



MINUTES OF LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD

College of Further Education and Training, Hospitality Campus, Unit E, LEDP,
Roxboro Road, Rathbane North, Roxboro, Limerick, V94 V0A4

On

Tuesday, 19th November, 2024, at 4.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr. Kieran O’Hanlon, Chairperson
Ms. Ann Norton, Deputy Chairperson
Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua
Cllr. Michael Begley
Cllr. Maria Donoghue
Mr. Darren Feldon
Ms. Jeannette Ferguson
Ms Kate Hehir
Cllr. Gabriel Keating
Mr. Conal Kelly
Ms. Claire Knight
Mr. Michael MacCurtain
Mr. Sean McMahan
Mr. Adrian O’Hanlon
Cllr. Noreen Stokes
Cllr. Brigid Teefy

In attendance:

Mr. Donncha O’Tresaigh, Acting Chief Executive
Mr. Eamon Murphy, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Ms. Breda Flynn, Director of Organisation Support and Development
Mr. Paul Patton, Director of Further Education & Training
Mr. Denis O’Brien, Head of ICT/Corporate Services
Ms. Caroline Hayes, Corporate Services

Apologies:

Cllr. Peter Doyle
Cllr. Rachel Hartigan
Cllr. Mary Howard

In absentia:

Cllr. John Sheahan
Cllr. Catherine Slattery

1. Introduction by Chief Executive

Mr. Donncha O'Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive, in introducing proceedings, extended his appreciation to Ms. Bernadette Enright, Manager, College of Further Education and Training, Hospitality Campus, staff and learners for hosting the meeting.

2. Appointment of Deputy Chairperson

On the proposal of Cllr. Antoinette Baker Bashua, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating. Ms. Ann Norton was elected Deputy Chairperson.

3. Condolences

- Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson, on the death of his sister, Ms. Patsy Hoare.
- Ms. Ann Norton, Deputy Chairperson, on the death of her mother-in-law, Ms. Mary Brodie (née Scales).
- Mr. Adrian O'Hanlon, Board Member and Staff Member, Further Education and Training Kilmallock Road Campus, on the death of his aunt, Ms. Patsy Hoare.
- Ms. Deirdre Denning, St. Anne's Community College, Killaloe, on the death of her brother, Mr. Jon Kenny.
- Ms. Aisling Stack, Marshal House, on the death of her grandfather, Mr. Paddy Stack.
- Ms. Caroline Hayes, Marshal House, on the death of her uncle, Mr. Micheál Hill.
- The Family of the Late Ms. Michelle Kelleher, learner in Limerick School of Music.
- The family of the Late Mr. Denis Robinson, learner at College of Further Education and Training, Abbeyfeale Campus.
- Ms. Jayne Foley, College of Further Education and Training, Mulgrave Street Campus, on the death of her father, Mr. Denis Foley.
- The family of the Late Mr. Ahd Bsharat, learner at College of Further Education and Training, O'Connell Avenue Campus.
- The family of the Late Very Rev. Fr. Seán Sexton, former Parish Priest, Inagh/Kilnamona, Co. Clare.
- Cllr. Cathal Crowe, TD and former ETB Board Member and his wife Maeve on the death of Maeve's mother, Ms. Mary Fehilly.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board

Minutes of meeting held on 14th October, 2024, were adopted on the proposal of Mr. Sean McMahon, seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.

5. Matters arising from Minutes

None.

6. Correspondence from:

Department of Education

CL 0051/2024 20 May 2024	Re: Prescribed material for Junior Cycle English (For the student cohort commencing Junior Cycle in 2024 and presenting for examination in 2027).
CL 0055/2024 28 August 2024	Re: Publication of Bí Cineálta Procedures to Prevent and Address Bullying Behaviour for Primary and Post-Primary Schools.
CL 0080/2024 8 October 2024	Re: New measures to support the Forward Planning for Special Education Provision.
CL 0081/2024 10 October 2024	Re: Payment of Tool Allowance to Craft Workers – 2024.
CL 0085/2024 4 November 2024	Re: New Pay rate for School Transport Escorts.

