



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

27th February, 2024

Present: Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, Chairperson
Mr. Michael Cregan
Ms. Catherine Hehir
Ms. Sheila Hickey
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Cllr. Sarah Kiely
Mr. Paul Moroney
Cllr. Paul Murphy
Cllr. Ann Norton
Mr. Mark O’Dea
Cllr. Brigid Teefy
Mr. Michael Guilfoyle
Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Elena Secas

In attendance: Mr. George O’Callaghan, Chief Executive
Ms. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education and Training
Mr. Donncha O’Treasaigh, Director of Schools
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:

Ms. Marian Petty
Mr. Sean McMahon

In Absentia:

Cllr. Clare Colleran Molloy
Cllr. Michael Donegan
Ms. Elaina Fitzgerald
Cllr. Liam Galvin
Cllr. Joe Killeen

A Vote of Sympathy was passed to the following:

- Ms. Agartha Appiah (Castletroy College) on the death of her sister.
- Mr. Eric O'Neill (Further Education and Training Cappamore Campus) on the death of his niece, Niamh McNally.
- The Family of the late John Keane (Retired, Further Education and Training Department, Raheen Campus)
- The Family of Colaiste Ioaef First Year Student, John O'Donnell, on his sudden passing. To his parents, Anthony and Annmarie, brother Anthony and sisters, Mary, Ann, Eileen and Summer.
- Mr. Gearoid Herbert (Marshal House) on the death of his uncle, Henry Nash.
- Ms. Lucia Murphy (Marshal House) on the death of her, aunt, Ms. Tess Moroney.
- Ms. Niamh Liddane (Desmond College, Newcastlewest), on the death of her father, Mr. Michael Liddane.
- Mr. Mark Hurley (Colaiste Mhuire, Askeaton) on the death of his mother.

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 16th January, 2024, were adopted on the proposal of Cllr. Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Mark O'Dea.

4. For Consideration; Matters arising from the Minutes

The Board congratulated the Staff and Students of Kilkee Community College for their recent appearance on RTÉ news and for their continued support and welcome of Ukraine families to the local area.

5. Governance:

- a. Risk Management
No matter raised.

6. Correspondence

Department Correspondence

CL 0004/2024
9 January 2024

Re: Extension to the Waiver of Abatement of Public Sector Pensions under Section 52 of the Public Service Pensions (Single Scheme and Other Provisions) Act 2012.

CL 0005/2024
11 January 2024

Re: Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2023.

CL 0006/2024 16 January 2024	Re: Arrangements for the Election of Staff to the Board of CETB.
CL 0007/2024 30 January 2024	Re: Leave Entitlements for School Secretaries employed in Recognised Primary and Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Schools.
CL 0010/2024 6 th February 2024	Re: Staffing Arrangements in Education and Training Boards for the 2024/25.
CL 0011/2024 February 2024	Re: Staffing Arrangements in Primary Schools for 2024/25 school year.
CL 0012/2024 1 st February 2024	Re: General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) – Responsibilities of Data Controllers in respect of the Occupational Health Service (OHS).
CL 0013/2024 1 st February, 2024	Re: Sick Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers Employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0014/2024 1 February 2024	Re: Sick Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants Employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.
CL 0015/2024 30 January 2024	Re: Domestic Violence Leave for School Secretaries covered by the terms of the 2022 Workplace Relation Commission (WRC) Agreement, employed in Recognised Primary and Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Schools.
CL 0016/2024 30 January 2024	Re: Unpaid Leave for Medical Care Purposes for School Secretaries covered by the terms of the 2022 Workplace Relation (WRC) Agreement, employed in Recognised Primary and Voluntary Secondary and Community and Comprehensive Schools.

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

Schools, Youth Affairs, Local Creative Youth & REALT

Establishment of new Special School for Limerick

Preparatory work by the Working Group established by the Department of Education with Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board and NCSE is progressing very well to ensure that the new school will open in September 2024. As announced on 7 December 2023, the new Special School will provide for children with a moderate general learning disability and complex needs up to eighteen years of age, with an initial focus on those children who do not yet have an offer of a special school place for September 2024.

Recruitment of the Administrative Principal and Deputy Principal is currently underway. An information evening is organised for Monday, 11 March and will be publicised in local newspapers and through our social media channels in conjunction with the NCSE. Details about the location of the school will be announced shortly.

Additional information about the new community special school is available at www.limerickcss.ie.

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

School Enrolments

The Department of Education can confirm that 18,003 Ukrainian pupils have been enrolled in schools across Ireland by the end of December 2023. Out of that figure, 11,165 of these pupils have been accommodated in primary schools while 6,838 pupils have been enrolled in post-primary schools. This data indicates an enrolment rate of 89.5% among Ukrainian children aged 5 – 18.

