

2023 KCETB ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



A selection of students and staff members representing the breadth of KCETB services announcing details of activities for ETB Week (27 Feb -3 March).

2022/23: A decade celebrated as KCETB marks 10 years

The 2022/23 academic year is one that will be remembered as the long-awaited full return to normality.

And we fully embraced the return! Awards ceremonies, showcase events, exhibitions, open days, retirement celebrations, official openings, launches, conferences, school tours and sporting events were some of the initiatives that contributed to a packed calendar over the last 12 months.

It was also the year during which we marked ten years since our establishment with a week-long celebration of students and staff, showcasing the services KCETB provides to 15,000 learners annually across Kilkenny and Carlow.

KCETB is grateful to our committed and dedicated teachers, co-ordinators and staff who have gone above and beyond to help make the challenges of the last few years a memory, who contributed to this milestone year for our organisation, and who remind us of the importance of interaction and of being connected.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine



Musicians from Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown who performed at the ETBI Annual Conference

Continued on pages 2 & 4



Dr. Johanna Fitzgerald, Mary Immaculate College facilitating inaugural SENCO Community of Practice, with Dr. Pauline Egan, Director of Schools KCETB



Ormonde College graduation night



KCVS student Tariq Aziz meets Minister Norma Foley at the ETBI Conference 2022



Minister Simon Harris addresses the ETBI Conference 2022 in Tullow



Michaela Walsh (Windgap) and Denise Gallagher (Mullinahone) at the BTEI Kilkenny awards ceremony



Director of FET Martha Bolger, VTOS Kilkenny Co-ordinator Geraldine Moran and Adult Education Officer Bernadette O'Rourke admire the KCETB logo created by the VTOS students at the 10th Annual VTOS Kilkenny Woodcarving Exhibition



KCETB Student of the Year Awards 2022



KCETB Director of FET Martha Bolger; Minister Simon Harris; KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis and SOLAS CEO Andrew Brownlee at the announcement of the Kilkenny FET College.



As we reach the end of the 2022/23 academic year, we can look back with joy, gratitude – and a sense of relief – at a year that saw a full return to on-site learning for schools, centres and services. We embraced the return enthusiastically and, with it, the population of a busy calendar of events. We returned to sporting fixtures, concerts, plays, awards ceremonies, open days, learner events, VIP visits, and so much more as we reconnected with what we had missed during the pandemic.

This return to normality is evident in the content of this year's newsletter which documents our collective activities over the last 12 months. The pages ahead reflect the richness and diversity of life across our organisation, the talent and commitment of our students, the dedication of our staff, the pursuit of excellence, the joy of being connected, and the fruits of learning and achievement. Many thanks to everyone for their contribution to its content.

During this academic year, KCETB marked ten years since its establishment with the inaugural ETB Week, culminating in ETB Day. As well as showcasing the services we provide to 15,000 students annually across Kilkenny and Carlow, it was an opportunity to highlight the work of our staff, the talents of our students and the many rich learning experiences which take place in schools and centres each year. It also served as a reminder of what we have achieved as an organisation and our *raison d'être*: that we are, first and foremost, a learning organisation with a core belief that education has the power to change lives and build communities.

Last October, we welcomed our new chairperson, Cllr. Fergal Browne, and our new deputy chairperson, Cllr. Andrea Dalton. We also published and launched our new Strategy Statement 2022- 2026 which sets out a series of goals and objectives to guide the future direction of our organisation. The future is bright for KCETB as we continue to expand our student numbers, extend our services, improve our school buildings and facilities and progress new opportunities such as the Kilkenny FET College of the Future.

The assistance of the KCETB board and committee members, and the guidance of our many boards of management, have been much appreciated. I thank you for your support during the year. I also extend my sincere gratitude to all our directors, management and administrative teams, and our staff across our schools, centres and services. Your great work is valued and appreciated.

As we reach the end of the academic year, we wish all our students well in their examinations and extend our gratitude to our retiring staff for their service. Your contribution has helped shape the lives of so many young, and not-so-young students, and assisted our ambition to ensure that they *Flourish through Learning with KCETB*.

Go raibh maith agaibh.

Eileen Curtis

Chief Executive

Welcome



KCETB retirement event in October 2022



Launching the KCETB Statement of Strategy 2022-2026



BTEI Carlow Awards Night



VTOS Kilkenny Woodturning Exhibition



Minister Simon Harris with the KCETB team at the ETBI Conference 2022



Music Generation Kilkenny SING OUT primary school choir in concert at St. Canice's Cathedral



VTOS Kilkenny Awards Night



Minister Simon Harris at Grennan Equestrian Centre with Director of FET Martha Bolger and Chief Executive Eileen Curtis

OSD News: KCETB bids farewell to Jacinta and Doreen after 88 years of service



At the retirement event for Jacinta O'Toole and Doreen Ryan, from left: KCETB CE Eileen Curtis; Doreen Ryan; former CE Cynthia Deane; former CEO Larry Kavanagh and Jacinta O'Toole.

KCETB bade farewell recently to two of its longest-serving staff members, Jacinta O'Toole and Doreen Ryan, who have retired after a combined service of 88 years.

Colleagues, past and present, gathered in April to pay tribute to Jacinta and Doreen and to wish them well in the next exciting and rewarding phase of their lives.

Director of OSD Liam Scott pointed out that Jacinta and Doreen are two of the longest-serving staff members in the entire ETB sector and that this achievement, and their dedication and commitment, deserved to be celebrated. He said both Jacinta and Doreen had trained numerous staff members over the years and imparted a huge amount of knowledge, expertise and experience, adding, "Never was so much learnt by so many from so few."

Chief Executive Eileen Curtis and Theresa Sheehan, from the Human Resources Department, spoke about how valued and loved Jacinta and Doreen were by their colleagues and how they were instrumental in developing the vibrant, productive and friendly culture in KCETB.

The entire management and staff of KCETB extends its thanks, appreciation and best wishes to Jacinta and Doreen in next phase of their lives. Beir bua agus beannacht.



Ten-year milestone marked as KCETB celebrated inaugural ETB Week



Hospitality showcase at Gowran Park for ETB Week

KCETB marked ten years since it was established in February with a week-long celebration of its students and staff, showcasing the services it provides to 15,000 learners annually across Kilkenny and Carlow.

The inaugural ETB Week (27 Feb- 3 March), culminating in ETB Day on Thursday 2 March, saw KCETB and other education and training boards around the country host events across their schools, offices and centres. KCETB started and finished ETB week with two celebratory events: a launch at Tyndall College for staff and stakeholders in tandem with an

outside broadcast from KCLR96FM on Monday 27 February, and a series of staff tea parties in different centres, schools and offices to conclude the week on Friday 3 March.

In between, there were several initiatives to showcase KCETB and its services. They included: a training opportunities event for hospitality employers and learners at KCETB's Hospitality Academy in Gowran; a workshop for guidance counsellors on KCETB's educational provision at the Hoban Hotel; and a family learning event, including the launch of Special Purpose Awards, at the Lord Bagenal



CE Eileen Curtis opens ETB Week for KCETB

Inn. The ethos of KCETB schools was highlighted at a special event in Borris Vocational School on 1 March, culminating in the opening of its new ASD unit. Separately, learners across



KCETB launch of ETB Week



CE Eileen Curtis and Chairman Fergal Browne on KCLR for ETB Week



ETB Hero Michael Farrell with KCETB Chairman Fergal Browne



Learner Voice event for ETB Week

KCETB's Further Education and Training Service (FET) celebrated and had their voices heard at a special Learner Voice initiative on Tuesday 28 February in the Dolmen Hotel Carlow.

Schools, centres and offices marked ETB Week with their own events and initiatives. There were wonderful school events showcasing the KCETB ethos, including a digital photography competition. The staff parties across schools and centres brought colleagues together to mark shared achievements and work friendships.

National events and initiatives included: the first ETB Excellence Awards in Croke Park hosted by RTE newsreader Ray Kennedy, the launch of a competition to establish an ETB anthem, and an inspiring ETB Heroes media campaign featuring five former and current learners and staff who have excelled in their chosen field and who represent the best of what ETBs do. One of the heroes in the campaign is Kilkenny City Vocational School teacher Michael Farrell who features in one of the videos with his former student Alauddin.

A hat-trick for KCETB at Excellence Awards!

KCETB scored a hat-trick at the inaugural ETB Excellence Awards, taking home three awards from eight nominations.

KCETB took the ETB Excellence Award for Respect for its Building Restorative School Communities initiative. Abbey Community College took the runner-up award in the same category for its Respect Week campaign. And the ETB Gradam Sármhaitheasa sa Ghaeilíochas (Award for Excellence in Gaelic Education) was awarded to Sean Holt, a sixth-year student in Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach, for his "passionate commitment to and support of the Irish language".

The other KCETB initiatives and people who were shortlisted for awards were: Doreen Ryan (Excellence in Organisation Support and Development Award); Shane Fallon, Scoil Aireagail (Excellence in Education Award); KCETB Quality



Hat-trick! KCETB winners at the ETB Excellence Awards in Croke Park

Assurance Team (Excellence in FET Award); Kilkenny Adult Learning Centre (Excellence in Care Award) and St Catherine's Community Services, Carlow (Excellence in Respect Award).

Chief Executive Eileen Curtis commented, " Our first ETB Week has been a huge success, both locally and nationally, for KCETB. Our objective for ETB Week, through our schedule

of events, was to showcase the staff, students and initiatives that are at the centre of what we do as an organisation and this was evident throughout the week with wonderful feedback from the communities that we serve. It was particularly gratifying to see our staff and initiatives recognised nationally at the ETB Awards."

Abbey Community College

Respect is key to life in the Abbey



Abbey Community College Principal Michelle Jefford addresses the school community at the whole-school liturgy service

Learning and Teaching

In August 2022, Abbey Community College welcomed back over 1,000 students and staff. In September, the achievements of the Class of 2022 were celebrated when they received their Leaving Certificate results. It was with great pride that Abbey Community College celebrated its Student of the Year 2022, Glenn Crowe, at the KCETB Student of the Year Ceremony.

As a school community, the academic year began with a whole-school liturgy. The theme chosen was *Our Umbrella* - representing shelter and protection. Through prayers and reflections, Fr O'Shea, students and staff highlighted the importance of looking out for one another.

High-quality learning and teaching continued as a priority for all and, in November, the school welcomed the return of students receiving their Junior Cycle results.

Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities continued to enhance the student experience at Abbey Community College this academic year. Student participation and the student voice, which have informed clubs and activities, allowed the students to succeed, both inside and outside of the classroom. Thank you to all of the Abbey staff who give selflessly of their time to provide opportunities for our students.

Respect is key to life in the Abbey

Students are at the core of all activities at Abbey Community College. Respect Week and the promotion of respectful relationships was an initiative that was introduced as a direct response to how students felt. According to Principal Michelle Jefford, when student voices are heard, listened to and acted upon, our relationships benefit greatly.



Abbey Community College's staff who took part in Halloween Dress Up Day

Respect Week was a huge undertaking for a school of almost 1,000 students. All students were involved in the week's activities and respect was promoted at a whole-school level. Each activity was targeted to promote a different strand of respect: self-respect; respect for others; respect and connect; respect for those less fortunate; respect for differing views; respect for different cultures; respect for different sexual orientation; respect of the diversity of people within the school community. Parents and guardians were informed daily of the activities which took place and encouraged to engage in conversations around these activities at home.

It was a joy to attend the ETB Excellence Awards in Croke Park in March and see Abbey Community College win the runner up Excellence Award for Respect. Winning this award means a great deal to the school community. Respect Week itself was the real success story and its impact on the school community is long lasting.

Kindness and Support for others

Abbey Community College continued to support the community this year by fundraising for important causes

and giving time to help those in need. Waterford Animal Welfare was the chosen charity for the Justice Group's annual Halloween fancy dress event, which raised €1,300. The Student Council teamed up with Waterford Food Bank to 'Fill the Bus' with donations of food for local families at Christmas time. They also raised €1,150 for Juniors for Juniors Foundation, UHW after the annual Christmas Jumper Day. The 'Walk to Zambia' raised €1,000 for Pieta House and the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary sisters in Zambia. In line with the national response to the Turkey-Syria Earthquake, the school community donated €1,689 for the Irish Red Cross. The Great Abbey Bake took place in March, raising €1,242 for the Irish Children's Health Foundation.

Pride and Reflection

Reflecting on this year and acknowledging the efforts of students, staff, parents/guardians, Abbey Community College can be very proud of the school community that continues to live and promote the school ethos with enthusiasm and commitment as we all work Together Towards Excellence.



Pictured after receiving the runner up Excellence Award for Respect at the ETB Excellence Awards in Croke Park, from left: KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis; Ellen Lynch, Abbey Community College Wellbeing Coordinator; Abbey Community College Principal Michelle Jefford; Abbey Community College Deputy Principal Helen O'Connor; KCETB Director of Schools Dr Pauline Egan

Patrons Framework on Ethos launch highlights core value in KCETB Schools



KCETB Ethos Coordinator Conor Walsh of Duiske College talks about the ethos values at the launch of ETB Week

Ethos and core values are fundamental principles that shape an organisation's culture and guide decision-making. In recent years, KCETB has embedded a strong ethos in its schools. All 13 schools have been very proactive in embedding our core values of Respect, Equality, Excellence in Education, Care and Community and this has had a very positive impact on the educational environment and the student experience over the past academic year. Each of the core values are carefully defined in the Patrons Framework on Ethos, a document that was launched nationally this year, and locally in each of our school communities. The statements of effective practice within this framework were communicated to all stakeholders, including staff, students, parents, and the wider community and further help to embed ethos in our schools.

At a local level, every school now has an established ethos lead teacher and an ethos team to support and promote ethos and the core values within their context. This academic year, there was a huge range of events to promote ethos within each school community, many of which culminated during ETB Week (27 February-2 March) that celebrated 10 years of Ireland's

education and training boards. During ETB Week, KCETB schools organised an Ethos Day and the variety and scale of activities was inspiring.

Duiske College launched a CPR4All Programme with the objective of having every student trained in CPR as a link to the core values of care and community. These core values were also part of Scoil Aireagail's and Coláiste Eoin's initiative of a Grandparents Day, and Colaiste Aindriu and Coláiste Cois Siúire each ran a number of inclusive sporting events and well-being initiatives. Also focusing on community, Coláiste Mhuire created a Cultural Carousel and Grennan College ran activities

with St. Columbus's Nursing Home. Abbey Community College rolled out a large-scale RESPECT Week, focusing on this core value while Kilkenny City Vocational School ran fireside chats with a wide variety of members from the school community. Tyndall College provided a breakfast club before an inclusive sports day, and Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach ran a number of art, photography and sporting competitions, valuing excellence in education and equality. Borris Vocational School had the official opening of its new extension and special class, Le Chéile, highlighting equality in its community. Coláiste Pobail Osraí had an array of musical events, focusing on the wider community and excellence in this sphere of education.