7. For consideration; Chief Executive's Report incorporating

Schools, Youth Work, Local Creative Youth Partnership and REALT

Limerick Community Special School - Mungret

Limerick Community Special School opened in Mungret for classes on 5 September 2024. The 30 students who are enrolled in the school (aged from 4-14 years) have settled in well and are enjoying school. School transport (Bus Eireann) is fully operational. Several HSE teams work with the school who are all complimentary of the inclusive and stimulating environment that has been developed in the school.

Children have started trips to Equine Therapy, Swimming, Local Cafe, Library and an exciting school shop service commenced recently. A Parents Association has been established and is focusing on parents support workshop for parents with parents and supporting the school with fundraising.

Fedamore CNS (Croí na Coille)

Fedamore Community National School - Croí na Coille recently made a successful application for funding for Education for Sustainable Development. This application was considered by the Department of Education and has been allocated a fund of €2500 to support the proposed ESD project. An enrolment evening will be taking place soon in the school for September 2025.

Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT)

Regional Education and Language Teams (REALT) are hosted by the regional education and training boards around Ireland and staffed by regionally based education support personnel.

REALT also support schools in the area to meet the needs of these children as they emerge, to advise and support the Department of Education in developing new capacity where required, and to coordinate the provision of education services to schools and families across their defined area.

The REALTs (Regional Education and Language Team) initially focus on ensuring that children are assisted to find school places when they are ready to engage with the school system. The REALT Team support existing services and coordinate the following work areas:

- Assist families and schools with accessing information on school places for Ukrainian children and young people who have moved into the area.
- Assist families and schools with accessing information on the availability of School Transport Scheme services for Ukrainian children and young people who have moved into the area.
- Assist families and schools with accessing resources and supports for additional capacity, wellbeing, language, and educational needs.
- Assist with work around staff supply, including where required, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) tutors to address language needs of Ukrainian children, young people, and their parents/guardians, through liaison with ESOL Coordinators in the ETBs.

Structure

The REALTs are hosted and administratively supported within the ETBs.

Each REALT consists of a network of other key agencies, including:

- Tusla Education Support Service (TESS)
- NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service) regional personnel
- NCSE (National Council for Special Education) regional personnel
- Management body local nominees
- and other key partners as appropriate

In addition, the REALTs collaborate closely with people from a range of other services, depending on the needs of the children arriving in Ireland and the challenges faced by schools. These agencies and bodies may include:

- Teacher support services, including OIDE (Professional Development Service for Teachers) and JCT (Junior Cycle for Teachers) (Junior Cycle for Teachers)
- Education Centre Network
- Local county councils/authorities

Limerick and Clare REALT

The Limerick and Clare REALT Team has recommenced weekly meetings to address the enrolment of children requiring school places in Limerick and Clare.

Aisling Wheeler REALT ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) organises information sessions - EAL in Schools. The primary aim is to look at ESOL materials, the teaching of English to speakers of Slavic languages and to look at the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

In addition, a mentoring service with a group of ESOL tutors from Limerick Clare Education Training Board are available to mentor post-primary teachers who are new to teaching ESOL. Limerick Clare Education Training Board REALT has compiled and developed ESOL resources which are available on www.lcetb.com. All schools receive a newsletter outlining English language supports available.

Information for parents in Ukrainian and Russian on accessing school places is available on www.lceb.ie.

The REALT Team for 2024/2025 comprises the following.

Name	Role	Nominating Organisation
Donncha Ó Treasaigh	Chief Executive (A)	Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
TBC	Director of Schools	
Aobhán Haverty	Adult Education Officer	
Deirdre Honan	REALT Coordinator	
Aisling Wheeler	REALT ESOL Coordinator	
Miriam Gleeson	Senior Educational Welfare Officer	TUSLA
Debbie McDonagh	Regional Manager	
Vacant		CPSMA (Catholic Primary School Management Association)
Alan Cunningham	Post-Primary Principal	ACCS (Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools)
Mona Hynes	Post-Primary Principal	JMB (Joint Management Body)
David Quinn	Primary Principal	Educate Together (Ennis)
Richard Egan Deirdre Folan	Senior Psychologist	NEPS
Orla Donnellan Marie Clifford	Regional Manager	NCSE
Stephanie Ryan Stephanie Griffin	Regional School Transport Manager	Bus Éireann