The breakdown of Ukrainian enrolments per county is detailed as follows:

Children from Ukraine Enrolled in Primary Schools in County Clare 13/02/2024								
Naíonáin Bheaga	Naíonáin Mhóra	Rang 1	Rang 2	Rang 3	Rang 4	Rang 5	Rang 6	lomlán
69	77	68	63	91	85	73	80	606

Pupils from Ukraine Enrolled in Secondary Schools in County Clare 13/02/2024								
Bl. 1	Bl. 2	Bl. 3	Bl. 4	Bl. 5	Bl. 6			lomlán
65	75	75	30	51	40			336

Children from Ukraine Enrolled in Primary Schools in County Limerick 13/02/2024									
Naíonáin Bheaga	Naíonáin Mhóra	Rang 1	Rang 2	Rang 3	Rang 4	Rang 5	Rang 6	SEN Class	lomlán
37	53	35	51	47	50	44	43	1	361

Pupils from Ukraine Enrolled in Secondary Schools in County Limerick 13/02/2024									
Bl. 1	Bl. 2	Bl. 3	Bl. 4	Bl. 5	Bl. 6			lomlán	
73	56	54	19	59	28			289	

The number of Ukrainian arrivals in Ireland is up on 104,836. However, a shortage of accommodation means that the Irish Government is intending to introduce short term accommodation centres in different parts of the country, one of which is Fernbank, on North Circular Road, Limerick, which will accommodate up to 250 new arrivals.

Since Fernbank is classed as a short-term accommodation centre, where residents will spend a maximum period of 90 days, the Department of Education has advised that the REALT team does not enrol either primary or post primary children until a more permanent housing situation has been secured. An educational type of programme will be provided by operators who manage the centre and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board have offered any support it can contribute.

School Transport

School Transport initiated a change in policy in which school bus passes are currently recognised on specific National Transport Authority (NTA) buses, for example, the **314-bus** going from Limerick to Askeaton or the **343-bus** from Ennis to Ennistymon to enable Ukrainian post primary pupils to get to and from school. This measure was introduced because of difficulties in securing tenders along certain school bus routes which meant that many pupils were unable to get to school.

English as an Additional Language

The REALT team provide the following support to schools with Ukrainian pupils:

A Community of Practice (COP) for EAL teachers, facilitated through the Clare Education Centre.

We have been informed at these workshops that several post primary schools in Co. Limerick and Co. Clare have had unannounced EAL inspections last semester. However, some teachers say that they do not know what the criteria is for the inspection.

In fact, at the recent EAL Community of Practice online workshop which was set up with the Clare Education Centre for Primary and Post Primary teachers, the feedback provided is that many EAL teachers and subject teachers find it stressful teaching EAL due to the lack of a national curriculum and teaching multi-level classes.

Department of Education Inspectorate Report on the Quality of Education for Children and Young People from Ukraine

The report on The Quality of Education for Children and Young People from Ukraine, presented by the Department of Education Inspectorate, highlights the importance of inspection in ensuring education quality in Ireland. Seventy-eight school inspections conducted between September and December 2023 focused on evaluating the education received by Ukrainian children in primary and post-primary schools. With over 18,000 Ukrainian children enrolled in Irish schools as of January 2024, many of whom have faced significant disruptions in their lives, the report underscores the need to make them feel welcome, included, and valued in their new school communities. Encouragingly, almost all schools inspected had measures in place to foster this sense of belonging, and the quality of education was rated as good or very good in over three-quarters of the schools. The report also suggests various recommendations to enhance the engagement and participation of Ukrainian children and young people in their Irish education, including supporting parents in accessing quality early learning and care, improving school attendance, and providing clear pathways for further education or employment post-Irish Leaving Certificate. A copy of the report can be found here

<https://www.gov.ie/pdf/?file=https://assets.gov.ie/283854/c20f992b-f47c-44b1-bc40-477638443c80.pdf#page=null>

Community National Schools

Enrolments in all three of the ETB's Community National Schools are projected to show increasing demand in spite of the Department of Education statistics on falling enrolments over the next ten years.

Board of Management Training

Training for the Boards of Management of the Community National Schools continues in accordance with the Governance Manual for Primary Schools 2023

The Care Aware Crew Project

The Care Aware Crew Project is a collaboration between the Junior Health Science Academy, the University of Limerick, University Hospital Limerick, HSE Midwest Community Healthcare and Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board. The Care Aware Crew pilot project was rolled out in early March 2022 to six primary schools in Limerick. It was funded by QExchange following a successful funding award. Aiming to build leadership and health promotion skills among 3rd and 4th class pupils in the area of first aid, it was created and developed with clinical staff from UL Hospitals, Mid-west Community Healthcare, University of Limerick and Limerick & Clare Education & Training Board (LCETB). The project consists of five downloadable lessons each about a different aspect of First Aid. They were prepared by locally based clinical professionals following consultation with teachers and pupils who took part.