The impact of KCETB's commitment to ethos and core values can be seen across its schools where students feel valued and supported, and where there is a strong sense of community. Teachers are empowered to create a positive learning environment and are supported by the leadership team to do so. KCETB's commitment to ethos and core values is also reflected in its strategic plan. The plan outlines the importance of creating a positive and inclusive educational environment and the role of the core values in achieving this.

In conclusion, KCETB's commitment to ethos and core values has had a positive impact on our schools. By embedding these values in our schools, KCETB has created a positive and inclusive educational environment that supports student learning and wellbeing.

Conor Walsh
KCETB Ethos Co-ordinator



Tyndall College students highlight the KCETB core values

BTEI Kilkenny embraces return to in-person events



Antonio Malela Nzunu, Si Si Oo, Donna Marie Dunne and Michael Kingston are pictured at the BTEI Kilkenny awards ceremony in the Springhill Hotel

BTEI Kilkenny rejoiced at the return to in-person events when it celebrated its first learner awards evening since 2019 last November.

The joyful event, held in the Springhill Hotel, saw learners, their families, staff and management collectively acknowledge and celebrate the students' determination and hard work in achieving their awards.

The event was a great success, with many learners travelling from outreach centres to attend the ceremony.

Separately, the BTEI Kilkenny centre launched new courses that have yielded positive outcomes. The sports and recreation programme, as one example, provided learners with the opportunity to enjoy outdoor activities such as paddle boarding and canoeing. Another new course introduced in the last year was Environmental Sustainability Awareness. One student, Thomas Falsey, praised the programme for opening his eyes to the waste produced from a single light bulb and motivated him to make positive

changes to his daily life. The course was a great success and will continue this September.

BTEI Kilkenny's commitment to education and community development was on full display at a special learner celebration event in Kilkenny's Medieval Mile Museum to mark the 2022/23 year. The enthusiasm and positivity was

palpable and all of the attendees – students, potential students and staff – witnessed first-hand the difference that BTEI makes in people's lives.

The centre's dedication to learners and community outreach is commendable, and BTEI Kilkenny will continue to thrive and make a positive impact on individuals and the community in the year ahead.



Michaela Walsh (Windgap) and Denise Gallagher (Mullinahone) at the BTEI Kilkenny awards ceremony



KCETB Community Education Facilitator Siobhan O'Brien with HSE Community Healthcare service users Pat Doherty, Teresa Rochford and William Hanlon in front of their creation 'Mrs Claus' Washing Line' and KCETB Adult Education Officer John O'Neill

Sewing leads the charge for classes at Community Education Service

During the 2022/23 academic year, 1,468 learners participated in classes funded through KCETB's Community Education Service.

Amongst the classes held were: music; art and crafts; art therapy; healthy eating; gardening; exercise; chair dance; sewing, fitness and flower arranging.

Sewing has proven to be one of the most popular courses this year and currently has a waiting list. Kilkenny county libraries host courses on a regular basis following their purchases of sewing machines through the MAEDF grant in 2021

Kilkenny Community Education Service had a number of highlights over the

last 12 months. It collaborated with Kilkenny Civic Trust for the second time last year for its Christmas garden initiative at Butler House in what has become a very fruitful partnership. For 2022, the brief was to make supersize Christmas decorations for the trees in Butler House or a clothes line of Santa's washing. Butler House held a welcome morning for all the learners involved.

The gathering included representatives from Cois Nore whose dreamcatchers in blue, silver and gold were inspired by the Ukrainian community in Ireland. The Rehab group created 'Santa's Wheelchair Sleigh' to highlight positive disability awareness. The HSE group reimagined life in Santa's grotto in the North Pole by creating Mrs Claus'

washing line from recycled materials. The residents of Mount Carmel Care Home painted medieval-style religious icons on plastic using gold paint for halos.

Leeside House made Christmas bells from recycled materials. The Irish Wheelchair Association Callan Community Group and Kilkenny Irish Wheelchair Association Community Shed created a chimney with Santa's legs stuck in it, and a washing line bearing Santa's clothes. The Deenview Inclusive Garden, a group of adults with intellectual disabilities and retired members of the Castlecomer community, fashioned large Christmas baubles from pine cones and old hanging baskets. TASK (Training and Support, Kilkenny) created two

large decorations: a tree of life and a compilation of small circles in Perspex.

Siobhan O'Brien, the community education facilitator for KCETB, liaised with 10 community groups across Kilkenny with each creating a different Christmas-themed contribution for the garden.

The Butler House collaboration got a very special mention in a SOLAS publication marking the work of community education around Ireland in which they described the initiative as "a wonderful project ofdazzling and spectacular pieces of arts created by brilliant community groups".

Over the summer months, a series of Plein Air art classes were held in Kilkenny City in locations such as Butler House Gardens and the Medieval Mile Museum. The Community Education Service also welcomed the return of the DIAGEO Learning for Life programme to Kilkenny where 15 learners received hands-on training for three weeks in tourism and hospitality skills.



Service users of Rehab Care Kilkenny with their work 'Santa's Wheelchair Sleigh'

In 2022, the Community Arts and Culture Grant, and the second round of MAEDF Grant, now known as REACH, provided groups with a chance to purchase much-needed equipment and to participate in community arts projects.

Under the Community Arts and Culture Grant in 2022/2023, 18 groups were successful in receiving € 88,670 in grants and 21 groups received €212,786 under the REACH initiative.

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Santa stuck in the Chimney IWA KK

Kilkenny Youthreach: Sand Art, Stars and Sensory Corner



Sand Art group

When it comes to reflections on 2022/23, it's written on the sand and in the stars for Kilkenny Youthreach, as these highlights show.

Gaisce: Adventure Trip, Sand Art and Volunteering

Learners completed their Gaisce adventure on a long hike of 25km over two days that took in parts of the Waterford Greenway and finished up at the beautiful Kilmurrin Cove. The Copper Coast Hostel was a welcome place of rest following the longest stretch of the walk- 18.5km in one day!

The team prepared for this endeavour with smaller walks earlier in the year in places such as Jenkinstown Woods, Castlemorris Woods and the Barrow Blueway. Day 2 saw the group complete a sand art workshop

with artist Sean Corcoran in Kilmurrin Cove. They created a beautiful piece of land art using materials found on the beach. A time-lapse camera and a drone recorded the event and the video has been widely shared on social media.

An important part of the Gaisce process is community involvement and volunteering. Learners weaved stars for Amber Women's Refuge and raised money for the Irish Cancer society on Daffodil day. Mayor of Kilkenny, Cllr. David Fitzgerald invited the learners to City Hall to recognise their contribution and spoke to them about the value of volunteer work for the wider community in Kilkenny.

Learners have also completed the personal skills requirement by improving their skills in baking, crafts, languages and music, to name a few.



The tree designed by Kilkenny Youthreach in City Hall

They showed great commitment in seeing this challenge out to the end and should be very proud of their endeavours.

Soccer Team

Kilkenny Youthreach soccer was re-established in the past year and the team competed in challenge matches against KCVS and Duiske College. One of the most competitive fixtures was the Regional Youthreach five-a-side blitz in Portlaoise against teams from Portlaoise, Mount Mellick and Banagher Youthreach Centres. Although unsuccessful on the day, it was a great experience. The winners went on to represent the midlands region at the national finals—something for the Kilkenny Youthreach team to aspire to in the future! The highlight of the year for this sporty group was a trip to the Aviva Stadium to see the Republic of Ireland take on Latvia. The big stadium atmosphere was electric and the icing on the cake was the winning result, 3-2 to Ireland!

Sensory Corner

Last year, Kilkenny Youthreach learners topped the mental health category in a nationwide competition called The Big Idea, an achievement made all-the-more special by being the only Youthreach group to enter. The focus of their winning project was on



Five-a-side team



Sensory Corner

creating a space for young people, designed by young people. The judges cited the brave manner in which the team used their own lived experiences to aid their research. As a direct result of this project, Kilkenny Youthreach received funding from KCETB to create a sensory corner at its centre. Learners were involved in the design process, choosing colours for the space and debating the most appropriate equipment to purchase. The result is a calming space that is used daily by learners for some quiet time and by staff offering counselling, one-to-one and other supports.



Kilkenny Youthreach students with Mayor Fitzgerald at City Hall

From a new extension to sporting achievements - it's all happening at Borris Vocational School



Pictured at the opening of the new school extension, from left: KCETB Director of Schools Pauline Egan; BVS Board of Management Chairperson Peter Cleere; KCETB Director of Organisation Support & Development Liam Scott; KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis; KCETB Chairperson, Cllr. Fergal Browne; KCETB Head of Corporate Services, Triona Delaney; BVS Principal Pat Coffey; BVS Acting Deputy Principal Sarah Doyle

Speaking at the ceremony, KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis commented, "This is a significant day for the staff and students at Borris Vocational School and for the Borris community. This new extension reflects the commitment of KCETB and the school management to providing the very best facilities and resources to the students in our care. This facility will serve Borris Vocational School well as it continues to grow and serve the needs of its students and the local community."

Students took a lead part in the celebrations which were coordinated by Acting Deputy Principal, Sarah Doyle.

New Extension

Staff, students and educational partners of Borris Vocational School gathered to officially open the new €1.7million extension on 1 March. The ribbon-cutting honour was undertaken by Cllr. Fergal Browne in his capacity as chairperson of KCETB. Cllr Browne and Eileen Curtis, the chief executive of KCETB, were welcomed to the event by Pat Coffey, the principal of Borris Vocational School. They were joined by Cllr. Peter Cleere, who is chairperson of the school's board of management, Cllr. Tommy Kinsella, and other members of the board of management. Other attendees included KCETB's Director of Schools Dr Pauline Egan, Director of OSD Liam Scott and Head of Corporate Services Triona Delaney who were intrinsically linked to the progress of the project.

A huge part of the new extension is Le Chéile, a welcoming hub for teaching and learning where all are celebrated. The school is delighted with the success of Le Chéile which is coordinated by Catriona Duggan. Its success is attributable to the teaching staff, SNAs, parents and the students all working collaboratively.

Every student at Borris Vocational School has different abilities and aptitudes which are valued in the school through inclusive practices such as encouragement, praise, constructive feedback and development. Over the past two years, nine students have received over 600 points in their Leaving certificate, with two of these receiving maximum points.

Sporting Honours

In other news, the Borris Vocational School Junior Camogie team won the Leinster Colleges title and reached the All-Ireland Final. The students and their management team of Orla Bambury, Siobhán Bollard, Emma Conway and Aoife Prendergast worked hard in the pursuit of their goal. This work ethic included 8am training sessions and after-school sessions. We extend our heartiest congratulations to the girls on their sporting achievements.



Members of Borris Vocational School's Grúpa Cheoil, and their teacher Ms Smithers, who performed during the official opening of the Borris Vocational School extension



Borris Vocational School Junior Camogie Team: Leinster champions and All Ireland finalists

Leading Teaching and Learning

Separately, Borris Vocational School was one of the post-primary schools chosen nationally to partake in a consultation process in relation to the Background Paper and Brief for Senior Cycle SPHE and Senior Cycle Reform. As part of the process, the NCCA consulted with sixth-year students. Members of the Parent's Association and teachers also gave their opinions on curriculum reform. Additionally, the students sent in reviews to the Department of Education for the

next *Government Policy Framework on the Participation of Children and Young People in Decision Making*. Most recently, students gave feedback for the public consultation of the *Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004*.

The school's student council met with senior management in the review of a range of policies this academic year. These included a review of the whole-school guidance plan, the Acceptable Usage Policy and the Code of Behaviour, to name but a few. Borris

Vocational School Student Council acts as an ambassador for ethos and was instrumental in the coordination of Ethos Week 2023.

The school is very proud of the immense contribution of all its educational partners and looks forward to further collaboration to ensure that the core values of excellence in education, respect, care, equality and community are to the forefront of all it does.



Borris Vocational School students who led Ethos Week activities in their school



VTOS Kilkenny

Sadhbh Dunphy (4yrs) from Stoneyford tries out a rocking chair created by Anthony Fitzpatrick at the VTOS Kilkenny 10th Annual Woodcarving Exhibition

VTOS Kilkenny has been a hive of activity in 2022/23, thanks to the welcome return of a full cohort of learners.

QQI authentication

QQI authentication took place at VTOS Kilkenny on 18 November and a wide range of modules were authenticated alongside a positive and encouraging report affirming the hard work of the centre. The examiner found that all teachers are dedicated and skilled in their area of expertise and that the success of the participants should be celebrated.

Awards Night 2022

Awards Night 2022 took place in the Ormonde Hotel on 17 November where the recipients were presented with certificates in QQI, City & Guilds and attendance certificates. It was an occasion to treasure for participants and their families. MC for the occasion was Geraldine Moran VTOS Co-Ordinator who was joined by KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis, KCETB Chairman Fergal Browne,

Director of FET Martha Bolger and Adult Education Officer Bernadette O'Rourke.

Christmas Festivities

In December, the Start your Own Business class put on a Winter Fair that showcased an array of items in the areas of art, craft and design, photography, ceramics and woodcarving. It was a show-stopping event that helped the participants with their entrepreneurial skills.

On 16 December, the Options Level 3 class visited Rothe House and Kilkenny Castle with a Secret Santa gift exchange afterwards in the Pembroke Hotel.

Options 1 Level 3 visited Kilkenny Castle Park and took photographs for their Level 3 Digital Media assignment.

FIT Workshops

FIT is an industry-led initiative that works in collaboration with SOLAS,



Geraldine Moran talks to visitors at the VTOS Kilkenny Stand at the showcase event for adult learners at Kilkenny's Medieval Mile Museum



Bohdan Vasylyshyn from Ukraine with his finished work at the VTOS Kilkenny 10th Annual Woodcarving Exhibition

the ETBs and third-level institutions. A two-day workshop was delivered by Ann Cooper, FIT Training and Development Officer, on 23 and 30 November. This was followed by a one-day workshop in interview preparation in February for all participants. FIT conducted three days of mock interviews in March and all of the participants found the workshops most beneficial.

Student Teacher – Placement

Eimear Fitzpatrick spent four weeks on placement from St Angela's College, Sligo. Eimear was a great addition to the VTOS centre and we hope her placement was an excellent learning experience for her.



Nathan and Mick Barcoe with the wooden loom Mick created that featured in the VTOS Kilkenny 10th Annual Woodcarving Exhibition

Celebrating 10 years of Education and Training Boards

VTOS Kilkenny celebrated ETB Week from 27 Feb to 3 March which marked 10 years of Ireland's education and training boards. On 1 March, VTOS Kilkenny hosted a coffee morning for learners. Later that week, the staff celebrated with a tea party. Overall, it was a superb week of festivities and celebrations.