Update from REALT Team

1. There are no Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection (BOTP) or International Protection Applicants (IPA) children or young adults without a school place in Limerick or Clare.
2. Ballysimon Centre opened in mid-September accommodating 150 residents. Thirty-two primary pupils from the centre have been enrolled in eight different primary schools throughout Limerick city, whereas nine post-primary pupils have been enrolled in Newport Community College, Co. Tipperary. School transport has been sanctioned for two separate routes from the Ballysimon Centre.
3. Three young pupils enrolled in Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) programmes have transferred to either Limerick Youth Service (LCY) or Clare Youth Service which will provide them with pathways to pursue apprenticeship courses.
4. Ten post-primary LCETB teachers have enrolled in the Cambridge Teacher Knowledge Test (TKT), Module 1 which provides a background to language learning and teaching. The training commences on November 13.

Newly appointed Deputy Principals

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board made the following deputy appointments since the last meeting of the board;

- Deputy principal, Kilkee Community College: Ms. Lorraine Byrnes
- Deputy principal (Acting), Scariff Community College: Mr. Jack O'Connell

Mentoring

A mentoring programme for all newly appointed principals and deputy principals is provided by the Director of Schools and the Director of Organisation Support and Development. The programme provides for existing principals and deputy principals working closely with the newly appointed principals and deputy principals.

Supports for Schools

Schools are being 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). The Professional Development schedule (below) has been developed to support our schools in accordance with comprehensive feedback from teachers and school leaders and is available to our schools on a central hub on the Schools Division Support site - www.lcetb.com.

Highest Number of Projects from ETB Community Colleges for BT Young Scientist 2025

A record number of students from Limerick and Clare ETB Community Colleges have qualified for the upcoming BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025. This significant achievement underscores the talent and dedication of the community college and community school students and their inspiring teachers.

This year's BTYSTE competition was won by Coláiste Chiaráin student, Seán O' Sullivan, and in 2005 by co-founder and CEO of Stripe, Patrick Collison, when he was a student in Castletroy College.

The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition is Ireland's premier science and technology event for young people. Each year, the exhibition attracts hundreds of innovative projects from schools nationwide. This year, Limerick and Clare ETB students have once again demonstrated their exceptional ability to innovate and explore the world around them, with a total of 23 projects securing a place at the exhibition in January. The qualified projects include entries by students from Castletroy College, Coláiste Iósaef, Coláiste Chiaráin, Desmond College, Kilkee Community College, Mungret Community College and St John Bosco Community College.

Speaking about the students' achievement, Donncha Ó Treasaigh, Acting Chief Executive of Limerick and Clare ETB, said; "We are immensely proud of our students who have qualified for the BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition 2025. Their dedication to their projects and their passion for science and technology are truly inspiring. We are confident that they will represent their schools with distinction at the exhibition. The qualifying projects from students encompass a diverse range of scientific disciplines, showcasing the breadth of scientific talent within the ETB community.

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board extends its warmest congratulations to all the students who have qualified for the 2025 competition. We wish them the very best of luck and no doubt they are inspired by Seán O'Sullivan's success in 2024!"

St. John Bosco Community College, Kildysart	The effect of blue oyster mushrooms on the rate of decomposition of waste	Biological & Ecological
St Joseph's Community College, Kilkee	Herd Herbs: Herbal Remedies to Prevent Mastitis in Dairy Cows	Biological & Ecological
St Joseph's Community College, Kilkee	InstaVape: Ensuring Safe Vaping with Instant, On-the-Go Substance Detection	Technology
Desmond College, Newcastlewest	"Facial Rehabilitation: A Technological Approach for Bell's Palsy Patients"	Health & Wellbeing
Desmond College, Newcastlewest	Chill "N" Heal Bandage	Health & Wellbeing
Desmond College, newcastlewest	Using Benford's Law to Detect Electoral Fraud	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Desmond College, Newcastlewest	OtoInSight	Health & Wellbeing
Coláiste Iósaef, Kilmallock	Connected by Blood a Continued Study	Health & Wellbeing
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	"Quantum Insights: Particle Profiling via Cloud Chamber & AI Analysis"	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences

Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	Discovering Habitable Exoplanets with the help of AI.	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Castletroy College	An investigation into the relationship between catch areas to the quantity of microplastics found in fish's gastrointestinal system.	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	An investigation to understand the reasons behind the falling trends of EV sales in Ireland	Social & Behavioural Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	Which Plant is the Best Defence Against Ocean Acidification?	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	Barriers to protect against fluvial flooding	Technology
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	The Big Irish Head On You!	Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	Bó-Watch: An AI powered monitoring system for cows	Technology
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	Identifying AI Speech: The Future of Cybersecurity with ZypAI	Technology
Mungret Community College	To investigate the Influence of LED Light Spectral Variations on Basil (<i>Ocimum basilicum</i> L.) Vitamin C Composition.	Biological & Ecological
Mungret Community College	IndependentMe: An at home healthcare device to support independent living for people suffering from memory impairment.	Technology
Colaiste Chiarain, Croom	SmartSpecs	Technology

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board Youth Work

Budget Update: Nationally for youth services, €84.9m is being allocated in Budget 2025 to current expenditure to youth services, an increase across current and capital funding of €7 million, or 9%, on the 2024 budget.

Youth Work Committee

The Youth Work Committee is currently being established, and the following members have been nominated by the Limerick and Clare ETB Board;

- Mr. Sean McMahon
- Ms. Margaret Slattery
- Cllr. Catherine Slattery

All potential new members will be contacted in the coming weeks with a view to having a meeting in early January 2025.

ETBI Youth Officer/Liaison Officer information Day

The Limerick and Clare ETB Youth Officers participated and engaged in the ETB/DCEDIY networking and information sharing event on 24th October. This event provided an opportunity to meet the new officials in the DCEDIY and we look forward to working with them over the next few years. The day also showcased best practice around the country in Youth Work and we were delighted to feature in this showcasing!

Areas of work the Youth Work Team are currently involved in with the DCEDIY:

- Mapping of Services

The Department is in the process of creating a comprehensive map of youth service provision across the country. This tool will feature both an internal dashboard and an external website, serving as a crucial resource for planning future funding and enhancing youth services and acting as a focal point for young people, their guardians, and teachers to direct them to their local clubs, and services.

- ICT solution

We are delighted to participate in the ICT solution for UBU and the digitisation of the scheme. An initial meeting will take place with the ETBI and the DCEDIY with a view to a pilot being considered in 2025.

- Workforce Development Strategy for the youth work sector

This is an action in the recently launched 'Opportunities for Youth: National Strategy on Youth Work and Related Services 2024 – 2028'. In advance of the Workforce Development Strategy being developed in 2025, baseline data and information on the workforce will be required. We supported the sharing of the survey link and encouraged widespread completion of the survey by the relevant youth work staff in our region.

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 €47,215 within its functional area, funds which the ETB identified would be unexpended by year-end 2024. We are delighted this submission was approved by the Department. As a result of this approval the ETB is now able to provide additional support for 6 UBU project in the region

REALT Connection

Strong connections have been made with the Youth Work team and the REALT Co-ordinators, a number of young people are being supported in alternative education/apprenticeships. We are delighted to support the work of REALT and hope to build on this in the future.

Local Creative Youth Partnership - LCYP

Call & Response Festival 2025

April 4th,5th,6th. – A celebration and showcasing of youth creativity across Limerick and Clare. Call out 'Missing Pieces' went out on Culture Night targeting Youth Organisations. EOI letter sent out to Youth Organisations.

10 Groups across Clare and Limerick will be selected to work with an LCYP tutor.

Each group will work with selected artist/tutor on a creative response to the call out 'missing pieces'. This work will then form part of the Call & Response 2025 Festival.

Responses were low to the call out, but many groups have since expressed an interest in taking part and it has been offered to most groups currently engaged by the LCYP.

Strategic Plan:

Several meetings have been held to build on and expand the current strategic plan which will be discussed by the steering Group with a view to launch the new strategic around the Call & Response Festival time in March/April 2025.

Groups have been identified and dates selected for consultations. Current plan Goals, Actions and Aims are all under review.

Tutor training:

Training in 'Everyday Spaces' with Hub na NOg was facilitated on August 22nd to new and existing tutors.

A second training day was delivered on October 18th in The Inn at Dromoland.

NYCI were contacted regarding delivery of Child Protection Awareness Programme training for new tutors and the earliest date for delivery is January 2025.

We are looking into offering a Lámh Course for interested facilitators to increase awareness and ability in facilitation for participants with disabilities and additional needs.