We are delighted that phase 3 of the Care Aware Crew pilot is underway, starting in February 2024. Last year, we had 13 schools from across Limerick and Clare participating:

- Raheen Wood CNS, Tuamgraney
- Doon CBS
- St Patrick's GNS

- Patrickswell NS
- Ballybrown NS
- Glenroe CNS
- Scoil Mocheallóg Kilmallock
- Sexton Street CBS
- St John's Girls & Infant Boys School
- Scoil Chríost Rí Caherdavin
- Our Lady Queen of Ireland NS Caherdavin
- Our Lady Queen of Peace, Janesboro

Every week for five weeks, the teachers will receive an educational video and activities to carry out with their class. These activities aim to support the pupils' learning and are a mixture of practical-based and knowledge-based activities. Each class will also receive a first aid kit, complete with all the equipment they would need. After the programme, the pupils will undertake a project, with their teacher, to showcase their learning. We are really looking forward to working with the schools, teacher and the pupils. A special thank you to the following staff who generously shared their expertise:

- Mary O'Neill, Paramedic Studies; lesson on Calling an Ambulance
- Sinead Killeen, Physiotherapy; lesson on Fractures and Sprains
- Dr Alan Watts, Emergency Medicine; lesson on Head Injuries
- Gillian Corey, Nursing; lesson on Cuts and Wounds
- Siobhan Egan, Nursing; lesson on the First Aid Box

Teacher Allocations and Principals Meetings

The initial teacher allocation for the next academic year, 2024-2025 has been received. Meetings via Zoom with each school principal are currently taking place and an appeal for additional teacher allocation will be submitted in March.

Supports for Schools

Schools continue to be supported in the development of inclusive school practices for all including ongoing support of Special Education Needs Coordinators (SENCOs), Additional Education Needs Teams in schools, Student Support Teams, Transition Year Coordinators, Digital Leaders, Curriculum Leaders, Boards of Management, school leaders, teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs).

An extensive and wide-ranging Professional Development schedule has been developed to support our schools in accordance with comprehensive feedback from teachers and school leaders. Access to all support and resources made available by the Department of Education, as well as resources that the Director of Schools and the Support Team have created and developed have been made available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - lcbtb.com.

Trauma Response Training for Schools

Following the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Schools Division annual Student Support Team Conference on "Trauma Responsive Education". Several schools have signed up for the two-year programme to train staff in supporting students affected by the impacts of trauma and their engagement in school.

Marie Delaney's trauma response emphasizes the importance of understanding and addressing the impact of trauma on individuals' behaviour and well-being. Her approach involves creating a safe and supportive environment where individuals feel validated and empowered to heal. Delaney emphasizes the need for trauma-informed care, which involves recognising the signs of trauma, responding with

empathy and sensitivity, and prioritising the individual's sense of safety and control. Her framework likely includes strategies such as creating predictable routines, providing opportunities for self-expression and self-regulation, and offering access to appropriate support services.

Restorative Practices Pilot

The Schools Division undertook the facilitation of a review of Codes of Behaviour policies in schools in May 2023. Arising from this exercise, a proposal to examine the concept of Restorative Practice was considered as an interesting initiative to explore.

Restorative Practice training for teachers is an approach that focuses on building and maintaining positive relationships within school communities while addressing conflicts and harmful behaviour. The training equips educators with the skills to create a supportive environment where dialogue, empathy, and accountability are emphasised over sanctions. Teachers learn strategies for facilitating restorative circles, which provide a structured space for students to discuss issues, express feelings, and resolve conflicts collaboratively. This approach fosters a sense of belonging, reduces disciplinary issues, and promotes social-emotional learning. Overall, Restorative Practice training empowers teachers to cultivate a culture of respect, understanding, and cooperation in their classrooms and schools.

Since September 2023, a pilot initiative has been underway in Coláiste Mhuire, Askeaton to examine the benefits of such an initiative for the students and staff at the school. Initial reviews and feedback from the interventions have been very positive and an etb-wide expansion of the programme is being explored.

Secondary Schools Across Munster Encouraged to Shine at BD STEM Stars 2024

BD's Research Centre Ireland (RCI) based in Limerick is passionate about supporting community-based initiatives that foster future talent. Its secondary school competition STEM Stars is now open to schools all over the Munster region for 2023/24 registrations, which will see a shortlisted group of schools invited to BD Research Centre Ireland for the final in March 2024.