Aontas Learner Forum

The Aontas Learner forum took place on 28 February in the Woodford Dolmen Hotel and VTOS Kilkenny was represented by six participants who found the Aontas workshops very informative and thought-provoking.

Star weaving at Kilkenny Volunteer Centre

Options 1 participants enjoyed a morning weaving stars for Amber Women's Refuge in Kilkenny. The One Million Stars to End Violence project has grown into an international star-weaving movement. Each star symbolises light, hope and solidarity against violence.

Medieval Mile – FET Learner Celebration

Kilkenny's Medieval Mile Museum was a fitting venue for an impressive showcase event for adult learners organised by KCETB in March. Despite the adverse weather, the venue was a

hive of activity. It was well attended by VTOS participants and a most enjoyable morning was experienced by all.

Woodcarving Exhibition

Workhouse Square at MacDonagh Junction Shopping Centre was the host venue for the 10th Annual VTOS Kilkenny Woodcarving Exhibition that opened on 28 April. The exhibition showcased the talent of VTOS learners who displayed their wood creations.

French at VTOS Kilkenny

Once again, French classes have proven very popular with participants who undertook modules at QQI Level 5 and QQI Level 3. Participants find the classes both relaxing and educational.

Overall, VTOS Kilkenny provides participants with a teaching and learning environment that promotes inclusion and equality for all – a place where everybody flourishes through learning.

A Note of Thanks

VTOS Kilkenny would like to thank its committed and enthusiastic teachers who are passionate about their work and are vital cogs in our wheels of success.

“Ní neart go cur le chéile”



Director of FET Martha Bolger, VTOS Kilkenny Co-ordinator Geraldine Moran and Adult Education Officer Bernadette O'Rourke admire the KCETB logo created by the VTOS students at the 10th Annual VTOS Kilkenny Woodcarving Exhibition



From ETB hero to Junk Couture – Kilkenny City Vocational School ends year on a high

From sharing the staff room with an ETB hero to creating and modelling junk couture – it’s been a jam-packed year for Kilkenny City Vocational School (KCVS) with many highlights.

National ETB Hero

KCVS is delighted and proud that English teacher Michael Farrell was chosen as one of just five ETB heroes and features with KCVS graduate Mohommad Alauddin in a national video campaign for ETB Week. The video introduces the duo as they reconnect and explore Alauddin’s journey from refugee with self-confessed “zero English” to top student and county hurler now

studying accounting and finance at South East Technological University. Michael represents what is best about KCVS and KCETB. His total commitment and dedication to transforming students’ lives for the better is central to all that he and our teachers do on a daily basis. It was a KCVS highlight of the year to have this recognised at national level.

KCVS student panellist at ETBI annual conference

Tariq Aziz, a 6th year student, had the opportunity to participate as a panellist on the second day of the ETBI Annual Conference for a special

discussion on diversity and inclusion. Tariq was born in a refugee camp in Uganda after his family fled war in South Sudan before moving to Ireland with his aunt in 2019. He spoke of his personal experience as a refugee, how he has settled into Kilkenny City Vocational School and what he hopes to do in the future. He was widely praised for his insight and spoke with Minister for Education Norma Foley TD at the conference. Tariq did KCVS and KCETB proud at the ETBI conference when he spoke about his school’s inclusive culture and the strategies and initiatives that made him feel welcome in KCVS and have set him on the path to academic excellence.



Linda McCormack, Michael Farrell, Principal Cathy McSorley and Deirdre Cullen at the launch of ETB Week

Diversity and Inclusion

Diversity and inclusion were further celebrated throughout the school year in KCVS with one of the highlights being KCVS Autism Awareness Week where students took part in an array of activities and workshops that promote autism awareness. KCVS Culture Day was another highlight which celebrated the diversity of cultures and nations shared in the school. In attendance were Ukrainian students who have been welcomed to KCVS for the last two academic years. Students organised a learning event for the school where the various cultures were celebrated through the themes of food, music and dance.

Sports

December heralded the return of the two victorious volleyball teams who were greeted with rapturous applause when they returned to the KCVS campus with their silverware. The senior girls' and boys' teams were both crowned All-Ireland Champions following their tremendous wins at the finals, held in the National Indoor Arena. The teams were further honoured by Mayor David Fitzgerald who held a mayoral reception for them in the Tholsel in January.



The victorious volleyball teams with Principal Cathy McSorley, KCETB Director of Schools Pauline Egan, Mayor David Fitzgerald and KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis.

KCVS leads DEIS School Excellence Project

Following on from the great success of the Green School Initiative and its 7th Global Citizenship Award, KCVS has extended the theme of 'sustainability' and reached out to two feeder primary schools and a KCETB sister school, Duiske College, to further embed the theme of sustainability and the Take One Initiative in KCVS. The theme of *Sustainability in Urban and Rural Settings* has been granted €55,000 from DES under the DEIS School Excellence Kilkenny Cluster Project.



The KCVS Junk Couture team

KCVS was the lead coordinator and is proud of the progress to date and the community links made by working collaboratively on this project.

Ethos Poetry Competition

KCVS students participated in an ethos poetry competition in February of this year. Entries were of a very high standard and captured the essence of the five key values that underpin the school ethos. The staff noted that the students had really reflected on the core values and how the KCETB ethos impacts them on a daily basis. These values are integral to KCVS to ensure the holistic development of all students. The students' entries captured the essence of the five key values that underpin the KCVS ethos of Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect and now feature in the KCVS Book of Poetry 2023 that was sent to every member of the school community.

Junk Kouture Finalists

The three school entrants to the Junk Couture competition each progressed to the regional finals and one entry – *Spikes Yikes* – was selected to compete in the national final of Junk Kouture on 4 May. KCVS hosted 250 primary school students at its Junk Kouture catwalk event at which TY Students facilitated arts and crafts workshops for all the primary school visitors. The catwalk show on the day featured the three entries: *Spanish Dancer*, which was created by international students Claudia ; *Megan's Engineering Angel*, highlighting the under-representation of women in the engineering industry; and All-Ireland finalist Zoe Sokal who took her inspiration from the film industry and the money wasted each year in re-creating and reprofiling Hollywood characters. Zoe based her entry on *The Joker* and reprofiled the character by reusing and recycling waste materials at zero cost.



Primary School visitors to KCVS

Music Generation Kilkenny



Music Generation Kilkenny young string performers from Kilkenny School Project Strings with Musician Educator Carl Rochford performing during 'SING OUT' at St. Canice's Cathedral

20% of Kilkenny children under 18yrs took part in Music Generation Kilkenny in 2022

Music Generation Kilkenny continued to grow in 2022/23 with almost 6,000 children and young people participating in its programme. One-in-five Kilkenny children under 18 years-of-age took part in a Music Generation programme in 2022, with 4,226 hours of performance music education delivered to children and young people in the county.

Within this programme, Music Generation Kilkenny delivered toddler music workshops, rhythm workshops, youth drumming workshops, song-writing and sound production workshops. Its musicians participated in *Bookville Kilkenny*, *Yulefest Kilkenny*, *Cruinniú na nÓg*, *St. Patrick's Day Kilkenny Festival* and partnered/collaborated with *Foróige*, *Na Píobairí Uilleann*, *The Kilkenny Pipers Club*, *Kilkenny County Childcare Committee*, *Kilkenny County Library Service*, *Festival of light Castlecomer* and *Kilkenny Civic Trust*, to name a few.

Within this jam-packed programme, here are some highlights:

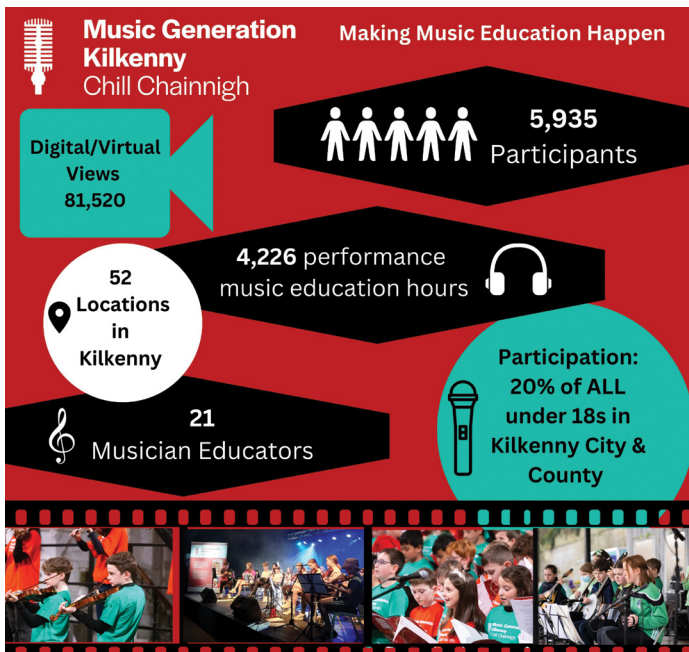
- Primary school playgrounds came alive to the sound of samba drumming when 2,122 children participated in 'Summer Drummers' across 14 primary schools in Kilkenny city and county. Schools will run the programme again in June.
- 'Sounds of Summer' saw 40 young violinists from the primary school string programme and young drummers, singers and guitarists from the Creative Music Space perform in the stunning setting of Butler Garden, for a series of outdoor concerts. This series of

concerts is a highlight of the Music Generation Kilkenny calendar and is due to return in June 2023 for another series

- Young Ukrainian and Irish musicians took part in a Hip Hop/Rap workshop resulting in the catchy song 'Mentura' being written and performed by the young participants, in English and Ukrainian. Don't miss this wonderful collaboration on the Music Generation Kilkenny youtube channel: www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0gY8ztXCbk
- In December 2022, young musicians from the Creative Music Space entertained on the festival bandstand in 'Jingle Bell Rockout' in what is becoming an annual community event for our young musicians.
- SING OUT – Singing in a Winter Wonderland. In the six weeks leading up to Christmas, children from primary schools in Kilkenny prepared a programme of festive songs with musician educators Barbara Kelly and Clare Kilkenny who visited the schools weekly in the lead-up to the concert.



Young Music Generation Kilkenny student at one of its workshops



Music Generation Kilkenny Statistical data 2022/23

Joining them onstage were the young musicians from the Kilkenny School Project strings programme. This programme of whole-class violin began in primary schools just after the pandemic and has gone from strength to strength, with children learning violin from 3rd – 6th class. There are currently 488 children learning violin across the schools participating in the primary school string programme, led by Musician Educators Carl Rochford and Maria Ryan. Performing alongside young musicians from the Creative Music Space, and the SING OUT CHOIR of almost 200 children, they performed to a sold-out concert at St. Canices' Cathedral, Kilkenny.

Currently, Music Generation Kilkenny runs partnership programmes in:

- 23 primary schools across five strands: vocal, ukulele, string, percussion and the 'Music Makers' programme aimed at junior infants to second class pupils. This strong foundation supports the progression of children and young people into Music Generation Kilkennys' after-school music hubs and will continue to support hub programme planning and development in 2023.



'Tradsession@the Tower' – Young musicians from TradHub Castlecomer getting ready to perform at St. Canice's Cathedral for St. Patrick's Day Kilkenny Festival.

- Secondary schools delivering small group tuition on acoustic guitar, electric guitar, mandolin, banjo, and piano/keyboard in addition to a TY programme.
- SEN programme - an inclusive music programme in two school settings in Kilkenny City.

Music Generation Kilkenny runs after-school music hubs for young people who want to learn an instrument or explore their singing skills in a group setting. These include:

Creative Music Space

An after-school rock and pop music hub run in partnership with Foróige at the DRUM, MacDonagh Shopping Centre on Thursdays delivering small group lessons in ukulele, acoustic guitar, electric guitar, drums and singing.



Music Generation Kilkenny SING OUT primary school choir in concert at St. Canice's Cathedral

Trad Hub & Ensemble

This meets every Monday after school in Castlecomer. It provides an opportunity for young traditional players of primary school age to get involved in fun weekly lessons and performance opportunities. Instruments played include fiddle, bodhrán, concertina, whistle, flute and banjo.

Uilleann Pipe Hub

A blended mix of online and in-person tuition every Tuesday and Wednesday in Kilkenny City. In September, Music Generation Kilkenny presented 'Try the Pipes' at the Parade Tower, Kilkenny in partnership with Na Píobairí Uilleann and Kilkenny Pipers Club. Young Uilleann Pipers from the programme can be heard in a captivating performance called 'Uilleann Pipe Dreams' on the Music Generation Kilkenny YouTube channel. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lckK7OrUWgw>

Music Generation Kilkenny is part of Music Generation, Ireland's national music education programme, initiated by Music Network and co-funded by U2, The Ireland Funds, the Department of Education and local music education partnerships. Locally, Music Generation Kilkenny is led by KCETB in partnership with Kilkenny County Council.

Carlow Institute student show sells out at VISUAL



As Carlow Institute gets ready to say goodbye to its student cohort of 2022/23, it has many highlights to savour.

A standout moment this academic year was the two sold-out evening shows and a matinée performance at Carlow's Visual Arts Centre in March when the performing arts and music performance students presented DREAM, an evening of theatre and music.

The wonderful performances were expertly captured by students from the Institute's film making and directing course.

Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was brought to life by the performing arts students under the watchful eye of their coordinator, Anna Galligan. The students engaged in a comedy of four interweaving stories of love, jealousy and what happens when fairies play with the world of mortals. Attendees saw the Duke of Athens plan his wedding, four lovers having trouble figuring out who loves whom, an amateur theatre troupe stage a play and the King and Queen of the Fairies, Oberon and Titania, locked in a battle of wits, words and magical pranks.

This was followed by *Scattered Light*, a live music performance featuring an eclectic mix of sounds, from Fleetwood Mac to Billie Eilish and Queen to Christina Aguilera. There was also the delight of hearing original material written by the music performance students. The audience rocked along for ninety minutes to powerful performances of classics such as AC/DC's *Thunderstruck*, Nina Simone's *Feeling Good* and The Darkness' *I Believe in a Thing Called Love*.

One student commented afterwards, "It was an amazing experience performing in a professional environment with a top-notch sound and lighting team. It gave me a real



insight into a variety of careers such as performance, event production, stage management and sound engineering.”

Anna Galligan, who teaches performing arts and drama studies said of the productions, “The opportunity provided by the Institute’s relationship with a professional venue such as VISUAL is priceless. The students get to work in a professional environment supported by a professional technical and theatre management team. They have a real-life authentic experience of what it is to work on a professional theatre production and live event. The experience cannot be replicated in the classroom. The students see their learning come to fruition in a real-world experience.”