Kilkee Arts Club:

Kilkee Arts Club will offer a variety of creative workshops to the west Clare area and will begin Saturday 16 November 2024.

EVA – Ennis Voices for Autism:

Workshops in dance on offer to 9-12 years from January to June 2025 pending a January Creative Consultation with participants.

Limerick Community Special School:

A site visit took place in October 2024 and Dance workshops have been requested. A dance tutor is due to begin working with younger students every Thursday from 14 November – 19 December 2024. Other workshops for older students have been suggested for the New Year.

Inspire Baby Dance Project:

Performances finish on Friday November 8th and have been very successful.

LCYP offered a dance workshop to ELC's who expressed an interest in the project but were unsuccessful for hosting due to budget. These workshops are scheduled late November/early December 2024.

ESIF Fonefilmz:

Making a film using phone technology.

Workshops are taking place in Garryowen and St. Marys. These films will be screened and showcased in the Call & Response 2025 Festival.

Fainleog (Rathkeale, Co. Limerick):

Creative consultation took place with students on Monday, 7 October. Art/craft workshops were requested and are currently being set up to begin mid-November.

Rathkeale:

Various Christmas workshops will be offered to young people over 15 days in all disciplines with Rathkeale Foroige.

Streetwise Brothers of Charity:

The Streetwise group have been screening their work in October, proudly featuring in the Galway Film Fleadh Generation Shorts.

Having also received an Arts Council Arts in Education Portal Documentation Award, they will be presenting in Dublin on Saturday, 9 November 2024.

Paint Punch Launch:

The Paint Punch Project was highly successful with groups nationwide asking for similar projects. RTE featured the project recently on RTÉ news2day.

Cruinniu na nÓg Funding:

LCYP has been asked to support two applications for upcoming funding for Cruinniú na nÓg. Music Generation Limerick City & County and also the Limetree Theatre in association with Cork Midsummer Festival.

Engagement with other groups:

Workshops have been organised and are due to start this month in

- Garryowen – Art / Podcasting / Film
- Youthreach – Art / Music
- Corpus Christi – Art
- Fainleog – Craft
- Rathkeale – various
- Kilkee- Art
- Kilmallock – Dance
- LCSS – Dance
- St. Marys – Film
- Lava Javas – Film / Creative Writing / Music
- LYS – Dance

Activities with groups in Kilrush, Newmarket-on-Fergus, Sixmilebridge, Killaloe, Ennis, Shannon, Bruff are due to be scheduled shortly also align with groups in Parteen, Cratloe, Shannon and Newmarket-on-Fergus in the coming weeks.

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

FET Approved Funding 2024

Eamon Murphy advised the Board of the risk of a potential shortfall in FET funding in 2024. The Board was informed that the Head of Finance and Director of FET were monitoring all FET Budgets on a daily basis to ensure spending remained within the budget allocated by SOLAS while endeavouring to minimise the impact on service provision. Eamon advised that only an hour before the meeting commenced, notification of the final 2024 FET allocation had been received

from SOLAS. While the Finance team had not had sufficient time to fully assess the correspondence received, the final allocation did appear to have eliminated the risk of any deficit occurring. A number of Board Members expressed concerns about the FET budget allocation process in terms of effective financial planning and budgeting.

Mr. Sean McMahon asked how this could happen at the end of the year, and if same was on the Risk Register.

The Chief Executive (Acting) explained that there were a lot of factors that lead to the shortfall including that National Pay Agreements that had not been taken into consideration. The commitment of new additional services/courses in various campus. Funding released for repairs to buildings were among the factors leading to above.