STEM learning promotes critical thinking, leadership, curiosity, and innovation. Now in its 5th year, STEM Stars aims to inspire and encourage students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths and offers a €10,000 prize fund to support and develop STEM education and facilities as well as prizes for the winning students.

Previously open to schools in Limerick, Clare and Tipperary, the success of the competition has seen it expanded this year to welcoming entries from all schools in the Munster region.

To further promote STEM and help prepare students for their future, RCI is also offering much sought-after Transition Year placements for one of the winning schools where students will gain valuable exposure to R&D in a global medical device company.

To take part in this year's STEM Stars, students are asked to identify a healthcare problem that is meaningful to them and, using STEM subjects, they are asked for creative and innovative ways of solving the problem.

Madison and Emma Greaney from Desmond College chatting with Dr John Carey, Senior Manager, BD Research Centre Ireland about the STEM Stars competition.

Limerick and Clare ETB Community Colleges shone brightly at last year's BD Stem Stars awards, with Desmond College in Newcastle West in County Limerick taking home first place and Coláiste Chiaráin taking home third place at BD's world-class Research Centre Ireland in Castletroy, Limerick. Desmond College students Madison Saracoglu and Emma Greaney created the award winning 'Rehabilitation

Nation’ device for rehabilitating shoulder injuries, which earned them the BD STEM Stars trophy for first place, as well as a €10,000 prize fund. This prize fund went towards STEM-related facilities at their school and they serve as a great inspiration for students from all over Munster to enter the 2024 competition.

Speaking about BD STEM STARS, Director of Schools at Limerick and Clare ETB, Donncha Ó Treasaigh, said: “Limerick and Clare ETB is delighted to partner with BD in promoting the awards programme. This superb BD initiative goes to the heart of a very important national objective to promote STEM learning in our schools, and this is something that we are very committed to. Not only does it promote STEM subjects, it also gives participating students an insight into the incredibly exciting career that they can have in STEM; a career in which they can make a real impact on people’s lives and work in cutting-edge environments like BD’s RCI Centre here in Limerick.”

Site Director at BD’s Research Centre Ireland (RCI) in Limerick, Seán Wall, is also looking forward to this year’s competition: “BD is proud to empower Ireland’s future innovators by fostering STEM-rich education across the country – where curiosity meets discovery, and every classroom is a gateway to boundless possibilities.”

For more information on BD STEM Stars visit www.bd.com/en-uk/company/bd-stem-stars

Youth Work Provision

Department Schemes update Feb 24	Allocation	Comment
Targeted Youth Employability Support Initiative	€65,000	TYESI is intended to fund programmes, interventions and actions to support young people aged 15 - 24 years (inclusive) who are not in education, employment or training, by providing community-based interventions and support to improve their soft skills, confidence and agency to ensure engagement by young people in progression pathways
Integration Grant Supports to Ukraine (Migrant) Young People	€250,000 – an increase of 50% on last year	This grant scheme aims to support youth organisations and youth clubs to support young people who have fled from the war in Ukraine in their community during 2024
UBU Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative	€43,474	The Resilience and Effectiveness Initiative is a UBU Your Place Your Space initiative to support UBU Funded Organisations to deliver a more efficient and comprehensive service to young people, while ensuring that they have sufficient resilience to operate effectively in the medium to long term.
Summer Grant Scheme 2024	To be finalised	This funding enables organisations to broaden and enhance existing initiatives or deliver new, innovative opportunities with their young people during the summer period. Maximum available per application is €2,500.

We are delighted to welcome Zara Star Madden on board as the new Local Creative Youth partnership (LCYP) co-ordinator. Zara has vast experience in the sector and we in the Youth Work Team look forward to working with Zara.

We are looking forward to the opportunity for Limerick and Clare ETB Youth Work Department to have a bilateral meeting with the Department (DCEDIY). This meeting will offer better understanding of each ETB's unique situation and provide the Department with better insights into young people's needs and the situation with regards to youth related funding across the country. This meeting will take place on 28th February in Dublin.

Local Creative Youth Partnership (LCYP)

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS: LCYP & LCETB

The Local Creative Youth Partnership focus is on a holistic approach, placing equal emphasis on Creativity, Education and Wellbeing. The aim is to generate awareness of access to our own creativity. The LCYP and Youth Team plan to move forward in alignment, potentially dovetailing Artists and Youth Workers in facilitation and creating creative opportunities for learning, wellbeing and networking.

Youth Theatre

- Kilkee Youth Theatre – New Ukrainian Group and expansion of existing membership
- The Parish, promenade theatre event - Nicholas St. Youth Service have identified a new group to participate in upcoming film project alongside Garryowen Youth Service.
- Thomond Youth Theatre – After the success of their devised ensemble show in Bualadh Bos Children's Festival and The Creative Show – Shamstory, drama workshops resume in Thomond Community College and are open to all students.