The last word goes to one of the performing arts students who, playing on the name of this year’s production, said, “I have never been more ready to follow my DREAM after doing this course.”

Carlow Institute provides full-time courses to over 800 students at Levels 5 and 6. It offers 60 courses spread across five faculties: business; creative arts; humanities, social and health; sports and service industries; technology and science. Carlow Institute aims to make education as accessible and affordable as possible. Tuition, registration, examination and awarding body costs are all free.



Ignatio Barbe, Film Making and Directing course

KCETB Youth Office

In 2022/23, KCETB Youth Office has worked to support the provision, co-ordination, administration and assessment of youth work in Kilkenny and Carlow in partnership with local youth work providers Carlow Regional Youth Services, Ossory Youth Services and Foroige DRUM Youth Project.

KCETB has continued to promote youth work as a valuable non-formal educational approach and highlight the significant role and responsibility that the youth work sector plays in providing innovative, responsive and inclusive programmes, supports and services to young people.

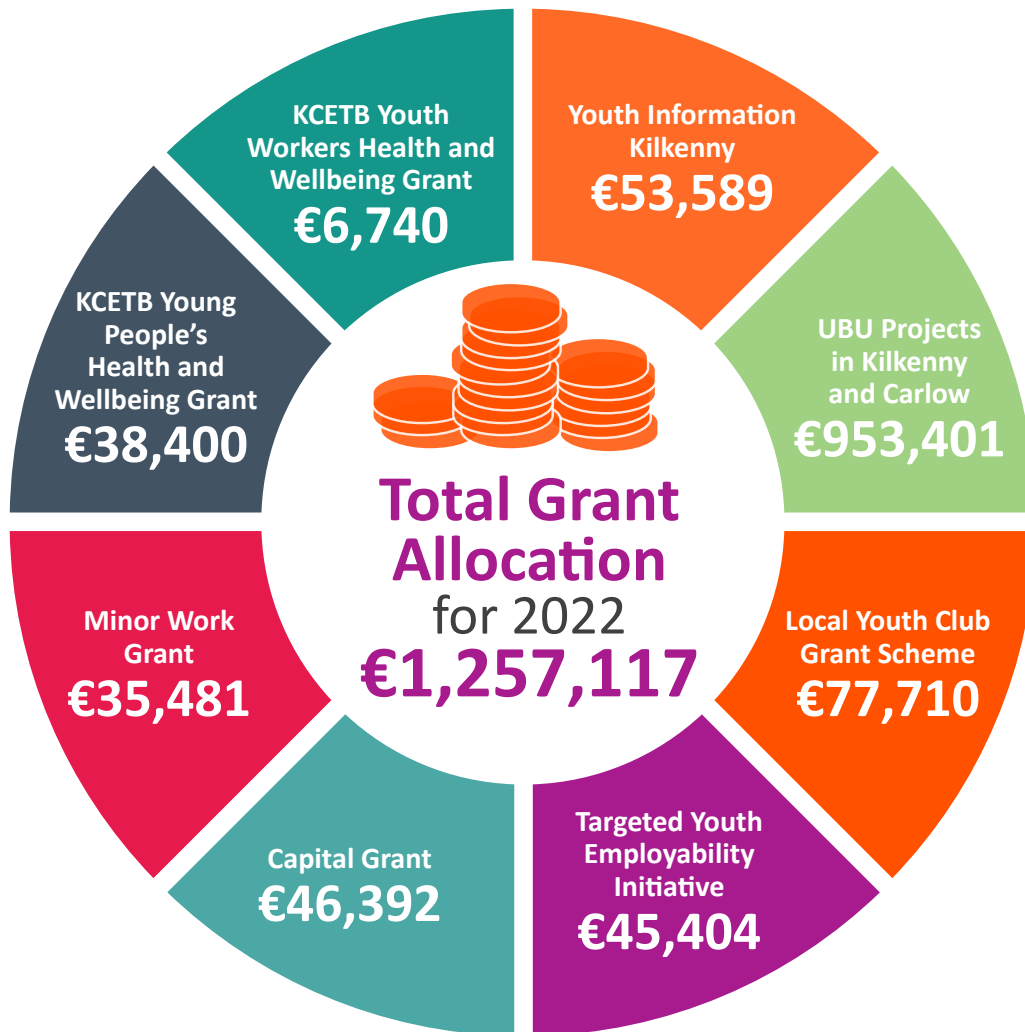
Funding to local youth service providers:

In 2022, KCETB Youth Office was responsible for the administration, governance and oversight of over €1.2 million in funding from the Department of Children,

Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY) to local youth services and local voluntary youth clubs. This was undertaken through eight different grant schemes.

This funding directly benefited young people in Kilkenny and Carlow through their participation and engagement in a variety of youth work supports, programmes and initiatives run by Carlow Regional Youth Service, Ossory Youth Services, Foróige DRUM Youth Project and local voluntary youth clubs.

In January, KCETB Youth Office announced that over €1.2 million will be pledged to youth services and voluntary youth clubs in Kilkenny and Carlow in 2023 to provide innovative, responsive and inclusive youth work programmes, supports and services for young people.



Graph highlighting the range of grants and amounts allocated to youth service providers across Kilkenny and Carlow in 2022.

Launch of the Youth Office Profile for Kilkenny and Carlow 2022/23

Earlier this year, KCETB Youth Office launched the publication Youth Office Profile 2022/23. It highlights the range of UBU youth projects funded through KCETB and operated locally by local youth work organisations alongside an overview of the various grant initiatives funded through KCETB on behalf of the DCEDIY in 2022. The Profile also reflects the mission of the Youth Affairs Unit in DCEDIY

Pictured at the launch of the Youth Office Profile 2022/23 publication, from left: KCETB Director of Further Education and Training Martha Bolger; KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis; KCETB Youth Officer (Carlow) Mairead Donohoe; KCETB Youth Officer (Kilkenny) Saoirse Prendergast; KCETB Youth Office Support Worker Brigid Keating; KCETB Adult Education Officer Sarah Barron



Launch of the Youth Office Promotional Video Campaign

KCETB Youth Office launched a series of youth work promotional videos this year highlighting the role and responsibility of KCETB in relation to youth work services and projects across Kilkenny and Carlow. The videos showcase the value and benefits of youth work from the perspective of young people, youth workers and youth work organisations and were broadcast across KCETB's social media platforms.



KCETB meeting with Dingfen Zhong Assistant Principal, Youth Affairs Unit, DCEDIY

DCEDIY visit to KCETB

In October, Dingfen Zhong, who is assistant principal officer in the Youth Affairs Unit at DCEDIY, met with the KCETB Youth Office team and local youth service providers where key priority areas in relation to youth work and young people, both locally and nationally, were discussed. Dingfen also had the opportunity to visit local youth services locations and meet some of the young people engaging with the services.

Research

KCETB is working in partnership with SETU in carrying out research exploring 'What are the models of best practice in engaging with NEETS (Not in employment, Education or Training) young people in Kilkenny and Carlow?'. This research is currently ongoing and will be completed later this year. A core part of the project has been the delivery of pre-development training, run by Foróige and funded by the DCEDIY, to support a cohort of this target group throughout Kilkenny in accessing educational, training and employment opportunities. KCETB has continued funding in 2023. The research project will be longitudinal in nature and will use the key learnings from the youth skills project to create a toolkit to best support engagement with young people not in employment, education or training.

KCETB Youth Office staff:

YOUTH OFFICERS

Saoirse Prendergast (Kilkenny)
Mairead Donohoe (Carlow)

ADMINISTRATION TEAM:

Brigid Keating (Youth Office Support Worker)
Anne Smith (Administrator)

ETB Week celebrations a highlight at Tyndall College

Tyndall College is coming to the end of the 2022/23 school year, of which ETB Week and the celebration of the ETB ethos were highlights.

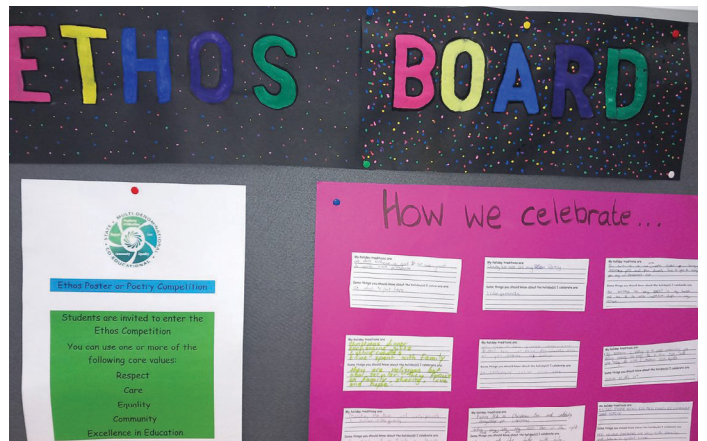
Tyndall enjoyed a fantastic week from 27 February to 3 March that marked the inaugural ETB Week. On Monday 27th February, the school had the honour of hosting the official KCETB launch of ETB Week on the grounds of Tyndall College. Brian Redmond and the KCLR Live team led a live broadcast as part of the launch celebrations that included musical entertainment from the Tyndall College students. Principal Gerry McGill and Deputy Principals Maria Quinn and Emer Morrissey were joined by important stakeholders from the KCETB community including Chief Executive Eileen Curtis, Director of Schools Pauline Egan, KCETB Chairman Cllr. Fergal Browne and principals from all the other KCETB schools.

During ETB Week, Tyndall College had the opportunity to recognise and celebrate the ETB core values of Excellence in Education, Care, Equality, Community and Respect. The Student Council, with the aid of Mr. O'Boyle and Ms. Tierney, created a video where they asked their students "If Tyndall College was a person, what kind of person would they be?" From the answers given, it is clear that they see Tyndall as a kind, caring and welcoming place.

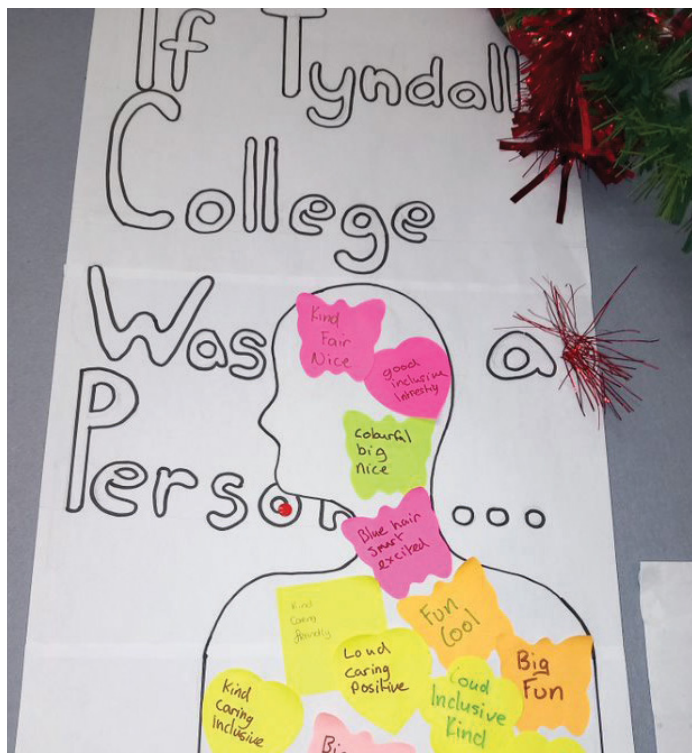


Tyndall Students celebrating ETB Day with Mr. Doyle, Mr. Dunne and Brian Redmond from KCLR

As part of the ETB Week celebrations, the school was awash with posters and visual material promoting the ETB ethos. Beautiful ETB postcards illustrating our core values were sent to students who epitomise these values. Thanks to Mary and the team at Rafter's Cafe, students were treated to Bricfeasta Blásta while staff shared lunch together, followed by treats in the staffroom. A presentation on the ETB Ethos framework and core values was shared and explained by tutors to all classes.



Ethos Board



A mini Sports Day was organised by Ms. Moore with the help of classes 'Curie' and 'Edison'. The first and second years enjoyed orienteering, basketball, football, the egg & spoon race, three-legged race and bench ball. The Transition Year students, along with Ms. Delaney, produced a podcast explaining how Tyndall College celebrates its core values.

Tyndall College is participating in the Teaching Council Cosán framework with the aim of supporting a culture of collaborative reflection in school and enhancing the impact of teachers' professional learning. The staff were delighted to attend a live forum on Teams, where Ms. Dooley gave a presentation on the JCSP programme and Mr. Dockery updated staff on the school's Well-Read Award that promotes reading for pleasure among the entire school community.

Separately, Tyndall College was awarded the Erasmus+ Mobility Charter by Léargas on behalf of the European



Wild Flower Garden in Tyndall College

Union. This has given the Tyndall students the fantastic opportunity to enhance their experiences in an international context through funded residential trips to partner organisations across Europe. Thanks to the programme, the students visited and worked with partners from Germany, Italy, North Macedonia, Portugal and the Netherlands and collaborated on an international project *Finding Identity in a time of Social Media*.

Sixth-year student Irina commented, “Being part of the Erasmus Programme and getting to know a country like North Macedonia was the single greatest experience of my life. I have learned how to make lasting friends”.

In Tyndall College, many of the teachers are trained in Restorative Practice (RP) that is used in everyday interactions with staff and students. According to the PDST, Restorative Practice promotes and enhances skills such as the ability to empathise and to find solutions to specific problems.



Tyndall College - some Green Schools committee members with new garden sign



Principal Mr. McGill with Deputies Ms. Morrissey and Ms. Quinn during ETB Week

Tyndall College has developed a number of strategies to make RP part of its school culture. They include Restorative Practice Question Cards and Circle Time.

Another new initiative - Hidden Hero - was introduced this school year to recognise those students who go above and beyond in their day-to-day life in Tyndall College. When a staff member notices a student doing something to help another person, and showing others extra kindness and respect, they receive a ‘Hidden Hero’ card to be filled out and placed in a special collection box. Every Friday, two cards (one Junior Cycle student and one Senior Cycle student) are drawn and the selected students receive a prize.

Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service assisted 1,200 Ukrainians since 2022



2023 KK DSP Jobs Fair Workshop

As the work of KCETB's Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service includes the provision of guidance counselling to all adult education programmes in KCETB, the team was delighted to see so many learners at the Learner Appreciation Event on the 31 March in the Medieval Mile Museum. It was a beautiful and befitting venue to celebrate Kilkenny learners.

In 2022/23, Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service held other events in Urlingford, Castlecomer and MacDonagh Junction to highlight the work of its service and its accessibility for the Kilkenny community. The team thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with their associates in libraries across Kilkenny to bring Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service to all the people of county Kilkenny and highlight the great work of both of services to the public.