Colleges of FET, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Campuses

- Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan TD, has announced that Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board has received approval to advance to the next phase of its development of a College of the Future in Newcastle West, County Limerick. Following a robust evaluation process, the ETB is now being given approval to move to the Pre-Tender stage of development - Project Design, Planning and Procurement Strategy. Government funding worth tens of millions of euros will provide for the construction of a new state-of-the-art FET Campus facility at Station Road in Newcastle West. This new infrastructure will allow for the consolidation and integration of the further education and training provision that the ETB provides in the West Limerick region. The proposed Campus will feature fit-for-purpose, digitally enabled facilities to enhance accessibility and education pathways while promoting local development. It will also facilitate the expansion of the range of certified programmes available and introduce new employment-themed initiatives to meet workforce needs.
- Learners' achievements and success were celebrated at their Graduation ceremony on the 23rd of October at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Limerick. The hard work, dedication and commitment of the learners and tutors was recognised at this ceremony. This was a great day for all, and Patrick O'Donovan TD also attended this special occasion.
- In order to promote FET to the local community in West Limerick, a radio interview on the local radio station West Limerick 102FM took place. This was a great opportunity to create more awareness of FET and discuss the wide variety of FET courses available at Campuses in West Limerick. The excellent work that is carried out by highly skills tutors and the importance of FET to the local community were highlighted throughout the interview. Listeners were encouraged to enrol on one of the upcoming courses and continue their lifelong learning journey.
- As part of plans to create FET Pathways from School, a 6-week Woodcraft course has started for a group of teenagers at Abbeyfeale Campus. The learners will gain valuable trade / craft skills to enhance their future employment options, and it is hoped to provide more educational opportunities over the coming months to enable this group to progress on their learning journey.

- Local Community Education groups in West Limerick continue to be supported. Two courses have recently started for the Shanagolden Womens' Shed at Shanagolden Campus. These courses include a Cookery course and a Woodturning course. The Womens' Shed members are really enjoying their courses and have given positive feedback about the benefits and importance of Community Education.
- As part of Positive Ageing Week last month, a local community event was attended to celebrate the contributions of older people and emphasise the positive aspects of ageing. This event was organised by West Limerick Resources and was held at St. Ita's Community Hall in Abbeyfeale. It was great to attend this event with the local community. During our discussion with the attendees, more awareness of Further Education and Training was created and how it can help support local community groups, such as Active Retirement Groups, Womens' Shed and Mens' Shed groups and many more.
- As part of the commitment to enhance learners' educational experience, a group of Art learners from Abbeyfeale Campus went on an exciting educational trip to see 'The Book of Kells' at Trinity College, Dublin. This educational experience was part of their art course to help them learn more about this masterpiece of Celtic art and the unique art style that was used to decorate such manuscripts during this time. The learners all had a very enjoyable day and gained valuable knowledge and information that will be of great benefit to them during their art course.

College of FET, Kilmallock Town Campus

- On October 11th, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Patrick O'Donovan TD visited the Campus. He spoke with the full-time Employability QQI L3 group, full-time Office Administration class. He also met Early Learning and Care learners, Community groups in Cooking, Gardening and Woodwork.
- Learners from the Office Administration Course & eBusiness courses who finished in June 2024, have secured employment in a local cheese making factory and offices in Limerick City. Two learners have progressed to L6 Advanced Administration and Mobile Technologies at Mulgrave Street Campus.
- Employability with English Language Supports Course, Level 3, continues to be popular with Ukrainians and Brazilians living in Bruff, Charleville and Kilmallock. This course is a joint initiative with full-time and part-time provision in Kilmallock, through the provision of teaching hours.
- On October 24th a Bring Your Own Food event was organised as part of Mental Health month. This was very successful.
- On October 25th, a large group of learners attended the College of FET graduation. Awards were presented in Level 5 - Healthcare, eBusiness and Information Processing;
- Collaboration continues with St Joseph's Foundation and its learners across a range of programmes.

College of FET, Mulgrave Street Campus

- A very successful Health and Well-being week took place in October. There was great involvement from the different class groups partaking in and providing the various

activities/events. Activities varied from healthy food stalls, information sessions, consent talks, mental health workshops and various fun events.

- As part of the College of FET graduation, Mulgrave Street Campus had its graduation on October 24th with over 300 graduates attending along with their families and friends. These were two wonderful ceremonies with over a 100 people attending throughout the day.

College of FET, Moyross Youth Academy Campus

- Staff introduced “Learner of the Month” and “Most Improved Learner” awards.
- 4 Learners have started studying for their Driver Theory Test.
- Learners completed Manual Handling and Safe Pass training. They received an Induction to the Green Innovation Centre in Roxboro and went on to complete the one-day NZEB Fundamental course. Learners completed a 10km walk in Cratloe Wood in collaboration with staff in MYA as part of Pathways to Construction Personal Effectiveness Programme. Learners continue to attend the MYA gym, two mornings per week as part of a collaboration with the Pathways to Construction course.
- Staff had a trade stand to promote the Pathways to Construction course at St Mary’s Park Jobs Fair and showcased a simulator machine. Staff met with representatives from the Limerick Chamber of Commerce, who visited the Campus, and explained how the Pathways to Construction course operates. They also met with an employer who is interested in joining the Work Placement Programme. Three staff members completed Fire Warden Training and other staff members completed First Aid refresher course and NZEB Ventilation (Design, Installation and Commissioning) course.

