



**Minutes of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
held in Marshal House, Dooradoyle Road, Limerick (Hybrid)**

21st November, 2023

Present: Mr. Sean McMahon, Acting Chairperson
Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
Mr. Michael Cregan
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle
Ms. Catherine Hehir
Ms. Sheila Hickey
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Sarah Kiely
Mr. Mark O’Dea
Ms. Marian Petty
Cllr. Elena Secas
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

In attendance: Mr. George O’Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Mr. Donncha O’Treaaigh, Director of Schools
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training
Mr. Denis O’Brien, Head of Corporate Services & IT
Ms. Joanne O’Brien, Corporate Services
Ms. Caroline Hayes, Recording Secretary, Corporate Services

1. For Consideration; Apologies/Condolences

Apologies: Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon
Cllr. Ann Norton

In Abstentia: Cllr. Joe Killeen
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Liam Galvin

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

Ms. Joan Prendiville, Head Office, on the death of her mother, Ms. Marecella (Cella) McNamara.

Ms. Helen Flanagan Head Office, on the death of her father, Mr. Patrick Stackpoole.

Mr. Ger O’Flynn, College of Further Education and Training, Raheen Campus, on the death of his wife,
Ms. Angela O’Flynn

Mr. Dave O’Flynn, Moyross Youth Academy on the death of his mother, Ms. Angela O’Flynn.

Mr. Paul Evans, Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh on the death of his father, Mr. Thomas Evans.

Ms. Monica Spencer, Local Creative Youth Partnership Coordinator, on the death of her brother,
Mr. Richard Spencer

Mr. Eddie Keane, Further Education and Training Campus, Ennis, on the death of his father, Mr. Michael Keane.

Ms. Siobhan Barron, Marshal House, on the death of her grandmother, Ms. Anna Finnan.

Ms. Bernie Duggan, College of Further Education and Training, Ennis Campus, on the death of her brother,
Mr. John Flanagan.

Mr. Sean McNamara, Scariff Community College, on the death of his mother, Ms. Irene McNamara.

Ms Jean Ginnane, St John Bosco, Kildysart, on the death of her brother, Mr. Shaun O'Callaghan.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interests

All Board Members confirmed no conflict of interest with any Agenda item.

3. For Adoption;

Minutes of Meeting of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, held on 19th September, 2023, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Michael Guilfoyle.

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Governance:

- a) Risk Management
No matter raised.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

CL 0039/2023

28 August 2023

Re: Primary Mathematics Curriculum for primary and special schools.

CL 0041/2023

18 September 2023

Re: Revision of Teacher Salaries under the Building Momentum Pay Agreement with effect from 1 October 2023.

CL 0042/2023

18 September 2023

Re: Revision of Salaries for Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) under Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 ("The Agreement").

CL 0043/2023

18 September 2023

Re: Revision of salaries of certain grades other than Teachers and SNAs employed by ETBs with effect from 1 October 2023.

CL 0044/2023

18 September 2023.

Re: Revision of Salaries of School Secretaries and School Maintenance Staff in Community and Comprehensive Schools under Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 ("The Agreement").

CL 0045/2023

18 September 2023

Re: Revision of salaries for Clerical Officers and Caretakers employed in National Schools under the 1978/79 Scheme and Clerical Officers employed in Post Primary Schools under the 1978 Scheme under Building Momentum - A New Public Service Agreement 2021-2023 ("The Agreement").

CL 0046/2023 3 October 2023	Re: Revision of Salaries of for school secretaries previously funded under Ancillary grant funding.
CL 0047/2023 18 September 2023	Re: Adoptive Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0048/2023 18 September 2023	Re: Adoptive Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
CL 0049/2023 21 September 2023	Re: Election of new Boards of Management of Primary Schools.
CL 0050/2023 27 September 2023	Re: Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0051/2023 27 September 2023	Re: Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0052/2023 11 October 2023	Re: Breastfeeding Breaks for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0053/2023 11 October 2023	Re: Breastfeeding Breaks for Special Needs Assistants employed In Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0054/2023 11 October 2023	Re: Curriculum and assessment related developments at Senior Cycle with particular reference to school years 2023/24 and onwards.
CL 0055/2023 16 October 2023	Re: Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for staff other than persons employed as Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in Education and Training Boards.
CL 0056/2023 27 October 2023	Re: Cost of living measure to support increased school running costs.

Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI)

20th October 2023 Re: Notice of Annual General Meeting to be held on 28th November, 2023.

7. For Consideration; Chief Executive's Report Incorporating;

Schools, Youth Affairs and Local Creative Youth

Continued expansion and establishment of Special Classes

All Community National Schools and Community Colleges as well as the Community Schools where Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board is co-patron have opened and/or increased the number of special classes on offer to the communities they serve.

