

The Rich Tasks are a culminating event following a six week module in Junior Cycle PE Programme.

There was one Senior Cycle Rich Task in Tag Rugby in November (TRSLC). The JC Rich Tasks are Spikeball for 3rd Years in December (TRSLC) Orienteering for 1st Years in February (Ballyseedy Woods), Athletics for 2nd Years (An Ríocht, Castleisland). Between 200 and 350 students participate in these Rich Tasks. While there is an element of competition in these events, social interaction and fun, play a huge part. Particularly satisfying this year was the number of students with special needs participating in orienteering including one student wheelchair user. This reflects very well on all involved and also on the programme to train the SNAs in adaptive physical activity over the last 3 years.



The Kerry ETB Outdoor Education Adventure Expedition

This was the first year that Cappanalea together with the schools and Youthreach organised the Kerry ETB Outdoor Education Adventure Expedition during the Easter break. Five students spent four days on a survival course in South Kerry. The feedback from the expedition confirmed the hugely positive impact on student self-belief, team bonding and personal achievement. We plan to develop this further over the coming years and provide more opportunities particularly for students who need additional support and encouragement to reach their potential. Information and posts on the Expedition were disseminated through Social Media Blog, Facebook and the Cappanalea website.

The Active School Flag

The Active School Flag is a template for excellence. So far two Kerry ETB schools have achieved this standard, Colaiste na Sceilge and Listowel Community College. Congratulations to all concerned.

The ITT Student Work Placement 2014/2015

Students from the ITT Sports and Leisure Course are currently on placement in Kerry ETB schools. The focus of their placement work is on exercise and fitness

for the whole school community. Feedback to date has been extremely positive both from Kerry ETB and from the students and tutors in the ITT. It is hoped that all schools will have a student on work placement next year.

Documentary on PE

Throughout the school year, camera crews from Kerry ETB Media Centre have taken film footage of the Rich Tasks. A short documentary will be available to show parents and others at Open Nights and at Student Awards Nights.

Kerry ETB Student Awards

The Kerry Student Awards was attended by students, parents, teachers, Youthreach staff and school leaders in January 2015. The event was a positive celebration of student achievements academically and also in areas of leadership, ICT, sports and creativity with 79 students receiving awards. This year the awards were presented by Karen Gearon, former Dunnes Stores striker and humanitarian who took a stand against Apartheid in South Africa with her fellow workers in the early eighties. She provided an inspirational and challenging input for the students and their families.



Kerry ETB Training Centre

Apprenticeship Course in Stone Cutting and Stone Masonry Launched on Thursday 2nd April at Kerry ETB Training Centre by Minister Simon Harris TD and Minister Damien English TD.



The launch of the Apprenticeship Course in Stone Cutting and Stone Masonry by Ministers Harris and English is a significant development for Kerry ETB Training Centre. It's the only such complete apprenticeship course in stone in the country. Trainees will alternate periods of work experience with periods of training with their instructor who is a master stone cutter and stone mason.

Owen O'Donnell, Manager of Kerry ETB Training Centre said, "this is a very important development for Kerry ETB training centre and it came about in consultation with Solas, the Further Education and Training Authority and the Office of Public Works who have done such great work in maintaining and renovating our wonderful heritage sites here in Kerry and throughout the country". He added, "apprenticeship courses such as this lead to a strong and robust career path; these apprentices will bring their comprehensive skills with stone to the ongoing work of conservation as well as responding to the revival in interest in stone for domestic, commercial and civic buildings". The apprentices who will participate in this apprenticeship programme will become skilled in the traditional craft skills, like stone cutting and stone carving according to course instructor Tom Little, "they will develop the skills

and confidence to shape stone, but they will also gain the knowledge of stone linked to important areas such as conservation of old buildings and heritage sites as well as gaining the skills to work with the new technologies and changing tastes in architecture that will influence buildings and all forms of stone work in the future".

Colm Mc Evoy CEO of Kerry ETB said, "This apprenticeship course in stone work links us to our past and recognises the conservation needs of the future and the career opportunities linked to that. We can't have important crafts and skills dying out, the art and craft of stone in the hands of master craftsmen over hundreds and thousands of years has left us a rich legacy which must be maintained for future generations by skilled craftsmen".



For more information contact:

Owen O'Donnell Manager Kerry ETB Training Centre 066 71264444

New Head Office Location for Kerry ETB

Kerry Education and Training Board are relocating from Riverside House to its new Head office accommodation in the Centre Point Building, John Joe Sheehy Road, Tralee over the summer. This new modern office facility will provide much needed additional office accommodation for the Kerry ETB.

The new offices will be fully operational for the commencement of the new Academic year (2015/16). The location of the new offices directly opposite the Tralee Train and Bus stations is excellent in terms of maximising accessibility to our services for staff and members of the public.

Existing telephone numbers and contact details will remain fully operational. We look forward to meeting with you in our new offices in the future.