College of FET, Green Innovation Campus

- Two instructors based at the College of FET, Green Innovation Campus, attended training at the Siga Training Academy, Siga Headquarters, Ruswil, Switzerland on Wednesday, 10th October 2024. Siga, the leading supplier, in the world, of Airtightness invited them both to attend their fully funded three-day training course in their training facility that is located in their manufacturing and research and development factory near Lucerne in Switzerland. Over the three days they received a tour of the facility, and they gained invaluable information and training to support them in delivering NZEB Courses at the Green Innovation Campus.

College of FET, Ennis Campus

Core Skills

- Integrating Literacy in Adult and Further Education course (QQI Level 6 South East Technological University) took place over four days in Kilmallock Road Campus in September and October. Approximately 20 tutors from different campuses and provisions, took part. There were five Core Skills tutors from Clare participating in that course. The course was very informative and is highly recommended for anyone working in Adult Education sector.
- In support of Mental Health Ireland’s World Mental Health Month, October 2024, College of FET Scariff’s Core Skills and Community Education programmes collaborated with Employability Clare, Clare Library Service and Dept. of Social Protection in the organisation of

Scariff's Connect Café delivering a range of workshops on Healthy Eating, Engaging your Senses through Gardening, Library Services and Healthy Clare;

- English for Speakers of Other Languages Literacy Class in Ennis, is a female group which has grown to 10 this year, with the emphasis on speaking and writing. Having a dedicated Literacy classroom has made a huge difference to this class. The learners consult the sight literacy posters in the classroom. They are now in the habit of making connections with the printed word. This is a literacy practice that they didn't have when they joined the class. The learners are now using their phones to take pictures outside of the classroom. This forms the basis for class discussions, asking and answering questions of each other.
- Learners from different countries that attend this class constantly talk about coming to class being the highlight of their week. They get to share their news with each other in English. They support each other through bereavement and the many life situations. This is vital for these lower skilled learners to prevent isolation in their houses and provides a connection with the wider community.

College of FET, Shannon Campus

- Shannon Campus has a plan to deliver specific skills training to 450 learners in areas such as driving, rigid, artic and forklift. This target is on course with 413 learners on various SST courses. Shannon F-Gas Training has recently won a training award by the Institute of Refrigeration Ireland.
- There is a plan to deliver traineeship training to over 220 learners in 2024. This is behind target with 126 registered for traineeships. A second Aircraft Maintenance Technician Traineeship started on 14th October.
- All electrical workshops are now completed in Kilmallock Road Campus. Courses are scheduled for all workshops. The recruitment of Electrical Instructors is on hold as there are signs that the electrical backlog is reducing.
- **FET Pathways from School:** this Campus has a stretch target to deliver TY taster courses to over 400 Transition year students in 2024. This target is on course with 355 learners registered to date. Shannon Campus has extended the range of courses offered to TY students and is also offering taster courses in workshops in Kilmallock Road Campus.
- **Evening Course Provision:** this Campus has a stretch target of 2,000 certified learners for Evening Provision in 2024. This target is on course as 1,551 learners are registered to date. The evening courses on offer all carry certification.

College of FET, Raheen Campus

- 70 Traineeship learners graduated at the College of FET conferring ceremonies held at the Radisson Blu Hotel, on Oct 23rd and 24th. Learners had graduated in Motor Technology, Welding, Hairdressing, Customer Service, Workboat Master and Beauty. All of these groups have successfully gained employment.
- Three of the hairdressing instructors were awarded Advanced Certificate in Hairdressing through RPL on 24th October. That means all Hairdressing Apprenticeship and Traineeship Instructors at Raheen Campus have now attained this recognition.