Children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) have a wide range of strengths and needs. Some children with ASD may have difficulty communicating, interacting with others, or understanding social cues. Others may have repetitive behaviours or sensory sensitivities. Special classes for children with ASD can provide them with the support and accommodations they need to succeed in school.

The benefits of providing special classes for children with autism include;

- Individualised attention: Children with ASD can receive more individualised attention in a special class than they might in a general mainstream classroom. This allows teachers to tailor the instruction to the child's individual needs and learning style.

- Specialised instruction: Special classes for children with ASD often offer specialised instruction in areas such as communication, social skills, and behaviour management. This instruction can help children with ASD develop the skills they need to achieve their full potential in school and in the community.
- Reduced stress: Special classes for children with ASD can help to reduce stress for both the child and the family. Children with ASD may feel less overwhelmed in a special class, where they are surrounded by teachers and classmates who understand their needs. This can lead to improved academic performance and development.
- In addition to the benefits for children with autism, special classes can also help to educate the general school community and to strive to greater inclusion. Special classes can help to raise awareness of autism and can teach other students about the importance of inclusion in a modern society. Special classes also provide a model for other teachers on how to best support students with autism.
- Increased understanding and acceptance of autism: Special classes can help to reduce stigma and promote understanding of autism among all students. When all students have the opportunity to learn about autism and to interact with children with autism, they are more likely to be accepting and supportive of their peers with autism.
- Increased awareness of autism among staff: Special classes can also help to increase awareness of autism among school staff. When teachers and other staff members have a better understanding of autism, they are better equipped to support all students, including those with autism.
- Improved school climate: Special classes create a more inclusive and welcoming school climate for all students. When all students feel valued and respected, they are more likely to be successful academically and socially.

REALT (Regional Education and Language Team) - Supporting Ukrainian Children in Limerick and Clare

An in-person meeting took place with officials from the Department of Education, Tomás Ó'Ruairc, Deirdre Dillon and Anne Murray and the REALT Team at Ennis Campus, on Monday, 6th November. The meeting began with updates relating to enrolments and school transport. The second part of the morning involved visiting a primary school: Ennis Educate Together National School and a post- primary school: Thomond Community College. Both schools have enrolled large numbers of Ukrainian pupils and the feedback from the Department was that they were very impressed by the schools' work and their impact. Both Principals stated that the Ukrainian cohort have contributed greatly to school life and that the cultural exchange is a two-way process where Irish pupils are afforded the opportunity to get to know different traditions and hear different languages.

The Department of Education has confirmed that 17,501 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland as of 2 October 2023. Out of that figure, 10,655 of these pupils have been accommodated in primary schools while 6,846 pupils have enrolled in post-primary schools. This represents a 12% increase in total enrolments since June 2023. This data indicates an enrolment rate of 91% among Ukrainian children aged 5 – 18.

The breakdown per county is detailed in the table below:

County	Primary	Post Primary	Total
Clare	589	340	929
Limerick	330	299	629
			1558

To date, all children arriving in the region have been enrolled. The schools have been most welcoming and supportive of their newly enrolled Ukrainian students. However, it is important to point out that there is now a corridor stretching from North Clare to Limerick city where there are insufficient school places and as a result, it will be extremely difficult to enrol newly arriving students in the following areas: North Clare, Ennis area, Shannon/Bunratty and Limerick city.

14% of Ukrainian pupils are unable to get to and from school in Co. Limerick whereas the percentage in Co. Clare is 16%. Temporary measures have been discussed to enable pupils to arrive at school such as the recognition of school bus tickets on regular NTA buses and the use of prepaid LEAP cards along urban and rural school transport routes.

The REALT team and the LCETB provide the following supports to schools with Ukrainian pupils:

- Information session on EAL for primary and secondary teachers, in Clare Education Centre in September
- Community of Practice for EAL teachers, facilitated through the Clare Education Centre (1 COP for primary teachers and 1 COP for secondary teachers)
- Extra EAL classes through the PATHWAYS programme
- Mentoring service for secondary teachers who are teaching EAL for the first time.
- Workshops by request in primary and secondary schools for EAL teachers
- Workshops by request in primary and secondary schools for mainstream teachers with EAL learners in their classes.
- Provision of EAL tutors from the LCETB panel to fulfil EAL hours in secondary schools.
- Planned parents' morning for parents of Ukrainian students enrolled in Ennistymon Community School – facilitated by REALT and ECS staff in Ballyvaughan. This will take place on 29th November.