This year, Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service worked with over 1,200 Ukrainian clients and learners to assist them with all aspects of training, education and employment since their

arrival in Ireland. Individual learners have been assisted in understanding their standard of qualification in Ireland and in finding a pathway for progression here, taking their skillset and experience into account.



Donna Patton, who is a guidance counsellor with Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service, has worked closely with the Intensive English Language class group over the last year with students pursuing a QQI Level 3 in Career Preparation. The class members have explored all aspects of further and higher education in Ireland, the working landscape, and progression options for training, education or employment. This work has been ongoing in tandem with a strong focus on English language tuition to best enhance the lived experience of our Ukrainian friends in Ireland. The service team has hosted talks for newly arrived Ukrainians in Ireland in which they explain the Irish education system, discuss their qualifications and assist in charting a pathway to progress here in Ireland.

Most recently, Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service offered a presentation on 'How to Get the Job You Want – a 15-minute guide' as part of the DSP Jobs Fair in the Ormonde Hotel.

If you, or someone you know, has a question about returning to education, how to avail of work opportunities, or simply does not know where to start – contact:

**Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service on 056 7764448 or adultguidance@kcteb.ie.
Address: Lower New Street, Kilkenny, R95AV65.**



U16 Soccer team after winning the KCETB semi final vs Scoil Airegail Ballyhale.

Two TY classes in a first for Duiske College

2022/23 was a busy year in Duiske College, reflective of a post-pandemic return to normality.

There was plenty of extra and co-curricular activity. More than 80% of the students participated in extra-curricular activities during the year, representing the school in a variety of sports, debating, photography, chess and art competitions.

Three Ukrainians joined the student body and have quickly become valued and well-integrated members of the school community. All of the third-year class of 2022 opted to undertake Transition Year. This, factored with some transfers, new international students and Ukrainian students, resulted in 42 TY students forming two TY classes— a first for Duiske College.

Sean O'Neill was selected as the Duiske College Student of the Year 2022 and his accomplishments were cited at the overall KCETB Student of the Year ceremony in the Seven Oaks Hotel in September.

There were some notable developments within the staff room. John Maddock retired in October after a long and distinguished career, including 25 years teaching at Duiske College. Staff member Conor Walsh was appointed KCETB Ethos Coordinator this year and led the

ethos activities for the inaugural ETB Week celebrating ten years of ETB education provision in Ireland.



John Maddock with staff members on the day of his retirement. Staff dressed up for the day like John.

There were physical changes also to Duiske College this school year. The music prefab was replaced with a new prefab unit comprising two classrooms, a toilet block and office. Duiske College is now preparing for the opening in September of a special class for ASD students that will provide a much needed educational support and service to the local community.

Having made accelerated gains in its use of ICT during the pandemic, Duiske College worked hard to blend this 'Covid dividend' with a return to a more normal school environment. Communication with students and the wider community has been greatly enhanced through this blended method of teaching and learning, as has the provision of resources.

Duiske College received a two-day visit in October from Brendan O'Sullivan, DES Inspector that focussed on the subject of Geography. The report, which was published in January, cited the standing of teaching to be very high and noted strong evidence of planning and preparation, excellent student collaboration, a range of feedback methodologies and respectful and supportive engagement between teachers and students.



William Watson, Duiske College Ethos Coordinator and Conor Walsh, KCETB Ethos coordinator present Devon Kielthy TY with his prize from the KCETB Ethos Photography competition.

A Presidential Performance



MGC musicians Sonny Cahill, Aislinn Joyce, and Hugh Kavanagh, and music educator Áine Donohoe, perform in front of US President Joe Biden and Taoiseach Leo Varadkar at Dublin Castle during the president's state visit to Ireland. Also pictured to the right is MGC Music Development Officer Gavin Barr

The 2022/23 academic year has been a very successful one for Music Generation Carlow (MGC). The programme has finally returned to pre-pandemic levels, with 22 primary schools, four secondary schools, two HUB programmes and the county ensembles amongst its programmes. This year, MGC is providing performance music education to more than 3,600 children and young people every week which equates to 23% of the under-18 population of Carlow County.

In addition to its primary and secondary programmes, MGC has also recommenced MouthBox, its county vocal ensemble, which currently has a membership of 45 young musicians. Along with its two traditional ensembles, Reelig and ReelÓg, MGC currently offers students a range of ensemble opportunities to develop their musical talents and hopes to have BoomBrasstic, its brass, wind and percussion ensemble, up and running shortly.

MGC's performance calendar was in full swing this year, with nearly every month offering performance opportunities for the young musicians and the ensembles have been busy representing Music Generation, nationally and internationally. Reelig represented Music Generation at the

ETBI conference in September and at Sitges Live, Barcelona in October. Reelig and ReelÓg performed at various events during the World Pan Celtic Festival in April.

One of the highlights of the year was the return of Music @ Mount Leinster, the annual residential traditional music festival in Borris. This year's festival featured more than 80 young musicians from around the country, who were mentored by leading names in the traditional Irish music scene. The festival provides an excellent opportunity for its young musicians to develop their skills, network with other musicians, and perform in a supportive and inspiring environment.

Another exciting development this year was MGC's partnership with Music Generation Waterford and Music Generation Laois to host the first Music Generation concert as part of the World Pan Celtic Festival. This concert was a resounding success and demonstrated the impact of Music Generation on young musicians across the country.

Another huge highlight was the opportunity afforded to three young musicians from MGC - Sonny Cahill, Aislinn Joyce, and Hugh Kavanagh – who, alongside their music educator Áine Donohoe, were selected to



MGC musicians perform at the Pan Celtic Festival

perform for US President Joe Biden on his state visit to Ireland in April. This was an incredible opportunity for the students and a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved in Music Generation Carlow.

The 2022/23 academic year has been an outstanding success for Music Generation Carlow that now provides music education to a significant proportion of Carlow's young population. MGC is grateful to its partners, funders, and supporters for their continued support and looks forward to building on this year's success in the years to come.

VTOS Carlow bids farewell to a friend

It has been another busy year at VTOS Carlow



There are several ways to judge the difference a year in VTOS makes to its students. There are awards and portfolios; there is time allocation and achievement to be balanced; but another way of looking at this is the ability to build capacity. As Professor Noam Chomsky once said,

“It doesn’t matter how much you learn in school; it’s whether you learn how to go on and do things by yourself. And that can be done at any level”.

In other words, when we see students emerge with newly-found or restored confidence in their own abilities to take on challenge and succeed, we can count that as a real measure of success.

VTOS Carlow’s QQI Level 3 General Learning and ICT courses have enjoyed tremendous success in 2022/23. Participants have completed modules in: ESOL; communications, computer literacy, word processing, spreadsheets, maths, application of number, office procedures and personal effectiveness.

The level 4 Office Administration class took modules in the following: ESOL; communications; business english; general office skills; spreadsheet methods; word processing; work experience; mathematics; customer service; functional mathematics and bookkeeping and accounts. The learners came from very diverse backgrounds and are of different nationalities including Irish, Polish, Afghanistani, Ukrainian, Latvian and Nigerian. It was a joy to watch everyone integrate so well and to see the students’ inter-cultural understanding develop throughout the year.

The Level 5 Business Administration course undertook a very practical range of subjects, including: communications; work experience; business; spreadsheet methods; word processing; database methods; marketing practice; and manual and computerised book-keeping. A number of the learners have already secured employment or decided on further or higher education progression routes. These very achievements demonstrate the essence of what VTOS has always been about.

VTOS Carlow congratulates all of the 2022/23 VTOS students who worked so hard and achieved so much this year and wishes them every success as they progress on their chosen pathways, either in work or further education. They have exhibited tremendous courage and application in pursuit of their educational goals.

The staff of VTOS Carlow will miss their erstwhile coordinator, Una Hayes, who has moved on to pastures new at Ormonde College. Current and former staff and students are grateful for her good-humored leadership over the years, particularly through the challenges of COVID. She embodied the unique ethos of the VTOS scheme, and will be greatly missed. We would like to take this opportunity to wish her the very best in her new position.



Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach

Bhí bliain rathúil againn anseo i nGCC i mbliana. Bhí go leor imeachtaí éagsúla ar siúl agus thug na himeachtaí deis dúinn teacht le chéile mar phobal scoile agus ceiliúradh a dhéanamh ar na daltaí agus an tallann ar fad atá acu.

We had a productive and enjoyable year here in GCC seeing the return of many school events that allowed us to come together as a school community and to celebrate during different periods of the year.

Seachtain na Folláine

Go luath sa bhliain i mí Dheireadh Fómhair, rinneamar ceiliúradh ar Sheachtain Fholláine. D'éagraigh Máistir Ó Cuimín agus na cinnirí Folláine seachtain spráúil, le haoichainteoirí agus imeachtaí fisiciúla agus go leor siamsaíochta. The week finished on a high when students and staff dressed up for Halloween and participated in our school's Seó Tallainne. It was a lovely way to finish the half-term and students and staff enjoyed every minute of it.



Night at the Musicals - Seó na hIdirbhliana

Students from our Transition Year programme wowed parents, friends and staff with their wonderful singing and dancing talents. The return of our transition year show was welcomed, and they performed to a sold-out audience over two nights. The musical director, Tara Landers, worked and inspired students to take part and every student in the year group either participated on stage or behind the scenes. Musical numbers from favourite films and musicals were choreographed and sung by the talented students. The result of their hard work was a toe-tapping, sing-along extravaganza.



Comórtais

The students in GCC part took in many different competitions throughout the year. Some of these included the Díospóireacht Gael Linn, where students debated in the junior and senior categories. In the Scléip competition, students participated in dance and singing contests. Scléip is a comórtas lán-Ghaeilge that gives students the opportunity to compete at a national level with students from Gaelcholáistí mórthimpeall na tíre. **D'eagraigh Máistir Ó Briain blitz sa pheil Ghaelach i mbliana agus tháinig daltaí ó ocht nGaelcholáiste i gCúige Mumhan agus Laighean. Cé go raibh an aimsir go hainnis ar an lá, níor stop sé an spraoi agus an spórt a bhí acu. Deis iontach dár ndaltaí spórt a imirt agus an Ghaeilge a labhairt le daltaí ó scoileanna éagsúla.**

An Idirbhliain

Mar is gnáth, bhí daltaí na hidirbhliana an-ghnóthach. Rinne siad obair dheonach gach seachtain agus bhain siad sult as cúrsaí éagsúla cosúil le cúrsa podchraoladh, cúrsa féinchosaint, cúrsa DIY, cúrsa grianghrafadóireachta i measc an-chuid cúrsaí eile. Bhain siad taitneamh as turais oideachasúla agus spráíúla.

TY students got the opportunity to work with TG4 to film a programme about St. Brigid's day in Waterlilies Café. The students made crosses and sampled some of the delicious food that Waterlilies have to offer. This is one of the many projects GCC does in collaboration with Glór Cheatharlach.

Seachtain ETB

Seán Holt was awarded the 'Gradam Sheosaimh Mhic Dhonnacha- Barr Feabhais sa Ghaeloideachas' at the ETB awards in Croke Park as part of the inaugural ETB week.

Seán received this award due to the outstanding work he does promoting the Irish language in Gaelcholáiste Cheatharlach and in the Pobal Gaeilge in Carlow. Séan is a member of the Coiste Gaeilge in the school and this committee of students helps to promote a love for the Irish language and to inspire the use of Gaeilge inside and outside of the classroom. In éineacht leis an gCoiste Gaeilge, thacaigh Seán le Glór Cheatharlach an Ghaeilge a spreagadh i gCeatharlach.

Caitín Ní Thaidg: In the KCETB photography competition as part of ETB week, Caitín won the Community theme competition and the overall competition for her stunning photo that was captured during a cycle on the Greenway in Waterford with her classmates san Idirbhliain.



Seachtain na Gaeilge

Is seachtain speisialta í Seachtain na Gaeilge anseo i nGCC. Tugann sé deis dúinn i gcónaí an teanga agus an cultúr Gaelach a cheiliúradh agus a chur chun cinn. I mbliana, bhí seachtain iontach againn. Chuaigh an scoil ar thuras chuig an phictiúrlann chun an scannán Róise agus Frank a fheiceáil. Bhí comórtas éagsúla ar siúl mar shampla, an rang is Gaelaí, tóraíocht taisce, tráth na gceist agus comórtas na 'memes'. Bhain daltaí agus múinteoirí an sult as na hócáidí ar fad.

As our school year draws to a close, our students and staff are looking forward to the Turas idirnáisiúnta na hIdirbhliana to Barcelona. Our sixth-year and third-year students are preparing for their state exams, and we wish them the very best in that endeavour. We thank our entire school community for making 2022/23 another memorable year here in GCC. Is fearr le chéile muid!

KCETB Training Services –

Creating opportunities for learners, job seekers and local businesses

The KCETB Training Services Unit, comprising Apprenticeship Services, Community Training and Contracted Training, has seen a marked growth in 2022/23.

Consolidating its supports to industry, the unit has delivered a number of key initiatives, creating opportunities and pathways for learners, job seekers and local businesses to access training opportunities in key sectors.

National Apprenticeship Awards

KCETB hosted the first national apprenticeship awards on behalf of the south-east region in 2022. 362 apprentices from Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford graduated at a special ceremony in Kilkenny at which they were presented with their awards by Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Malcolm Noonan, TD. The apprentices marked the completion of 21 different apprenticeships from five industry sectors: engineering; electrical; motor; construction; hospitality and food, and it was the first graduation to include commis chef apprenticeship graduates. Kelly's Hotel Executive Head Chef, Eugene Callaghan was a guest speaker at the awards in recognition of the milestone.

The first Phase 2 electrical apprentices from the south-east region who commenced training in 2018 in the very first Kilkenny-based course were also recognised.

During 2022, 176 employers registered new apprentices and there are currently 360 active apprentice employers across the region.

Responding to the Apprenticeship Emergency

In February 2022, KCETB responded to the current backlog of electrical apprenticeships created by COVID, and the increased demand for apprenticeship training, by increasing its annual intake and classes. In 2023, TSU Apprenticeship services will host six phase 2 electrical classes, serving 84 electrical apprentices.

Innovative Key Initiatives

Responding to the needs of local industry, KCETB Training Services teamed up with local partners to develop training facilities for local learners and industry. This has resulted in a FET multi-campus approach, allowing sectoral training to be delivered across different campuses but under a common brand.



Carlow Youth Training - Make Up Artistry

This approach delivered, in 2022, the KCETB Welding Academy that is based at Thompsons of Carlow. The training facility provides full and part-time training from basic to advanced welding for jobseekers and workers looking to upskill.

Building on this approach in 2023, the KCETB Hospitality Academy, situated at Gowran Park, Kilkenny, was developed. This allows a central, but not exclusive, focus for delivery of hospitality training to industry in the region.