Projects and Workshops with IPAs and Direct Provision

- Cahermoyle House Mural Project in West Limerick was completed with tutor Rachel Grainger working with 10 young people from the centre.
- Weekly after school workshops with visual artist, James Ryan continue in Knockalisheen, augmented by occasional workshops with teenagers.

Fainleog School, Rathkeale

- The exhibition of visual art and craft which was launched in Rathkeale Library in April, moved to the railings of People's Park and to The People's Museum of Limerick for Culture Night and for Call & Response. A Christmas card was made from one of the images by student Leona O'Brien.

Brothers of Charity, Ennis

- Ongoing weekly workshops with the 'STREETWISE' group in Brothers of Charity in Ennis, working with older teens and young adults on a visual art programme.
- Intergrated Dance Club is currently underway in Dance Limerick. LCYP will offer support to expand this project alongside consultations for creative workshops for participants with additional needs.

Inspire: Early Years Programme

- Stories for Children in County Clare This programme was a great success, culminating during Call & Response with an event in Shannon Library. Supported by Clare Libraries and Creative Ireland Clare.
- INSPIRE: Magic This was a newly commissioned dance show designed for babies by dance artist Aoife McGarry, in collaboration with Arianna Guasso and with pedagogical guidance from Marie-Therese Marry. The show which premiered Oct. 1st is being considered for a revival. Dance workshops are ongoing as the children now have access to movement they would not have had previously. This project will evolve and feed into the Call and Response Festival 2024.

Film and Tech Programmes

The 2023 programme was particularly productive with three films emerging from the training. These were:

- Youth Work: IMPACT, a 7 minute short film, shot in St. Mary's, where trainees interviewed youth workers and volunteers about the importance of youth work in their community. Training sessions was led by Maeve McGrath with camera expert Dominik Kosicki of Red Paw Media leading the film and editing days. Specific workshops in sound creation and special effects make-up were led by Dominick Chapell at the Learning Hub studio in Kileely and experienced film make up specialist, Alex Leahy.
- Future Footballers was a second, slightly shorter film, shot over the course of one day on LCETB's Kilmallock Rd. campus. Here production trainees spent a day filming and interviewing participants and trainers on the FAI's training programme which is hosted by LCETB. This film is due to be released February 2024.
- The Cry of O'Neill was a short drama, created by some trainees who attended the course and which has now been submitted to the FRESH Film Festival 2024. Although this film involved only some of the trainees and was carried out entirely independently of the training programme, the LCYP did support the young people with supervision and locations in the OCA Campus, O'Connell Avenue.
- Postcards from North Clare is a short film project led by Fergus Tighe, which began in June and was completed early December 2023. Participants comprised a group of Ukrainian teenagers working through North West Clare Family Resource Centre.
- Critical Engagement: Along with Kilkee Youth Theatre and Abbeyfeale Beoirs, Future Film Makers is one of the groups identified to be part of the Arts Council-funded Critical Engagement Programme. So far, the group has travelled to the Galway Film Fleadh to see a series of short films as well as a screening of Alice McDowell's Spread Your Wings in the Glórach Theatre, Abbeyfeale during Call & Response. A recording of Kilkee Youth Theatre's response to Limerick Youth Theatre's 2023 Pride and Prejudice production may be viewed on Youtube.

Podcasting

A number of Podcast programmes are ongoing:

- Foróige Newcastle West: Podcasting and Animation project 'THE GAGGLE', a collaboration with Music Generation Limerick.
- West End Youth Centre: An ongoing programme of workshops with young people in Weston, Limerick.

Paint Punch Project

Delivered in partnership with The GAFF who have applied for additional funding to expand this programme in 2024, the Paint Punch Project began in Abbeyfeale, expanded to Askeaton, and is currently in development to expand to Limerick City and Ennis. Participants began at a younger age and since then older teenagers have participated in this project. Images for the project can be seen in this video which was launched during Call & Response LCYP Boxin' Trottin' by Abbeyfeale Crew - YouTube