Assistant Psychologist Programme 2023

Context:

In 2022, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division initiated a pilot to provide one day per week psychology support to two of its post primary schools through the establishment of an Assistant Psychologist position. The Assistant Psychologist worked a day in each school over the course of the 2022-2023 academic year.

This pilot was expanded in its second year (2023-2024), in association with University of Limerick to allocate seven (7) assistant psychologists to work in seven post-primary schools (maximum of 10 hours per week per person)

Aim:

- The aim of this program is to provide additional intervention in schools to enhance existing student and pastoral care support.
- The Assistant Psychologist will provide a psychoeducational intervention to assist students with behaviour for learning and emotional regulation (regarding behaviour and emotion regulation through the delivery of an evidence-based program), as identified by school principals and SST (Student Support Team) members.

The seven assistant psychologists based in the seven post primary schools are all engaging with small groups of students delivering the Talk About programme (evidence-based programme being used across all participating schools).

- Tier 3, Guidance Counsellor Support (Support for Few)
- Tier 2, Assistant Psychologist Support (Support for Some)
- Tier 1, Whole School - Classroom Support (Support for All)

Programme Statistics to date:

- The programme is established and running in seven schools.
- The seven assistant psychologists have to date engaged over 230 students from first year to sixth year in small groups across the seven schools. These groups include mainstream, AEN and mixed groups (Mainstream and AEN).

Impact/Statistics

Total Groups	44
AEN groups	2
Mainstream groups	18
Mixed groups (AEN + Mainstream)	24
Total Students Engaged	235

BT Young Scientist 2024

Projects from several of our Community Colleges and Community Schools have been successful in their application to qualify for the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition at the RDS, Dublin, from 10-13th January 2024. A summary of the schools, number of projects and titles of the successful projects are outlined in the table below;

School County	School Name	Title	Category	Project Type
Clare	Ennistymon Community School	Power Routing: Investigation and Optimisation	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Individual
Clare	St John Bosco Community College	A Statistical Analysis of the Knowledge of Women's Health and the Status of the Women's Healthcare Services in Ireland	Health & Wellbeing	Group
Limerick	Castletroy College	Investigating sensory factors to make our school more inclusive	Health & Wellbeing	Group
Limerick	Colaiste Chiarain	Testing the Effectiveness of Different Antacids	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Individual
Limerick	Colaiste Chiarain	VerifyMe: A new approach to authorship attribution in the post-ChatGPT era	Technology	Individual
Limerick	Colaiste Chiarain	Teaching AI to recognise bacterial cultures on agar plates.	Technology	Individual
Limerick	Colaiste Chiarain	Making sustainable bio-fabrics from seaweed	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Individual
Limerick	Colaiste Chiarain	Block it out? Does external audible stimuli affect our concentration depending on MBTI an investigation	Social & Behavioural Sciences	Individual
Limerick	Colaiste Chiarain	PORTANOS- Portable, Extensible diagnostics	Technology	Group
Limerick	Coláiste Ída agus Iosaef	Investigating the Interpersonal Skills of AI and Its Affinity with Mankind	Social & Behavioural Sciences	Individual
Limerick	Coláiste Íde agus Iosaef	The effect mobile devices have on young people.	Technology	Group
Limerick	Coláiste Iosaef	Raising Awareness on Blood Disorders & Examining its Prevalence amongst Adolescents	Health & Wellbeing	Group

Limerick	Coláiste Iósaef	Prevalence of excessive phone screen time in adolescents and associated factors in an Irish school	Social & Behavioural Sciences	Group
Limerick	Coláiste Iósaef	An investigation into the surrendering of dogs to shelters in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated factors	Social & Behavioural Sciences	Group
Limerick	Desmond College	“Life in Plastic, it’s NOT Fantastic !”	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Group
Limerick	Desmond College	ChatGPT – The curse of, or part of the evolution of learning?	Technology	Individual
Limerick	Desmond College	Anti-Sway Solution “Increasing Farm/Road Safety”	Technology	Group
Limerick	Desmond College	Smart Otoscope	Technology	Individual
Limerick	Desmond College	A reflection on light and the physics behind mirrors.	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences	Group
Limerick	Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh	Sruthú nó Gan Sruthú: Forbairt nó meath ar chultúr na tíre seo	Social & Behavioural Sciences	Group
Limerick	Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh	Climate Policies: A Mission or a Mindfield?	Social & Behavioural Sciences	Group
Limerick	John The Baptist Community School	How Does Playing Sport Affect Mental Health?	Health & Wellbeing	Group

Schools Division Support Team

The following professional development opportunities, teaching and learning events were facilitated by the Schools’ Division since the last report. The following events were coordinated by the school's division support team Gina O Connor, Aine Meehan, John Kelly, Grainne Dennison and associates Ciaran Crowe, Dr Joe O Connell, Ciara Ní Dhrisceoil, Christine Noonan and Elizabeth Flannagan.