- Raheen Campus is developing an Xplore Hub where the doors are opened to a world of innovation and exploration for prospective learners. The Hub offers a unique platform, for curious minds to explore the latest advancements in technology, engage in stimulating activities, and get a first-hand look at a range of interesting topics and courses available. The Xplore Hub has now welcomed over 90 testers to try out the various workshops designed for Pathways from School to FET learners. Feedback from our second level testers and their science and maths teachers was extremely positive. It is hoped to welcome three groups per week to the Xplore Hub.
- Raheen Campus has developed a new traineeship in Youth Work in partnership with local youth group partners. The first of its kind in the region, local youth group partners will provide three months of work experience as well as likely employment opportunities. This course was developed to help address the shortage of Youth Workers in the region and nationally. It is scheduled to have first intake in Jan 2025.
- Congratulations to Raheen Campus's Hairdressing Apprenticeship Instructor Margaret Curtin, who has been selected as a finalist for the Educator of the Year category in the Professional Beauty, Hair & Spa awards UK & Ireland 2024. Typically, finalists in this competition tend to be high profile individuals or private colleges/academies, so being selected to represent College of FET, Raheen Campus, is actually a win for all FET Campuses nationally. The entry process was via an extensive application form that was judged by a panel of experts from PBHJ Magazine UK. Margaret's objective was to promote the delivery of the hairdressing apprenticeship within the College of FET and to raise the profile of hairdressing educators within industry. She says *'It's a privilege to highlight the dedication and effort that goes into supporting and encouraging our apprentices throughout their apprenticeship journeys at our Raheen and Ennis Campuses.'*

Music Generation Clare

- Music Generation Clare instrumental hub classes are currently all working towards their end of term performance. As well as individual hub classes from Ennis, Ennistymon, Killaloe, Kilrush and Shannon, the Harp Ensemble and Trad Groups have also been invited to perform at this end of term show. The performance will take place in St Columba's Church, Ennis at 7pm on Wednesday 18th December.
- Irish Concertina Orchestra (ICO) continue to meet on Saturdays for rehearsals as they work towards their annual show which will take place in Glór, Ennis in May 2025. New uniforms for all ICO students and tutors have just been delivered and a photo shoot of the group has been organised to take place on Saturday 23rd November. The photos taken will be used to promote the Orchestra for their upcoming performances.

Outdoor Education & Training Centres, The Burren and Kilfinane

- Full autumn programmes continue for Transition Years and Geography field studies;
- Programmes delivered and planned for FET learners;
- Building works at OETV, Kilfinane, underway to replace sports hall roof, windows and doors and improve access and egress for all users. Funding secured from SOLAS for staff accommodation project.

Support Services

Information, Recruitment & Guidance

- IRGSS attended Jobs Fair in Clayton Hotel in collaboration with Department of Social Protection;
- IRGSS attended Jobs Fair in St Mary's Park;
- Participants on Regeneration Equine Programme proceeded to work in Equine Industry;
- IRGSS participated in Retail Skills Evening in the Crescent Shopping Centre in collaboration with Mid-West Regional Skills.

Enterprise Engagement (EE)

- IT Skills Training commenced with ORTEC in Newcastle West;
- EE attended the launch of SOLAS Green Skills Strategy;
- EE to advertise a suite of Green Skills Programmes under Skills to Advance for November and December;
- Ongoing Skills Training with Atlantic Aviation under Skills to Advance;
- Film in Limerick launched new production in Royal Cinema, Limerick.

8. Finance Report

The Financial Report and on the proposal of Mr. Sean McMahon and seconded by Cllr. Gabriel Keating.

9. For Appointment to Boards of Management.

The Appointment of Nominees to Boards of Management and Committees on the proposal of Ms. Ann Norton and seconded by Cllr. Noreen Stokes.

10. AOB with the permission of the Chairperson

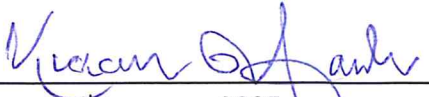
None.

The meeting concluded with Cllr. Kieran O'Hanlon, Chairperson, making a presentation to the Concern All-Ireland winning debating team, Aisling O'Connor, Amy O'Gorman, Regina Burke, Lucy O'Gorman and their Teacher, Ms. Catherine Shanahan and Principal, Mr. Brendan Burke from Hazelwood College, Dromcollogher, Co. Limerick.

Date of next meeting: Scheduled for Tuesday, 21st January, 2025.

Donncha O'Treasaigh
Acting Chief Executive.

Chairperson:


21st January, 2025