The KCETB Hospitality Academy hosted an event during ETB Week for local industry that showcased the wide range of training opportunities available to the hospitality and catering sectors in the region. Local employers participated in a hands-on tour of the facility. This highlighted key training opportunities including the pre-commis and commis chef apprenticeships, bar skills, food, and beverage skills.

Chef and hospitality tutors, together with apprentices and the KCETB Training Services Team, were on hand to discuss training needs which ranged from English language supports, and an introduction to food and beverage, to the commis chef apprenticeship.



Pictured are the first-ever commis chef apprenticeship graduates, following its introduction by KCETB in 2018. Back row, from left: Stuart Dunne Maher (Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny); Mark Gaffney (Commis Chef Instructor, KCETB); Michael Gaule (Kelly's Hotel, Rosslare); Kelly's Hotel Executive Chef Eugene Callaghan who was guest speaker; Garret Brennan (Avalon House Hotel, Co. Kilkenny); Peter Thorpe (Talbot Hotel, Wexford); and Cormac Donal Keane (Woodford Dolmen Hotel, Carlow). Front row from left: KCETB Training Services Manager Mary Prior Butler; KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis; Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Malcolm Noonan, TD; KCETB Director of Further Education and Training Martha Bolger; Graduate Apprentice Chef Hannah McCann (Ballynahinch Castle, Co. Galway) and Director of the National Apprenticeship Office Dr Mary-Liz Trant

Community Training

Community Training endeavours to foster inclusion by identifying and addressing the needs of services and learners across the region. It targets and facilitates participation by marginalised groups within Kilkenny and Carlow.

KCETB Community Training supports early school leavers through two Community Training Centre's and a number of Local Training Initiatives (LTIs). These programmes support learners not currently engaged in employment and provides them with the opportunity to upskill/reskill within their local community. This facilitates learners to create pathways to employment and/or other FET programmes.

People with disabilities are catered for across all community provision and targeted programmes are delivered through the National Learning Networks (NLN) in Kilkenny and Carlow with the former offering a QQI Level 4 programme in Employment Skills and the latter a QQI Level 4 programme in Retail Skills.

Community Training was delighted to collaborate with the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement (KTCM) Connecting LTI that commenced in January 2023. Engaging with the KTCM, the LTI supports young traveller men. LTIs are also in development for Callan and Hacketstown.

Programme development is key to community training in addressing the needs of learners and local businesses. KCETB has introduced new awards and updated a number of community education programmes to include health and safety awards that are mandatory entry requirements for employment across a range of industries.

LTI programmes now include awards, such as HACCP, Manual Handling and Safe Pass. A City & Guilds Design and Make a Fashion Accessory Award is now offered at Carlow Youth Training. These awards provide practical recognised training to learners to enable them to progress to employment.



Gillian Ryan, KCETB Assistant Training Services Manager with (back l-r): Mary Prior Butler, KCETB Training Services Manager; Ray Cullen, Skills Competition Manager, Worldskills; Noel Davidson, The Entrepreneurs Academy; Gabrielle Carroll, KCETB Employer Engagement Co-Ordinator



*Eugene Callaghan,
Executive Chef, Kelly's Hotel*



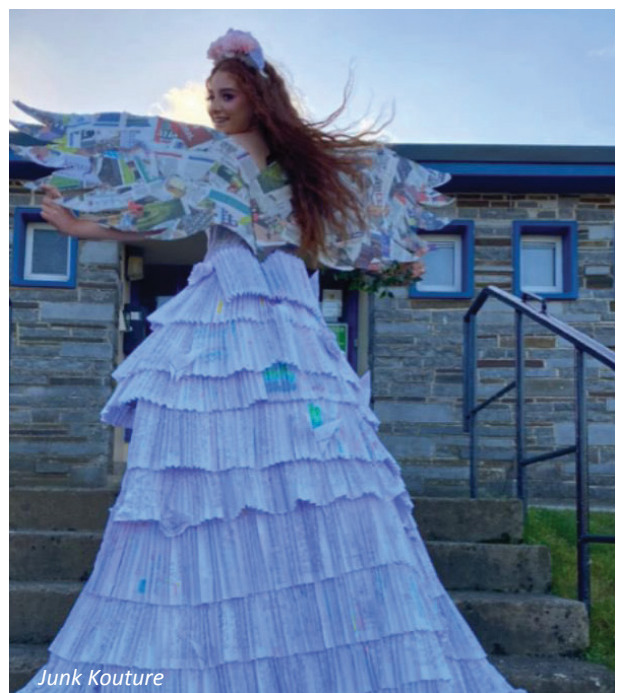
Grennan College girls gaelic football team

Extended educational provision at Grennan College

Like all other KCETB schools, Grennan College savoured the return to a 'normal' school year in 2022/23 after the Covid-19 restrictions and difficulties.

The new seven-classroom extension that opened in May 2022 is now a part of the growing facility in Grennan College. Throughout this year, plans and planning within the school, and with the Department of Education, for the new Autism classes that are due to open later this year and in 2024, were very much to fore. This promises to be an exciting and very welcome development to the school community that will further extend educational provision at Grennan and the building footprint.

The Leaving Cert Class of 2022 were congratulated and wished every success in their life choices after successfully completing their Leaving Certificate exams. A new cohort





TY trip to Lake Garda

of first years were welcomed to Grennan College, alongside visiting Erasmus students and the children of locally-based Ukrainian families.

Both sporting and non-sporting school activities returned: camogie; hurling; soccer; basketball; athletics; book club; music club, among others. Student participation in basketball increased and great progress was made in all competitions, culminating in the second-year boys winning the South East Leinster Final. The junior hurlers set out to repeat their success at Leinster level, albeit at a grade higher, and won the South Leinster semi-final, defeating the same school as last year, only to lose out in the Leinster final.

Grennan College celebrated ten years of KCETB with an 'Ethos Week' in the school that showcased the core principles of ETB schools. Well-being Week also took place the same week with each complementing the other. To promote greater understanding and knowledge of our communities, our people and our world at large, a Neurodiversity Week was organised and run with students experiencing sensory activities and learning about neurodivergent behaviours and identities.

Grennan College's end-of-year events included the Student Awards, the 6th Year Graduation, a TY showcase of work, and the show-piece event, Grennan's Got Talent, that allows the students to showcase their vast array of talents, mainly in the musical sphere.

As the school year draws to a close, Grennan College is looking forward to the next academic year, the continued support of parents, community and stakeholders, and the continuing growth, development and improvement of Grennan College in 2023/24.



Well Being Week at Grennan College



TY Young Entrepreneurs county winners

Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown selected for Trinity Access Programme



5th year CMJ students at TUS Athlone for a tour of the engineering facilities available on campus, where they took part in a robotics workshop

Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown (CMJ) said that the 2022/23 academic year will be remembered as the one where school life returned to normal.

CMJ first-years started secondary school without any restrictions or distancing; TY students were able to plan trips abroad; sporting competitions returned; in-person parent-teacher meetings fully resumed; and school events, such as the traditional carol service, school musical and graduations, reappeared on the school calendar.

However, for the Ukrainian students at Coláiste Mhuire who do not have family members with them, Principal Martin Gleeson hopes and prays that their 'normal' returns soon. "We thank them for all they have contributed to our school and the great efforts they have made to settle in and work in cooperation with their teachers and classmates", he said.

There was a huge promotion of excellence in education at Colaiste Mhuire this year with the school maths department selected for the Trinity Access Program during which participants were exposed to cutting-edge approaches to teaching and learning in maths. Everyone involved was given the opportunity to visit Trinity College Dublin for Maths Fest with activities organised to show maths in action.

Six students received scholarships from the DEIS Post-Primary Schools' Gaeltacht Initiative 2023 that provides opportunities for students from designated DEIS post-primary schools to benefit from a learning period in the Gaeltacht.

A highlight was the opportunity to welcome parents back to Coláiste Mhuire and the Home School Liaison Officer provided a wide range of classes and activities, from pottery and baking to mindfulness and fitness classes. These initiatives continue to build a strong partnership with parents and others.

There were several sporting successes this academic year at Coláiste Mhuire in hurling, soccer, football, camogie and more. To aid future success, a new



First year CMJ students in Trinity College Dublin as part of the Trinity Access Programme

ball wall and the re-laid Astro turf were completed and opened. The spirit of the community was very evident in the golf classic the school organised, which was hosted by Rathdowney GC

The TY show in March was a great success. All students took enjoyment from the preparatory trips, the rehearsals, and opening night through to the finale. The community turned out in force with local primary schools, parents and relatives coming along to show their support. Many thanks to the Gortnahoe community for the use of their hall and stage.



Six CMJ students receiving their DEIS Gaeltacht Scholarships to the summer college of their choice, pictured with Principal Martin Gleeson

Coláiste Mhuire participated in several events during the academic year, from Seachtain na Gaeilge and Science Week to Maths Week and Engineering Week that included a visit to a leading engineering research laboratory. There was also World Book Day with the students coming to school in fancy dress and, of course, the promotion of the ETB ethos and celebrating the 10-year anniversary of KCETB.

The staff and management of Coláiste Mhuire wishes their students and their families a happy and restful summer and their very best to those undertaking state examinations.

BTEI Carlow - new learning opportunities and a milestone marked

In 2022/23, BTEI Carlow continued to provide onsite tuition to its many learners across the county that included the provision of technological assistance through a laptop loan scheme and the continued use of TEAMS VLP as a means of sharing materials and resources. This approach ensured that learners were furnished with the necessary tools to complete their studies at home as well as developing the required skills to navigate the online learning environment.

A highlight in 2022 was the delivery of the new Early Learning and Care Award at QQI level 5. Two programmes commenced in September 2022 offering those interested in pursuing a career in childcare the option of a day or evening programme. Separately, two new horticulture programmes were offered in 2023 - at Level 5 in Carlow town and at Level 4 in Clonegal. A blended learning approach is also being piloted with one of its evening classes.

In December 2022, learners welcomed the return of the BTEI annual graduation ceremony. The first graduation since 2019, this was indeed a great night of celebration, where staff, learners’ families and friends gathered to celebrate the achievement of the BTEI Carlow Class of 2022.

2023 marked the 10th anniversary of the establishment of education and training boards in Ireland. BTEI Carlow was more than happy to engage in the celebrations around this milestone. Learners participated in media campaigns for ETB Week and attended a special learner celebration day on 30 March, while the BTEI staff enjoyed a tea party on 3 March.



Healthcare Awardees Renata Polak (Carlow); Renata Rusicka (Carlow) ; Tutor Gillian Deacon; Lisa Moore (Carlow); Betty McSweeney (Graiguecullen) and Marcella Costigan (Oak Park)

In 2022, BTEI Carlow provided the following learning opportunities in Carlow town and county:

BTEI CARLOW PROVISION 2022	
BTEI Community Strand	St. Catherine’s Community Services Centre
ICT/Office Skills	Carlow & Ballon
Horticulture	Carlow & Clonegal
Office Administration	Carlow & Ballon
Health Care	Carlow & Tullow
Childcare	Carlow
Special Needs Assisting	Carlow

BTEI Carlow provides part-time learning opportunities for young people and adults, giving them the chance to combine a return to learning with family, work, and other responsibilities. Courses are offered on a flexible part-time basis throughout Carlow town and county, affording learners the opportunity to build up their qualifications at a time and pace suitable to their needs. BTEI currently offers a suite of educational options at QQI levels 3 to 6, covering Computers & ICT Skills, Office Administration, Healthcare, Horticulture, Childcare and Special Needs Assisting.

At the core of BTEI provision is a learner-centred holistic approach, whereby learners are provided with support, advice and guidance in order to support them to progress personally, academically and professionally.



KCETB Director of FET Martha Bolger with awardee Pretty Sibanda (Bagenalstown) and her daughter Sinead Sibanda (11yrs)

Scoil Aireagail: A busy year guided by a new principal

The staff and students of Scoil Aireagail enjoyed a very rewarding academic year of learning and teaching, guided by its new principal Helen McTighe. Relishing the absence of Covid-19 restrictions, there was a renewed emphasis on student leadership and collaborative learning experiences throughout the school. Teachers engaged in a great deal of professional learning opportunities including in the area of Magenta Principles, the Teach Nimble Programme and Restorative Practice.

The new first-year students were warmly welcomed and helped to settle into school life by the fifth-year Cairdeas mentors who acted as big brothers and sisters to their younger peers over the course of this year. Scoil Aireagail was delighted to celebrate the successes of the graduating class of 2022 when they received their Leaving Certificate results and to highlight the accomplishments of Michael Delahunty as the school's Student of the Year 2022 at the KCETB ceremony.

With a particular focus on student participation this year, the Student Council worked hard to gather and represent the voice of all the students. The Junior Cycle students continued to develop their key skills around communication, collaboration, creativity, being literate and numerate, managing themselves and managing information and thinking. This was evident - particularly through the standard of projects and oral presentations during the Junior Cycle classroom-based assessment this year.



Transition Year Kayaking Trip



TY School Bank team



Third-year students enjoying art class

Transition Year students made the most of a year of active learning and responded to leadership opportunities such as Gaisce, School Bank and GAA Future Leaders. They developed friendships and confidence as they hiked, kayaked and zip-lined their way through the year. They joined with the fifth-year students to travel to Rome for the ultimate Italian cultural experience.

As part of Scoil Aireagail's celebrations for the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of KCETB, it hosted its inaugural Grandparents Day which was a very special opportunity to showcase its ethos five core values: excellence in education, care, community, equality and respect. In Scoil Aireagail, everyone is valued for who they are and challenged to be the best possible version of themselves. There is a culture of inclusion for the greater good of all with three priorities:

- A safe and healthy environment
- A community in which staff and students can flourish
- A community of welcome

A highlight this year was the fifth-year students collaborating to nominate Deputy Principal Shane Fallon for an ETB Excellence in Education award in recognition of his tremendous commitment to the students, parents and staff of Scoil Aireagail.

At the heart of Scoil Aireagail is a school that cares deeply for its community and endeavors to provide an excellent standard of quality learning experiences for its students. Initiatives such as *Maths Week*, *Science Week*, *Stand-Up Awareness Week*, *Seachtain na Gaeilge*, *Ethos Week*, *World Book Day* and *Well being Day* enabled knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to come to life. With a particular focus on wellbeing this year, the students had the opportunity to participate in sports and had many successes in the sporting arenas of athletics, basketball, badminton, camogie, hurling and soccer.

With the development of seven new classrooms, including an additional autism support class this summer, the staff and students appreciate the wonderful school year that is concluding and look forward with enthusiasm to what the future holds for Scoil Aireagail and its school community.