School Support:

In total 550 teachers have been directly supported through professional learning events.

Schools continue to be supported at senior management, teacher, and student level on an individual basis with cluster events (both in-person and via Zoom), school visits, telephone and email support where required.

A total of 39 events of in-school support with schools were completed.

Professional Development events

Onboarding for Newly Appointed Teachers.

81 teachers attended this online evening session.

Cluster Day for Transition Year Coordinators & Digital Leaders

The first Cluster Day for Transition Year Coordinators & Digital Leaders was a joint day which was hosted in Dell Technologies, Raheen (Raheen Business Park. Bernadette Enright from Hospitality FET joined on the day and updated TY coordinators on opportunities for TY students.

Parent Sleep Seminar

In total, 300 parents attended this sleep seminar. It was facilitated by Tom Coleman.

Curriculum Leaders:

25 Curriculum Leaders attended a one-day cluster event. This event had an emphasis on Education for Sustainability. This is to be followed by online school visits to all schools involved.

Provision Mapping

A total of 7 schools are involved in the ETBI Provision Mapping Project.

The Inclusion Coordinators in all schools involved have attended a two-day induction. 17 attended day 1 and 14 attended day 2

Student Support Team Induction

18 teachers attended this event. Topics covered included Check and Connect, Drug and Alcohol Awareness, NEPS model of service, Suicide Prevention, Staff Wellbeing, Roles and responsibilities of the SST, Child Protection, Supports available to young people and Restorative Practice

AEN Coordinators.

AEN and ASD Coordinators attended an online workshop where there was an input from Deirdre Burke from NCSE - discussing current AEN issue and support from NCSE.

Joe Lynch facilitated an input on Polyvagal Theory & exercises to Support Students.

Ethos: Work continues the embedding of ethos in LCETB Schools. Schools continue to develop more visibility and awareness around ethos in schools through school websites/social media sites etc.

IDEAL Futures: Integrated Digital Educational Leadership for the Future Teaching Academy

The school's division is involved in a research project with Mary Immaculate and other European partners. The project partners work with pre-service and in-service educators and educational leaders to identify the problems they have in leading digital learning and situating it in their individual contexts, classroom, schools and broader school community.

Student Voice, Student Participation: Schools continue to be supported on a contextualised basis by Elizabeth Flanagan.

JHSA (Junior Health Science Academy) UL

Ongoing partnership and initiative development on a range of areas to promote healthcare careers.

Creative Engagement NAPD

All LCETB schools invited to apply for the NAPD Artist in School Programme. The Fainleog in Coláiste na Trócaire, Rathkeale have been awarded a 1000 euro grant for this programme which is coordinated by Gina O' Connor with support from Mary Hanley (NAPD). Artist, Ruth Wood, will work with the students on an artistic and sensory project in 2024.

Artist in Schools Project

Artist Evelyn Sorohan has commenced an Art and Biodiversity Project with the students in Mol an Oige, Ennistymon. The project will be exhibited in Glor Ennis in April 2024.

Clare Creative Circles

Clare Arts Office and Glor facilitate the Clare Creative Circles monthly meetings. Gina O'Connor has attended these meetings and is working collaboratively with artists on Artist in Schools and other funded artistic projects.

Project Award Arts Council Application

Artist Evelyn Sorohan with support from Gina has submitted an application (15,000 euro to the Arts Council of Ireland for funding for the 'Project Award'. It is a visual art and science project and will run from March to

December 2024 if successful. Ennis Community College LCAI students will be participating in this project with their art teacher, Saoirse Mc Dermot.

PE

The LCETB PE Newsletter was sent to all PE teachers with important updates and dates of many events for the year ahead. Phase 5 LCPE CPD was offered to schools by Oide and the remaining schools were actively encouraged to attend by Gina O'Connor and the Support Team.

Fainleog Art Project opening in Perys Square:

Outside World, Exhibition by Students from Coláiste na Trócaire, Fainleog Campus

Last May, Rathkeale Library hosted a month-long visual art exhibition Outside World. This exhibition of work from Coláiste na Trócaire's Fainleog campus students was well received by the local community and the students display of uplifting and colourful art reflecting the changing seasons was greatly admired and highly commended.