Current Projects Ongoing LCYP LCETB 2024

Project	Location	Organisation	Facilitator	Start Date	Finish Date
Weekly Workshops Art	Northside Youth Centre, Knockalisheen Rd	Family resource Centre Ballinanty Limerick	James Ryan	26/1/24	21/6/24
Weekly Workshops Animation	Brothers of Charity Ennis	Streetwise group Brothers of Charity Clare	Ana Colomer	10/1/24	29/5/24
Weekly Workshops Dance	Nursery Times Creche	Nursery Times Limerick	Aoife Mc Garry	24/1/24	27/3/24
Thomond Drama Club Weekly Workshops	Thomond Community College	Thomond Community College Limerick	John Hogan, Zara Starr	19/2/24	22/5/24
Kilkee Youth Theatre	Kilkee Community College	LCETB LCYP Clare	Emma Troy, Jessica Curtin, Fiona Claffey-Kelly, Shannon Ryan	10/2/24	15/6/24
Podcast Project	The West End	West End Youth Centre Limerick	Sean Horgan	19/1/24	
Animation project	Newcastle West Foroige	Foroige	Sean Horgan	17/1/24	
Future Filmmakers	FET limerick	LCYP LCETB	John Hogan	19/1/24	19/1/24
CP Training	Temple Gate Hotel Ennis	LCYP NYCI	Sean Horgan, Rachael Grainger, Jenny Bassett	16/1/24	16/1/24

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board hosts and maintains the national web portal for www.lcyp.ie.

ETB Week 2024

Following the success of ETB Day 2023, ETBI are delighted to announce #ETBWEEK 2024: a weeklong series of events taking place at local, national and international level from the 11th-15th of March 2024 to celebrate Ireland's 16 Education and Training Boards and the education and training services their schools, colleges and centres provide to primary, secondary and tertiary learners across Ireland. Events include:

- National #ETBWEEK event in Thomond Park on the afternoon of Thursday 14th March to honour ETB Alumni and award ETB Bursaries with some very special guests
- Nationwide Carpool Karaoke Competition
- The International ETB online event exploring current and future opportunities for ETBs at EU and International level
- Schools and FET specific events and initiatives
- Nationwide media campaign
- Local ETB events

ETB Bursaries

Details and user-friendly application process for our ETB Bursaries (€5000 + professional support) in

- Green Innovation
- Technology & AI
- Media and Communications
- An Ghaeilge

These bursaries will be awarded to exceptional current Schools or FET learners aged 16+ to support their onward study, entrepreneurship, or community activism. I can also confirm that we will be awarding a runner up prize in each category (€500 all gifts voucher).

Further Education and Training (FET)

College of FET, Shannon Campus

- Contracted Training was used to deliver specific skills training to 526 learners in sectors such as Logistics and Transport, Engineering, Administration and Health. This number is set to increase in 2024 to over 600.
- Contracted Training delivered over 60% of ETB traineeship in 2023 in specific areas such as Aircraft Maintenance, Software Development, Coded Welding and Spray Painting with 200 registrations. This number is set to increase in 2024.
- New traineeships in development include IT Support and Cyber Security.
- Apprenticeship Phase 2 delivery in 2024 will be increased from 434 to 650. This is based on five additional workshops in KRC and increasing capacity in Aircraft to 90. Critical elements in the delivery of this target are availability of suitable instructors, funding allocation from SOLAS, procurement process timelines and availability of contractors.
- The range of Transition Year taster courses will be expanded in 2024 to include Nail and Beauty and Paving and Stonewall. The Campus currently works with Kilkee, Kilmihil, Ennis and Ennistymon Community Colleges and will extend this in 2024 to include Scariff Community College and Crescent Comprehensive;
- Barista training with C&G L2 certification will continue in 2024;
- The total pathways target for taster course training is 400 learners in 2024.
- Certified evening training was delivered to 1,450 learners in 2023. This figure is set to increase in 2024 to 2,000. This is in line with our Strategic Performance Targets, agreed with SOLAS for targets such as Transversal Skills, Key Skills and Skills to Compete.

College of FET, O'Connell Avenue Campus

- Seven community centres in Moyross, Ballynanty/Kileely, Our Lady of Lourdes, Garryowen, Southill, St. Mary's and Limerick Social Services held Open/FETCH Registration days in January in advance of the commencement of classes. ETB Community Education staff supported registration;
- By the end of January, over 100 courses had started in thematic areas of Health & Wellbeing, Arts and Crafts, Beauty and Skincare, Personal Development, Cultural Studies and Family Learning.
- A joint initiative between MIC and O'Connell Ave. Campus – Homework Club and Parent Support (MIC PATH 3 Programme) started on Wed 31st January. This is a 10-week programme (2.0hrs per week) hosted by the FET Campus where children from first class to first year post-primary are provided with homework support by a group of MIC students while their parent can avail of English Language Support, employability skills and access to education pathways provided by ETB staff. 24 pupils and 11 parents were invited to the first session. A number of nationalities were represented including Ukrainian, Sudanese and Afghan. Parents are group based on their level of English.