SCOIL AIREAGAIL

BALLYHALE

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

Scoil Aireagail provides a **happy and welcoming** environment in which each student is valued and cared for. We have a **reputation for excellence** which drives our **ambition for high standards** in all aspects of our student's education and development as young adults. We are committed to realizing **the potential of each individual student** in our vibrant community.

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Scoil Aireagail first-year students



Michael Delahunty at the KCETB Student of the Year 2022 with Deputy Principal Shane Fallon, KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis, Principal Helen McTighe, KCETB Chairperson Cllr. Peter Cleere and KCETB Director of Schools Pauline Egan

Something's Cooking!

Kilkenny Adult Learning Service to introduce Family Cookbook

Family learning is an approach to learning that facilitates family involvement in intercultural and intergenerational programmes which support the parent, grandparent, or carer as the child's first educator.

Family learning can help parents improve their own skills and support their children's education, as well as foster positive attitudes, relationships, and aspirations among family members and with the school community. It involves social interaction, collaboration and sharing between individuals of different generations and backgrounds.

With the unwavering support of Principal Mary O'Neill (St. John's Junior School) and Principal Brian Roche (St John's Senior School) Kilkenny Adult Learning Service has undertaken many exciting projects in the past year, such as an intercultural fact book, wall hangings, story sacks, quiet books and Lego activities for literacy development.

The parents of St John's have been meeting every Friday to work on the current project - the creation and publication of a school cookbook which will be launched at the annual Intercultural Day in St. John's Junior School at the end of June.

Another exciting family learning programme - Hug a Book - is based on the balanced literacy framework and is the brainchild of Lana McCarthy from Young Ballymun.

This programme has really helped children become more excited about books and learning and serves as a bonding experience for parent and child.

Last September, Kilkenny Adult Learning Service introduced three new family learning programmes in Kilkenny city and county: family learning in the Springhill Hotel with Ukrainian parents, in Presentation National School Castlecomer and in Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown



Parents and tutors of St. John's Junior School at the unveiling of the Christmas 2022 Intercultural Hot Air Balloon Project at Kilkenny County Council offices



Pupils of Presentation National School enjoying the Story Sack and reading of 'What the Ladybird Heard', in Castlecomer Library in February



Parents of Coláiste Mhuire Johnstown enjoying a cooking demonstration in Ryland House Cookery School



Traditional dress at the European Cultures Together Conference

Kilkenny Adult Learning Service Ukrainian Programme

KCETB's Kilkenny Adult Learning Service has responsibility for organising English language classes for non-nationals in Kilkenny city and county. Since March 2022, there are over 470 Ukrainian learners engaged with the service.

The vast majority of English language programmes provide four hours a week of classes and three intensive classes run five days a week. In a collaborative effort, Kilkenny Adult Guidance Service support the learners on the intensive programmes with career preparation and educational opportunities.

In Kilkenny city, classes take place in the Springhill Hotel, Club House Hotel, Ossory Youth, Kilkenny Adult Learning Service and St. Kieran's College. Across the county, classes operate in Thomastown, Knocktopher, Freshford, Ballyragget, Ferrybank and Urlingford.

St. Brigid's Day

To support the integration of our Ukrainian learners, a St. Brigid's Cross Weaving Workshop took place in Loughboy Library on St Bridget's Day (1 February). Several styles of weaving were explained and taught to the participants who also had the opportunity to hear the story of St. Brigid, practice their English and meet new friends. It was also a great opportunity to introduce the learners to the local library and its services.

European Cultures United Conference

The European Cultures United Conference was held on the 16 March in the Newpark Hotel, Kilkenny. This event was organised by the Twilight Community Group and KCETB's Adult Learning Service was invited to represent the Ukrainian culture. Ukrainian learners and their tutor hosted a stand decorated in Ukrainian style with traditional embroidered shirts, accessories, some food and other cultural elements. This was a great experience for the learners involved as they listened to speakers from other countries, networked and conversed in English. The group also met the Mayor of Kilkenny, Cllr. David Fitzgerald.



Attendees at the European Cultures Together Conference

A Reading of The Kolobok

The Ukrainian family learning group from Springhill and Wallslough hosted a reading of The Kolobok, a Ukrainian folktale, in Loughboy Library on Wednesday 26 April. All of the props and backdrops were made by the parents and children. In attendance were library staff, Ukrainians from other programmes and many Irish friends. The story was read in both English and Ukrainian and the children present sang the song associated with the folklore. It was a wonderful event and reflected the Irish-Ukrainian friendships that have developed through Kilkenny Adult Learning Service.



The stand at the European Cultures Together Conference

Family Learning in Carlow Adult Learning Service



“Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.” – Napoleon Bonaparte

The 2022/23 academic year has been a busy one for the Family Learning Programme at Carlow Adult Learning Service.

New appointment

The team welcomed a new part-time family learning staff member which has really helped in progressing the Family Learning Programme.

New Developments in Family Learning

The appointment of new Home School Community Liaison Teachers (HSCL) in a number of Carlow schools was most welcome and allowed the team to link in with these schools and develop new strategic partnerships for the delivery of Family Learning Programmes to parents throughout Carlow town and county. Carlow Adult Learning Service ran a range of programmes that were very popular. These included: English Language for Parents; Digital Skills for Parents; Christmas Craft; Hug Your Book and Storybags in six primary and secondary schools.

Through a new strategic partnership with Carlow Libraries, Carlow Adult Learning Service offered a family learning course for Ukrainian parents. Parents worked on a book entitled *Scout's Best Day Ever! A Doggy Adventure around Ireland* which educates parents about Ireland so they can support their children's developing knowledge of the country. Throughout this course, parents developed materials to support shared reading of the book with children as an interactive experience. As part of the initiative, the book's author, Jennifer Farley, met the group

and did a special reading. The course was very well received and participants are now continuing with Family Learning and progressing on to other books.

This year, KCETB led the development of four new QQI-accredited modules in Family Learning. This was an exciting development as changes in the QQI awards a number of years ago meant that locally devised modules were no longer available. Carlow Adult Learning Service is looking forward to offering accreditation in Family Learning to parents throughout Carlow.

What is Family Learning?

Family Learning is an approach to engaging families in the process of learning that can have a positive impact on both the child's learning and the family as a whole. Family Learning encourages families to learn together and the Family Learning programme enables parents to learn how to support their children's learning, both inside and outside of the home.

The programme helps overcome barriers to learning felt by families who find it difficult to relate to school learning. It gives parents the skills and confidence to help with their children's homework and support schoolwork, overcoming their own literacy and numeracy difficulties. KCETB supports parents/guardians in their role as primary educators and the development of literacy, numeracy and metacognitive skills in children. Through the programme, parents can address their own education needs and build positive engagement with education by enhancing parental involvement and understanding in school.



Saying 'Hi' to 4th class!

SCP Na Siúire delivers Roots of Empathy

Roots of Empathy is an evidence-based programme delivered in primary school classrooms. This programme has demonstrated the significant impact of reducing levels of aggression among school children by raising social-emotional competence and increasing empathy. School Completion Programme (SCP) Na Siúire has a long-standing involvement with Roots of Empathy and delivers this programme across three primary schools in Waterford.

At the heart of the programme is a baby and parent who visit the classroom every three weeks during the school year. A trained Roots of Empathy instructor coaches the children to observe the baby's development and to label the baby's feelings. The baby is the 'teacher' in this experiential learning, while the instructor helps the children identify and reflect on their own feelings and the feelings of others.

Research results from national and international evaluations of Roots of Empathy indicate significant reductions in aggression and increases in pro-social behaviours.

The Roots of Empathy instructor also visits before and after each family visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialised lesson plan for each visit, with 27 sessions in total. This year in De La Salle, St. Stephens baby Quinn, supported by Mum Aisling, was the star of the show. Experienced SCP facilitator Miriam Guinan has led this innovative programme for several years in this school. Aisling voluntarily brings beautiful baby Quinn to 4th class every three weeks where the children document her development and learn from her. She has proven to be quite the teacher and the students look forward to her visits!



Baby Quinn playing roll over with ROE Facilitator Miriam Guinan, Mum Aisling and boys cheering her on



Baby Quinn waving to the boys!

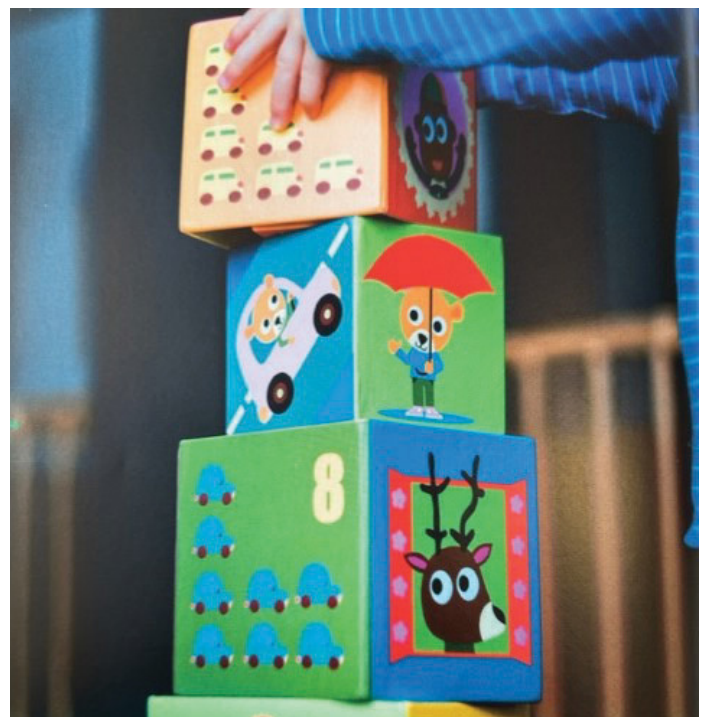


Spotlight on Early Learning and Care at Ormonde College

The academic year 2022/23 saw the redesigned QQI Level 5 Early Learning and Care programme enter its second year in Ormonde College of Further Education. The programme content was designed to provide learners with the embedded award, preparing them to complete the QQI Level 6 Advanced Certificate in Early Learning and Care. This course will now run in 2023/24 in Ormonde College of Further Education due to the success of this year's course.

The Stage 1 course is focused on equipping learners to work independently and under supervision, developing skills in preparation for working in a supervisory role with children aged between 0-6 years. On successful completion of Stage 1 and 2, learners will be qualified to a professional standard and fully work-ready with an NFQ level 6 PADT award. If learners choose to complete Stage 1 only, they leave with skills and knowledge to work in the general Early Learning and Care field.

The Stage 1 programme has given this year's learners the chance to gain knowledge of practices, procedures, legislation and regulations, as well as developing their observational, analytical, reflective and holistic skills by studying subjects including: Professional Practice



Placements in Early Learning and Care; Children's Rights Legislation and Regulations; Holistic Care of Children 0-6 Years; Early Childhood Growth and Development; Curriculum, Play and Creative Studies; and Understanding and Assisting Children with Additional Needs.

In addition to classroom learning, Deirdre Dowling and Jennifer Collins, who headed up the introduction and development of the Stage 1 course, placed emphasis on the practical and experiential elements of learning, and preparing students for the working world.

Practice Placement formed an integral part of the course with students attending placement one day per week in TUSLA-registered Early Years settings. Learners were required to complete a total of 150 hours to include working directly with children within two distinct age ranges. Learners were offered placements in 16 different settings across counties Kilkenny, Carlow, Tipperary and Kildare. They ranged from full-time early years providers, to part-time community-based playgroups, with some learners in specialised centers of excellence such as Waldorf Steiner, High-Scope, Montessori and Naoinra (Irish Speaking).

In the inaugural year of the programme, the role of Practice Placement Monitor had been centralised through KCETB; however, with an increased class size, the Ormonde College of Further Education ELC team took over this role this year. This was facilitated by incorporating two separate block placements across the programme, as well as one day per week dedicated to work placement. This enabled learners to build solid relationships with the professional teams they were working with, and also facilitated the placement visits which form part of the quality assurance of the programme.

The learner's performance and participation on the programme was monitored by the Early Learning and Care team. Interim assessment at the end of the first term helped learners focus on completing their mandatory placement-based activities. Continuous feedback was provided to learners, and a tripartite meeting was held with each individual learner and their professional supervisors from their placements. This structure has been universally welcomed by both learners and the vocational community, and has helped to build strong connections between Ormonde College of Further Education and the wider community.

The pastoral care, class-room based learning, along with the support and supervisory element in work placement, has been a huge success with high retention rates and all learners are expected to achieve full certification in June. The positive experience of Stage 1 learners on the ELC programme is evident as the majority have chosen to apply to complete Stage 2 of the programme.

The quality of the training provided by Ormonde College of Further Education to ELC learners is evident, resulting in employers seeking to directly employ its graduates. Ormonde College of Further Education is dedicated to ensuring high quality Early Years professionals and providing Stage 2 for the first-time next year will further develop learner opportunities and further enhance the working relationships within the Early Education sector.



Learner Testimonial

I really enjoyed my time at Ormonde College. I found the course very interesting and all the things we covered in class I was able to put into practice out on work placement. The teachers couldn't do enough for you and were always there to help. I had a great time completing this course," Michaela

Coláiste Aindriú conferred with Schools of Distinction Award

This year, Coláiste Aindriú engaged in an ethos school self-evaluation project with Dr Shivaun O'Brien (DCU) and Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI). As this academic year draws to a close, the school has looked back over its engagement with this ethos project. Many successful aspects of the school year are underpinned by the core values reflected in its ethos of excellence in education, care, equality, community and respect. Below are some of those highlights.



ETB Week March 2023

Excellence in Education

In September, Coláiste Aindriú was conferred with the Schools of Distinction Award by Trinity Access (TA), Trinity College Dublin. The judges noted the effort of the school to develop innovative approaches to teaching and learning. Trinity Access also engaged with the school through professional learning for teachers on the 21st century technology mediated Bridge 21 model.

Coláiste Aindriú has re-established links with the Instructional Leadership Programme. Three teachers completed session two of the programme this year with Professor Barrie Bennett and are sharing their learning throughout the school. The teachers led a Teams Games Tournament (TGT) with senior students as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. Two teachers are engaging in Team Based Learning (TBL) with Dr Zackery Walker.

The school's Student of the Month award continues to celebrate the many successes the students achieve. Principal Sharon Coffey said she was "proud to see the huge number of students nominated by their teachers each month for their excellent attendance, hard work in class, showing respect and continuous improvement."

Respect

Five Coláiste Aindriú teachers engaged with Michelle Stowe, Connect RP to develop a professional learning community (PLC) of restorative practitioners (RP). The focus of this PLC is to grow relationships through empathy and connection between staff and students.