The exhibition opened again on Culture Night on September 22nd (Culture Night) in the Blue Room in No. 1 Pery's Square, Limerick City for one week. In addition, some pieces from the exhibition have been enlarged and displayed on the railings of the People's Park in Pery's Square, Limerick and will be there for the next few years. Monica Spencer, Local Creative Youth Partnership and Gina O'Connor from LCETB's Support Team are coordinating this exciting initiative.

The support and resources made available by the Department of Education have been made available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - www.lcetb.com.

This also includes resources that the Director of Schools and the Support Team have created and developed.

Community National Schools

Glenroe Community National School:

Glenroe has an enrolment of 38 pupils and is projecting a significant increase for 2024/2025.

JHSA/Care Aware Crew

The Schools Division met with primary school principals in the Limerick/Clare region with a view to recruiting schools to participate in Phase 3 of the Care Aware Crew Pilot Scheme (a minimum of 15 primary schools - 500 x 3rd & 4th Class pupils - are required). We have worked with the HSE on the development of three new video lessons for the Care Aware Crew educational programme (partner organisations: Health Sciences Academy, LCETB, UL, UHL, Mid-West Healthcare, JHSA)

Apple Distinguished School – Third consecutive Award Status from Apple

Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh Continues to Lead the Way with Vision for Learning with Technology

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board community colleges continue to inspire and innovate; with exciting news this week for Gaelcholáiste Luimnigh in Limerick as it was recognised once again as an Apple Distinguished School. This is the third time in a row the school has received this honour, thanks to its dedicated educators, students, and forward-thinking school community with their steadfast commitment to innovative teaching and learning.

The school was selected for the distinction based on its commitment to continuous innovation in education to create exemplary learning practices.

Parent/Guardian Webinar

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board's Schools Division, in association with the HSE is hosting a webinar for parents and guardians on the risks and dangers of vaping or using e-cigarettes. Vaping has been identified as harmful to children and young people. The research increasingly shows that more and more young people are drawn to vaping and smoking e-cigarettes over traditional cigarettes. This one-hour seminar aims to create parental awareness of the harms of vaping. In the seminar we will explore: what are vapes/e-cigarettes? What is contained in an e-cigarette? What impact does "vaping" have on the adolescent body? The HSE will provide some tips for parents in communicating with their young person about the dangers of vaping. Date: Monday, 20 November from 8pm to 9pm. Please register in advance for this Webinar through the following link. Scan the QR Code or Click here (https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_nsA9hL_DR1-WlbWoximb5g#/registration) to register

Youth Work

UBU Your place Your Space: Cycle 2

ETBs have a general statutory duty to provide youth work services. The role of the ETB's within UBU Your Place Your Space scheme is part of the fulfilment of this duty. In October we submitted 26 currently funded UBU projects to the DCEDIY for approval. We are awaiting final approval from the Department in late November.

Unexpended Funding Proposal –Approved

The Youth Work team made a submission to the DCEDIY under section 7.13 of the UBU Your Place Your Space policy and operating rules requesting authorisation to reallocate €33,712.50 within its functional area, funds which the ETB identified would be unexpended by year-end 2023. As a result of this approval the ETB is now able to provide additional support for UBU projects in the region.

Additional funding allocation for the integration of young person's fleeing the war in Ukraine

A further allocation of grant funding of €10,000 has been received under the final phase of this funding for 2023 to support local integration efforts through additional places in UBU Your Place Your Space funded organisations and existing clubs, and the formation of new clubs as appropriate. Please check out our Facebook page for updates and news.

Local Creative Youth Partnership

The LCYP continues its strategic objective to concentrate work in Early Years, Future Film Makers/Tech, Youth Theatre, Call & Response, prioritising Traveller and migrant groups and allowing for space to respond to requests for support.

Highlights for LCYP Programme from September 2023

Programme Element	Location/Dates
Call & Response Festival	September 22 nd to 29 th Now in its fourth year, Call & Response showcases some of the best work carried out by the LCYP with public events for young people from 0 to young adults. This year's Festival highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioning a new dance show for babies to watch and take part in Dance Limerick• Revival of The Hysterical History of the Trojan War performed by Ukrainian young people associated with Kilkee Youth Theatre• An exhibition of work by students from Fainleog campus Rathkeale on the railings of the People's Park for Culture Night• Launch of a new music video by young members of Abbeyfeale Crew which has been selected to feature in Galway Film Fleadh's Generation Fleadh Festival on November 13th
Future Film Makers	During October midterm, eight young film enthusiasts, including four Youthreach students, took part in Future Film Makers, taking on different roles in a new short make in St. Mary's Community. This group has expressed a desire to work together as an independent entity and the LCYP is supporting this initiative at present.
Cahermoyle House Accommodation Centre	A new mural project has commenced in Cahermoyle House, Ardagh in West Limerick and is due for completion before Christmas.
Postcards from North Clare	Ukrainian teenagers living in Ennistymon have been working with film maker, Fergus Tighe for several months on a short film which we look forward to seeing before end of year.