College of FET, Green Innovation Campus

The Irish Green Build Council held a consultative workshop on 26th January for key stakeholders in order to receive valuable feedback for the development of the 'National Circular Economy Roadmap' for the Irish Construction Sector. The initiative is funded by the EPA. The workshop afforded participants the opportunity to:

- Learn from International Circular Economy experts and their projects;
- Excellent possibility to do networking between peers and Irish experts;
- The possibility to contribute to the Circular Economy Roadmap.

The Workshop objectives were to:

- Identify the current gaps and challenges regarding Circular Economy in the construction section;
- Identify solutions and enablers for a more Circular Irish Construction sector.
- Areas of specific focus included: Circular Materials and Resources; Circular Design Processes and Procurement; Circular Business Models; Circular Renovation and Retrofit.

College of FET, Moyross Youth Academy Campus

- Learners on the Pathways to Construction Programme completed a two week Retrofit Insulation Skills course (QQI Level 5) in the Green Innovation Campus in Roxboro;
- Learners continue to study for their Driver Theory tests / driving lessons, at a reduced cost thanks to the collaboration between the Campus and Moyross Youth Academy;
- As part of focussing on the outdoors in Moyross Youth Academy, learners and staff went on an 8km hike in the Burren in Lough Avalla, County Clare. The group received refreshments at a tea-room on the Loop and the owner spoke to them about sustainable living;
- A total of €6,500 was raised for the Simon Community through a Coast to Coast charity cycle organised by Instructor Declan McEvoy (STEPS programme in Moyross Youth Academy);
- Staff continue to engage with employers and build a contacts list in readiness for work placements in March;
- Learners visited Raheen Campus and were shown the opportunities that exist on completion of the Pathways to Construction programme;
- Staff members promoted the Pathways to Construction course and manned the simulator machines at an Open Day in the Kilmallock Road Campus and at the Limerick Energy Clinic Roxboro;
- Learners visited the Sisk run Opera site in Limerick City and were given an extensive tour of this impressive enterprise.

College of FET, Mulgrave Street and Kilmallock Road Campuses

- On January 25th a joint open day was delivered across both campuses with approximately 1,400 visitors in attendance. On display were active learning stands, information sessions, teachers and instructors, all seeking to provide course information to prospective learners. The day was a great success and a real showcase for the College of FET;
- Thirty level 5 learners from the Hairdressing, Sports and Beauty Departments at Mulgrave Street Campus have travelled to Malaga to complete a two-week work programme. The annual programme is an Erasmus based initiative and is a fantastic opportunity for learners to gain valuable work experience in an international setting.

College of FET, Hospitality Campus

- Winners of eight bronze medals and the Gold Plate at the IKA Culinary Olympic Competition in Germany from 3rd to 7th February where the National Irish Junior and Senior Culinary Teams competed in the highest ranked culinary competition in the World.
- Eight Junior Chefs represented Ireland on the National Junior Culinary Team with five learners from the College of FET, Hospitality Campus.

- The Junior Team achieved a bronze in the Restaurant of Nations competing against 66 other nations with over 1,800 chefs taking part in the event.
- The Junior Team also qualified for the second competition, Table of Fire, and won the Olympic Gold Plate;
- Two instructors Carol Dollery and Will King from the College of FET, Hospitality Campus, qualified to compete in the National Senior Culinary Team and won a bronze medal;
- Will King, Culinary Instructor, competed against 44 countries and received a bronze medal in Culinary Artistry in the individual competitions with a butter piece;
- Senior and Junior Teams were managed by Bernadette Enright with Brendan O’Neill and the President Alan Fitzmaurice, Panel of Chefs.
- Hospitality also won two bronze medals at the Culinary Apprenticeship competitions in Killarney on February 7th.

College of FET, Abbeyfeale Campus & Newcastlewest Campus

- As part of the commitment to creating Pathways to FET for learners, an Open Evening at Abbeyfeale Community College took place. Leaving Certificate students and Transition Year students were advised regarding an exciting range of courses available. Lots of learners were interested in learning more about the pathways that are available within FET and how this could help them on their educational journey;
- Eleven members of staff in West Limerick have started the QQI Level 4 Environmental Sustainability Awareness course at Abbeyfeale Campus. All of the staff are enjoying this course and are gaining valuable knowledge and information about this exciting new area of education. Running this course is all part of plans to meet the objectives set out in the SOLAS Green Skills for FET 2021 – 2030.

College of FET, Cappamore and Kilmallock Town Campus

- Part-time Provision are delivering 138 courses across campuses and community partner locations.
- Linking with FET Pathways from School to organise taster courses for youth in College of FET, Cappamore Campus on Wednesday mornings from 10.00am – 1.00pm;
- Near completion on two Learner Hubs in College of FET, Kilmallock Town Campus and Cappamore Campus.