Further Education and Training Division (FET)

College of FET, Hospitality Campus

- The Hospitality Campus will be rolling out a 2nd Commis Chef QQI Level 6 Apprenticeship in January due to industry demand;
- The Hospitality Campus is the first institution within an ETB to become an approved member of the European Association of Hotel and Tourism Schools which will open opportunities for learners across Europe.

College of FET, Shannon Campus

Specific Skills Training

- F-Gas delivery is in steady demand, with Dublin Bus requesting that their mechanics are trained in handling same to meet regulations;
- Over 100 people were trained for various aspects of the transport and logistics sector.

Traineeship

- Increase in demand for aircraft maintenance technicians from the aircraft sector has required additional courses. The sector has requested an increase in delivery for 2024;
- Robotic Software Automation is gaining in popularity, with a full class of learners signed up to various companies and State Departments to undertake their work experience.

Apprenticeship

- A contract has been issued to build 5 new Electrical Workshops in Kilmallock Road Campus;
- A tender will be published to develop a new Plumbing Workshop in Shannon Campus.

FET Pathways from School

- Ennistymon School is sending a cohort of TY students to undertake training on various welding techniques for a period of 3 weeks;
- Kilkee Community College is sending learners to the FET Campus in Kilrush to sample Stonewall and Paving skills.

College of FET Raheen Campus

Safe Space Week 2023 at Clare Youth Service

- The young people in the CTC celebrated Safe Space Week Oct 16 -20. They took part in workshops on recognising, standing up to and stamping out bullying behaviour and harassment.

Tertiary Project

Structures Established to Date

- Steering Group & Working Groups established between TUS/LCETB;
- MoU & MoA developed between TUS/LCETB;
- Joint Controller Agreement established between NTO/TUS/LCETB;
- Two Level 8 courses - set up on PLSS and QA approved: Business Studies – (Ennis Campus) & Mobile Web Computing - (Mulgrave St. Campus);
- National Tertiary Programme (TP) launched - 7th July 2023.

Applications Made and on course

- 76 Applications made; On course - Mulgrave St. Campus = 12 / Ennis Campus = 10;
- Staff delivering on the TPs have received induction on the Tertiary Project and TUS Banner & Guru systems;
- Tertiary Learners Data submitted to TUS for registration & Learner Introduction Day at TUS held on Tuesday 10th Oct. 2023.

Proposals for 2024 Programmes

- In addition to the courses currently running, it is proposed that the existing courses at Ennis and Mulgrave St. Campuses would be offered again next year – Business Studies & Mobile Web Computing.
- Being considered by LCETB-TUS: Construction Management – Level 8, Culinary Arts - Level 7, Music Technology – Level 8;
- Being considered by LCETB-University of Limerick: Sports & Recreation (currently being developed).

Going forward

- Minister looking for TP courses to be double for 2024;

- NTO looking to Widen Participation & develop a National Framework for the TP.

College of FET, Abbeyfeale Campus

- 15 staff members attended the “Support for Diverse Learner Populations” training session delivered by the Active Inclusion Support Service at Abbeyfeale Campus on Thursday October 26th;
- A range of new courses commenced in September including Introduction to Stone Carving and Introduction to Wood Carving which has generated a lot of interest in the locality;
- Abbeyfeale has seen an increase in the number of people arriving from Ukraine over the last six weeks with demand growing for further ESOL classes.

College of FET, Newcastlewest Campus

- As part of the drive to support Community Education groups, links have been recently established with the Women's Shed in Shanagolden. From this, Art & Craft courses and Health and Fitness courses will be organised at Shanagolden Campus;
- Beginners English classes will be organised for the new group of Ukrainians that have recently arrived at the accommodation centre in Askeaton. ESOL classes make a big difference to the lives of our learners;
- Breast Cancer Ireland will deliver a Breast Health Awareness and Education presentation with the staff in West Limerick on Thursday 30th November. This important health programme will be of great benefit to all staff.

College of FET, Moyross Youth Academy Campus

- Day 1 of a very targeted programme of outdoor education will take place on December 12th. Using a collaborative approach, the team in Moyross Youth Academy (Pathways to Construction Programme) came together to build a bespoke outdoor education programme for the learners;
- The Moyross Youth Academy supported two ESOL learners in obtaining a weekly English language class to work on literacy, pertaining to the construction industry. The team have ensured that all learners received extensive support in completing documents for the course in relation to the DSP, setting up bank accounts etc.;
- The Steps programme has been introduced into the Pathways to Construction course. One element of this programme provides learners with additional information on opportunities for them, going forward;
- Staff continue to develop a database of employers who will accommodate learners on their work placements;
- Staff took part in a career's fair in UL in October. Staff and learners will attend an Apprenticeship Showcase in the Radisson Hotel in November;
- The centre is being added to the LCETB domain to enhance access to technology. Staff are using concepts from UDL to enhance TEL learning in the centre.

College of FET, Mulgrave Street Campus & College of FET, Kilmallock Road Campus

- Both Campuses celebrated their 2023 graduation at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Limerick as part of the College of FET graduation series. Two ceremonies were held with up to 600 people in attendance at each ceremony. It was a superb day for all staff involved, with great delight being shared with graduates and attendees on their success in reaching their goal of course completion and graduation. The integration of full-time delivery from levels 3 to level 6 meant that the ceremony was a true showcase for LCETB, highlighting the capacity of the organisation to support and reach so many diverse communities and individuals.

Limerick School of Music

- LSOM held its first ever official LSOM Alumni Reunion Day on Saturday 30th September. A wonderful day of music-making and camaraderie was had with many past students and teachers returning to meet and catch up;
- In addition, €2000 was raised towards the new LSOM Alumni & Friends fund which is designed to support deserving students with their musical education journey;
- LSOM Partnership programmes with Our Lady Queen of Peace, CBS and Presentation Primary schools are going from strength to strength with hundreds of young people in these DEIS schools engaged with meaningful and progressive music classes in strings, brass and woodwind instruments. LSOM are successful applicants in the recent ESIF funding allocation which has allowed LSOM to add to the stock of instruments for these students;

- LSOM was delighted to welcome back Lucinda Geoghan from the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCOS) and of the British Kodaly Society for further CPD time with the LSOM teachers. Lucinda has been mentoring the curriculum development team as the interactive musicianship curriculum is implemented in the school, already achieving great success in this area with younger students.

Music Generation Clare

- The full time Music Technology QQI Level 5 course commenced again this September with 16 learners enrolled, double 2022's intake;
- This QQI Level 5 course in music production and sound engineering is running again in partnership with VTOS provision and is facilitated by MGCE tutors;
- Music Generation Clare hosted their inaugural Folk Festival on 28th October, with 12 different music workshops taking place on Campus covering everything from guitar to bodhrán, Irish singing, harp, fiddle, concertina, uilleann pipes and lots more. The workshops were followed by a concert on the same day in the Old Ground Hotel, where workshop participants performed alongside the high-profile professional musicians. The event was made possible thanks to funding from Creative Ireland;
- Bi-monthly lessons commenced in September for the Irish Concertina Orchestra with 38 students enrolled, some of whom come from as far as Longford, Cork, Dublin, Kilkenny, Mayo and Galway;
- A blended learning approach is being offered this year, meaning lessons rotate between online and in-person meetings;
- This is the ICO's most ambitious year yet with the group working towards a high profile performance in Glór on 11th May 2024 where they will collaborate with Bill Whelan from Riverdance, renowned band NOTIFY, as well as the Irish Chamber Orchestra and Cormac McCarthy.

College of FET, Ennis Campus

Core Skills Co. Clare

- Funding received from a local charity to fund books for My Baby and Me courses to encourage reading and literacy awareness in family homes;
- Literacy promotional event hosted in Ennis Post Office during Literacy Awareness Week on 7th and 8th September;
- Funding received in July 2023 from the Community Recognition Fund for purchase and installation of polytunnel, garden shed, raised beds and gardening equipment at Hastings Cottage, Illaunamanagh, Shannon, work to be completed by Spring 2024;
- Reading Your Local Landscape took place in Ennis this year in conjunction with Clare Museum and Clare County Council;
- A group of 14 past learners have progressed onto a National Tour Guiding Award in Miltown Malbay in October.

College of FET, Cappamore Campus and Kilmallock Town Campus (Part-time provision East Limerick)

- Part-time Provision is currently delivering 119 courses across East County Limerick to include VESD, Core Skills, Community Education, ESOL, Skills to Advance & RPL. Courses are being delivered in Kilmallock Town Campus, Cappamore Campus, Hospital Campus and Croom Campus, as well as a number of courses in community settings;
- Creation of 2 Learner Hubs – Kilmallock Town Campus and Cappamore Campus are continuing with completion due in November 2023;

Outdoor Education & Training

- Outdoor Pathways programme for Transition Years resuming in November;
- Full autumn programmes for TYs, LCAs and other learners;
- FET groups including Tour Guide trainees;
- Kilfinane OETC hosting ETBI OETC network meeting and manager training event.