College of FET, Ennis Campus

- Learners and tutors took part in the learner voice section of the ESOL Professional Learning & Development Day on 23rd January. They outlined their experiences of learning English and the importance of English in integrating into Irish society;
- Family Learning are making a concerted effort to listen to learners voices by setting up parent meetings in central school locations around the county for parents of 32 DEIS schools and 2 community primary schools. These have helped to identify a wide variety of needs locally and information is shared with the relevant full time and part-time programmes.

Music Generation Clare

- MGCE purchased an additional four harps in January to facilitate their growing Harp Ensemble programme. Two of these harps have now been rented to students attending the afterschool instrumental hub in Ennistymon;
- The new term for MGCE’s instrumental hub programme commenced in the second week of January. Following an application process in December, new students have joined classes in the following locations: Ennis, Ennistymon, Killaloe and Shannon;
- The range of instrumental classes now offered throughout the county include - guitar, concertina, fiddle, keyboard, piano, harp, music technology, bodhrán, tin whistle, banjo, ukulele and drums;

- A day of team building and outdoor education took place for MGCE's team of Musician Educators on 10th January at the Outdoor Education & Training Centre, The Burren. A morning of indoor team building exercises was followed by an afternoon of caving and Burren walking.

Outdoor Education & Training

- Pathways from Schools to FET Transition Year programmes underway;
- Modules for National Tour Guiding delivered by the OETCs;
- New facilities: high ropes course at OETC Kilfinane and archery at OETC, The Burren and building upgrade sought for both centres - roof, staff accommodation and toilet/shower upgrades.

Support Services

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

DEASP INTREO Employment Advisers hosted by IRGSS for briefing on College of FET Pathways

20 Employment Advisers and their Manager from INTREO, Henry Street, were hosted by the IRGSS for a briefing on Pathways in FET in early February. It was a great opportunity also to get their feedback on demand, gaps etc. This type of networking and information sharing meeting builds on the ongoing work that the ETB is doing under the ETB/DEASP protocol and it fosters relationships for referral to information and guidance supports.

3 Days for Wellbeing – A series of Free Events for Learners in the Community

IRGSS, in collaboration with part-time programmes, the Active Inclusion Support Service and Limerick Community Education Network (LCEN) launched a new series of events to support community based learner's mental health and wellbeing.

- December - Watchhouse Cross Library "Finding Happiness and Hope Beyond Difficult Times" with Psychotherapist Caroline Crotty;
- January - Garryowen Band Hall - African Drumming Worksop with Marie Edmonds;
- Our next event is in Southill and focused on eating for wellbeing.

Learners from across communities, including migrant learners on ESOL classes in communities have engaged very positively with this series, giving a unanimous 10/10 rating for the events to date.

Enterprise Engagement

- Maintenance Skills Technology Programme commenced in College of FET, Raheen Campus, on 8th January. This is in response to ongoing work by EESS with Explore Engineering. Staff from four engineering companies in the region are involved; Johnson & Johnson, Vitalograph etc.;
- Strategic Employer Engagement Database (CRM) went live in Limerick and Clare ETB. SEED database provides EESS with the opportunity to record all engagement with employers across the region;
- Recruitment for Environmental Social Governance Adult Educator panel will commence in February to facilitate the introduction of new green skills micro-credentials programme designed by EESS in consultation with SOLAS;
- Ongoing engagement with the industry clusters has resulted in an uptake in ETB Skills to Advance programmes in Q1, i.e. Conack, Samco, Aughinish Alumina, Vitalograph, West Limerick Sports Complex and Johnson & Johnson.

Professional Development

The ESOL PL&D Networking Day event, aimed at ESOL educators and professionals was held in the Radisson Hotel on 23rd January. The day began with a welcome address from the Director of FET. Learners shared their stories and there was a video presentation along with live interviews followed by a Q&A session with the learners. The new and updated ESOL QQI Awards and modules at levels 1-4 were presented. This concluded with a plenary session for feedback and discussion. Workshops were

conducted on various topics such as games in the ESOL classroom, AI integration, and textbook selection for beginners, providing valuable insights and strategies.

8. For Adoption:

- a. Finance Report
Adopted on proposal of Cllr Gabriel Keating, seconded by Mr. Paul Moroney.
- b. 2024 Service Plan
Adopted on proposal of Cllr Gabriel Keating seconded by Mr. Michael Guilfoyle.
- c. Limerick Community Special School Admissions Policy 2024
Adopted on proposal of Mr. Michael Cregan, seconded by Cllr. Elena Secas.

9. For Noting:

- a. Protected Disclosure Policy
- b. Protected Disclosure Procedure

10. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson

Next Meeting: 27th March, 2024.

George O'Callaghan
Chief Executive.

Signed:


Chairperson of Meeting held on 27th March, 2024