Support Services

Active Inclusion

- October is World Mental Health Month. In line with the College of FET Mental Health and Wellbeing Framework, Mental Health and Wellbeing Teams across LCETB FET Campuses arranged a variety of activities and events to promote learner wellbeing and highlight the range of Learner Supports available across the College of FET;
- Following a successful internal application under the SOLAS REACH Fund, the College of FET provided almost 200 learners with once off financial assistance to support their learning during the month of October;
- Under our ESOL and Migrant Learner Framework, staff from the College of FET were invited to evaluate QQI Level 1 and 2 ESOL Curriculum for Cavan Monaghan ETB. Once approved by QQI, the College of FET will be in a position to apply for differential validation in 2024, enabling the College to expand its range of certification options in ESOL.

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- IRGS coordinated LCETB attendance at the IGC Mid-West Careers Exhibition in UL 3/10/23.
- IRGS arranged for students from FET Colleges across Clare to attend the IGC Mid-West Careers Exhibition in UL 3/10/23;
- IRG colleagues undertaking the “Consent, Sexual Violence and Harassment: Practitioner Skills & Practice (PS6158)”, 10 ECTS Level 9 Micro credential Module via NUIG;
- Facilitated 55 LCETB FET learners from across Clare to attend the Open day in UL/TUS/LSAD 19/10/23 - Limerick City Campuses Open Days - TUS;
- IRG coordinated Exploring Work and Volunteering Information Day in O’ Connell Avenue Campus;
- Ongoing supports re CV preparation, skills to advance funding and upskilling initiatives for On Semi workers who are facing redundancy. (leading semiconductor manufacturer);
- IRG have coordinated 5 Information Job Fairs in the Mid-West region.

Enterprise Engagement

- Enterprise Engagement has commenced work on SEED (CRM for employer database);
- Ongoing developments re Bakery Apprenticeship following consultation with Bakers and Confectioners;
- Ongoing meetings re development of cyber security programme Level 6 QQI qualification;
- Inter-agency collaboration with Limerick Regeneration areas: accredited Equine programme commenced September 2023;
- Sponsorship of Ennis Film Festival;
- Participating on the Olsberg report on film in the Mid-West Region.

Professional Development

- Erasmus Staff Mobility Projects – three staff are heading on a Job Shadow to VHS College in Vienna in November;
- The first meeting of a new KA2 project titled ‘Entrepreneurship for Green Rural Destinations’ takes place in Norway, week commencing 13th November;
- The PL&D Support Service revamped its StaffConnect site recently and will be looking at commissioning an integrated booking system for 2024.

Technology Enhanced Learning

- The TEL Support Service delivered a series of workshops on Moodle, MS Outlook and MS Teams to all staff in Further Education and Training in September and October. The initiative also included a training needs analysis which will inform future training delivery;
- The TEL Support Service developed resources and materials to support staff in the ethical and effective use of AI in Further Education and Training. The videos, online events and resource materials were promoted with all staff. An AI assessment week has been planned for delivery in November which will feature workshops where all FET Staff will have the opportunity to learn from and share best practice in the area of AI and assessment.

8. For Adoption:

a) Finance Report Period Ending November, 2023.

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Mark O’Dea.

9. For Appointment: Parents’ Representative to;

a) Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher, Ms. Sharon Berry

Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Sean McMahon, seconded by Mr. Michael Guilfoyle.

b) Desmond College, Newcastlewest, Ms. Brenda Heath

Adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Ms. Kate Hehir.

10. For Noting:

a) Reports from the Audit & Risk Committee Meeting held on 18th May 2023 and 20th October 2023 and Minutes held on 23rd January 2023, 23rd February 2023 and 18th May 2023.

11. For approval:

a) Lease for (Former Bicycle Academy) unit F3, Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership at Roxboro, Limerick

Adopted on the proposal of Ms. Kate Hehir, seconded by Mr. Mark O’Dea.

b) Use of Corporate Seal by the Director of Organisation Support and Development and Head of Corporate Services and ICT.

Adopted on the proposal of Mr. Michael Guilfoyle, seconded by Ms. Kate Hehir.


12. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson

None.

Next Meeting: 16th January, 2024.

George O’Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed:


Chairperson of Meeting held on 16th January, 2024.