Community

A highlight this year was the musical performance by the students of *A Lad in Trouble*. The sold-out show featured a student cast of 60 who performed many musical favourites. Staff, students, and members of the wider school community were also involved in creating backdrops and assisting with evening and weekend rehearsals in a big team effort.

Extra-curricular activities grew in strength this year at Coláiste Aindriú. One particular success was the boys' soccer team winning the U16 Boys KCETB Soccer League. Well done to all the boys and coaches involved! Transition Year students visited primary schools at Christmas and Easter and distributed treats left by Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny.



Winners of the U16 KCETB Soccer League



School Musical- *A Lad in Trouble* December 2022

Care

The school well-being programme continued to develop this year at Coláiste Aindriú. Some of the many activities that took place include Stand Up Awareness Week, a positive behaviour reward trip, a whole-school Christmas celebration dinner, and an attendance reward trip. Lunchtime activities included chess, badminton and handball.

Equality

Coláiste Aindriú is grateful to Music Generation Carlow for providing so many musical opportunities for its students this year. First-year and second-year students continued with their guitar classes and a highlight for the students was performing for their parents at the Music Generation Christmas Concert.



Music Generation Concert December 2022

Coláiste Pobail Osraí

It was a very busy and progressive year in Coláiste Pobail Osraí, some of the key highlights are mentioned below. Thanks to all involved in supporting the school and in getting involved. Maith sibh uile.

Eolaí Óg – BTYSTE 2023

Comhghairdeas mór leis na grúpaí ar fad ar éirigh leo cur isteach ar an Eolaí Óg i mbliana. Six groups made it to the National finals with varying projects in many different categories. Well done to all who exhibited projects at BTYSTE 2023. Coláiste Pobail Osraí was so proud of them all! Éacht déanta ag na daltaí agus na múinteoirí arís! A huge achievement from students and teachers! Iain Ó Coimín le ‘Glasbhealach nó iarnród? Anailís staitisticíúil ar shean-iarnród idir Mainistir na Corran agus Eochail!’ Evie de Faoite Ferris agus Saraíd Ní hUaine le ‘Éifeacht dhíghalrú aibhneacha ar fhiadhúlra’. Caoimhe Ní hUaine le ‘Is horseplay really a bad thing?’. Lauren Sinnott agus Daisy Croft le ‘Plaiستهach san fharraige agus an éifeacht atá againn ann.’. Tomás Ó hÓldain le ‘Éifeacht trasnaíochta comhthéacsúla agus foghlaim i gcóir déagóirí. Agus Cáit Ní Chatháin, Daran Yalnazov agus Shane Ó Néill ‘An Tuirbín Intitimeach’



Coláiste Pobail Osraí Daran Cate Shane

Scléip Music Competition – Buaitheoirí 2023!

Bhí lá den chéad scoth ag an Choláiste ag Craobhchomórtas Scléip le Gael Linn i mBaile Átha Cliath ar an 31ú Eanáir. Bhuaigh Adam Ó Draighneán an 1ú Áit don chatagóir Ceol Uirlise Aonair Sinsear. Bronnadh an 2ú hÁit ar Seth Ó Scanláin sa chatagóir Ceol Uirlise Aonair Sóisir freisin, agus bhuaigh an banna Na Donnies an 1ú Áit sa chomórtas don Ghrúpa Amhránaíochta Sinsearach AGUS tá an Gradam Scléip 2023 faighte acu chomh maith!! Gabhadh buíochas le M.Siobhán agus M.Gráinne as an ullmhúchán ar fad don chomórtas.

A triumph all round in the National Finals of Gael Linn’s Scléip Music Competition on 31st January, with Adam Ó Draighneán winning 1st Place in the Senior Solo Instrumental category. Seth Ó Scanláin took home 2nd Place in the Junior Solo Instrumental category and The Donnies won 1st Place in the Senior Band competition. The Donnies also won the overall Scléip Award 2023, with the



Scléip 2023

judges praising their musicality, stage presence, and talent. Múinteoirí Siobhán and Gráinne were very proud of the students’ performances.

Bhí deiseanna iontacha ag daltaí an Choláiste chun a dteangacha a bhforbairt, le turasanna go Páras agus Beirlín. Coláiste Pobail Osraí language students had a wonderful opportunity to develop their language skills as they headed to Paris and Berlin.

Seachtain na Gaeilge & Seachtain ETB

Bhí tús iontach le Márta, le 2 cheiliúradh ar siúl. Bhí imeachtaí iontacha ar nós tráth na gCeist, rince agus cluichí as Gaeilge, chomh maith le maidin spóirt agus ceiliúradh ar éiteas ETB freisin. A great start to March, with both Seachtain na Gaeilge and ETB Week celebrated. Plenty of events as Gaeilge as well as a sports morning organised by Ceannarái don Todhchaí / Future Leaders group as well.

Craobh an Chontae – Comórtas Fiontraíochta Local Enterprise

Tá an Coláiste fíor-bhródúil as na grúpaí a ghlac páirt sa Chraobh Contae den Chomórtas Fiontraíochta i mí an Mhárta – Students took part in the County Final of the Young Entrepreneur Awards in March:

Molly de Búrca le “Nanny’s knits” – cairdeagain naíonán lámhdhéanta agus pearsantaithe / handmade and personalised cardigans for infants. Evie, Daisy agus Ashleigh le “Brown Paper Package” a dhéanann páipéar cumhdaithe inbhuanaithe / sustainable wrapping paper and gift labels. Iain Ó Coimín le “Ceannaigh Cill Chainnigh” – cártaí poist le grianghrafadóireacht fhéin Iain de Chill Chainnigh / postcards of Kilkenny featuring Iain’s own photography of the city.

Chomhghairdeas ó chroí le Molly a bhain gradam na Meán Sóisialta amach. A hearty congratulations to Molly who took home the award for Best Social Media.



Comórtas Fiontraíochta Molly 2023

Coláiste Cois Siúire welcomed six year groups for the first time

Coláiste Cois Siúire enjoyed another successful academic year in 2022/23, during which its core values of excellence in education, equality, care, community and respect were at the forefront of all it did.

In September, the school celebrated a milestone by welcoming six year groups for the first time in its history. As the school welcomed its new first-year class, a warm welcome was also extended to a number of international students who joined Coláiste Cois Siúire for one year of study from Spain, France, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and Japan.

The school's commitment to excellence in education was reflected in the outstanding exam results achieved by the students in their state exams. The staff's dedication to quality learning and teaching was also evident at the KCETB TeachMeet professional learning event in October at which two Coláiste Cois Siúire teachers presented on pedagogical topics for the benefit of the entire KCETB scheme.

The school facilities received considerable investment before and during the past year to ensure the necessary resources for quality learning and teaching. This year, every classroom was upgraded to feature a HD projector, wireless display adapter and active speakers so teachers and students alike can fully capitalise on digital learning experiences.

Away from the classroom, the school excelled in many sporting areas during the year with boys' and girls' teams competing in basketball, hurling/camogie, soccer, and Gaelic football competitions. The school wheelchair basketball team emerged as the winners in a UCC-run tournament, a fantastic achievement for all involved and a wonderful



Vicky Phelan Triptych Portrait



TY Survival Skills Trip

The senior cycle school tour visited Belfast in what was a fantastic opportunity for the students to learn and engage with the history and heritage of Northern Ireland on the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement.

Student leadership in action could be seen throughout the academic year with the Student Council organising a number of events for the school community and reporting to the board of management about their work in the school. Sixth-year prefects played an important role in modelling high standards and expectations for younger cohorts, while peer mentors assisted with first-year students making the transition to Coláiste Cois Siúire. The Green School committee worked steadily throughout the year towards the goal of earning the school's first Green School Flag and are confident they will succeed.

Well-being Week in Coláiste Cois Siúire took place in term one and promoted positive habits for the mind and body. This was complemented by the annual Active School Week in term three featuring the yearly 5K Fun Run and the hugely popular School Sports Day.

The school's Transition Year programme continued to develop this year with a balanced blend of academia, modular subjects and more diverse events. The annual TY trip was to Delphi Adventure Resort where the students spent an energetic two days on activities such as abseiling, zip-wiring, kayaking and hiking.



Student Council Ethos Presentations

In the second term, the students celebrated Seachtain na Gaeilge agus Gaeilge 24, which gave students a chance to explore and appreciate the Irish language and culture through Irish dancing, singing and a giant table quiz.

Following the sad passing in November of past pupil and friend of the school, Vicky Phelan, the school welcomed the Triptych Vicky Phelan portrait in February 2023. The school community gathered to see and hear how the inspiring artwork told the story of Vicky's journey through life and, importantly, educated the students about cervical cancer prevention.

Coláiste Cois Siúire is extremely proud of how its students and teachers set high standards for the school this year and strove together for excellence in achieving these aims as a school community.



TF Meagher Foundation Flag Presentation 2023



The Coláiste Eoin musical production *Mamma Mia - Or Is It?*

Coláiste Eoin: Grandparents' Day will be an event to remember

This academic year, Coláiste Eoin remained at the heart of the community, striving for academic excellence and ensuring the care of its students' well-being.

The year got off to a good start. Working together, the school welcomed its Meitheal team and introduced the new first-year group to the school. Elections were held for Student Council and team-building exercises and class leagues in various sports across all of the year groups took place to help students settle into life at Coláiste Eoin.

Practical subjects welcomed new ideas and guest speakers, evening study for students resumed and the mentor system in place for all third-year and sixth-year students continued to be a great success. Class teachers, junior and senior year heads, the deputy principal and principal were all involved in guiding and directing students in both a pastoral and academic sense.

A whole-of-school Wellbeing Halloween Fancy Dress event was held on Friday 21 October and the Parents Association sponsored the prizes. The school staff organised another memorable day before the Christmas holidays with live Christmas music,

a selection of movies and a well-organised Christmas Quiz with prizes galore on offer.

Other highlights of the year included celebrating Gaisce, the Groupa Cheoil performance at the ETBI conference dinner, the KCETB Student of the Year Awards and a Lip Sync event.

TY students participated in a wide range of workshops and activities throughout the year. These included: a school tour to Rome and Sorrento; the musical production *Mamma Mia-Or Is It?*; a radio broadcasting workshop; participation in *Engineering*

Week and Junk Kouture; a trip to Baltinglass Outdoor Education Centre and the Generation Apprenticeship Competition

There was ongoing work with the school polytunnel, Hacketstown Tidy Town and Biodiversity Garden, Dance and Drama, Garda Safe Driving, Gambling Awareness, GAA Coaching modules, Driving Skills and Green Schools, among others.

The teaching and learning committee and the digital committee continued to embed good practices across the school. Coláiste Eoin participated



Trip to the National Concert Hall



School trip to the National Concert Hall

in Anti-Bullying Week, , Science Week, Inclusion Week, History Week, National Flag Day, Geography Week, Maths Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Well-being Week, quizzes, lunchtime tournaments, trips away and so much more.

Sporting teams participated in soccer, hurling, Gaelic football, camogie and athletics. Separately, basketball and Coderdojo were added to the list of extra-curricular activities offered by the school.

As part of its area of focus on school ethos, Coláiste Eoin organised a school ethos week that tied in with ETB Week during which Grandparents Day was held at Coláiste Eoin. This unique and special occasion was one to cherish as was the opportunity to share our school and its activities with such special people in the lives of the students. An event to remember.



Coláiste Eoin students visit Kildalton college



Grandparents Day at Coláiste Eoin



The Coláiste Eoin Basketball Team



Full STEAM ahead for Youthreach Carlow

2022/23 has been a remarkably busy year for Youthreach Carlow during which the staff played an integral role in facilitating learner growth and development.

Youthreach Carlow's Leaving Certificate learners sat their exams in June 2022 and achieved exceptional results in all subjects and a range of awards were attained by the QQI learners. Everyone who completed the programme and applied for courses at Carlow Institute of Further Education were awarded places and are now continuing onto the next stage in their FET journey.

Learners also took part in certified programmes such as manual handling, fire safety and e-scooter training.

The staff in Youthreach Carlow embraced a new teaching methodology through the development of their QQI modules through e-portfolio for assessment. This innovative project has been ongoing in the centre throughout the year and has been highly successful.

In May, all staff participated in training in the *Full STEAM Ahead! A Partnership Approach to STEAM in Youthreach*, funded by the National Youth Council of Ireland. As a follow on from this training, Youthreach Carlow developed a STEAM project which was entered into the Full STEAM Ahead showcase event in the Helix in November. Entitled *Ro-bin*, the project was led by staff members Aisling Loughran and Jennifer Fitzpatrick. *Ro-bin* was subsequently awarded the prize for the *Embodiment of STEAM*, which earned Youthreach Carlow a 3D printer kit and three days of expert group training at the Youthreach Carlow centre for all learners. Congratulations and maithiú to everyone involved.

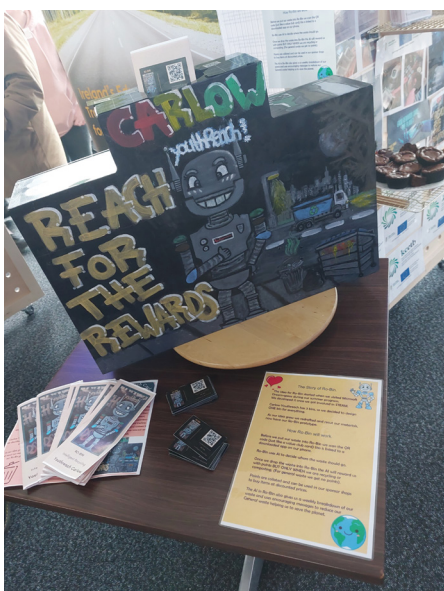
Youthreach Carlow ran a summer programme last June and July where learners were afforded the opportunity to work on their adaptability, initiative, critical thinking and problem-solving skills outside of the classroom environment. Staff and learners participated in a vast range of trips and activities which were thoroughly enjoyed by all involved.

During the summer programme, Youthreach Carlow participated in



making a film with Outlandish Theatre Platform entitled *Rubbish*. Everyone enjoyed taking part in the film which was premiered in Visual Carlow in April. A cast and crew event was organised in cooperation with Take A Part Carlow and Outlandish.

Youthreach Carlow also oversaw a very productive work experience programme in June with every learner securing their preferred placements and feedback from employers and students was incredibly positive.





At a learner celebration event, VTOS learner Adam Flanagan presents KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis with a floral pottery mosaic designed by the students and which represents the KCETB values

It has been another busy year for everyone in KCETB Carlow Adult Guidance Service.

In response to demand, and in collaboration with Carlow Adult Learning Scheme, the centre hosted a number of CV workshops over several days for recent arrivals from Ukraine and other English language learners. These group workshops were followed by one-to-one CV appointments in Carlow Adult Guidance Service with an onsite translator. A



Shane Rooney (Guidance Counsellor) explaining elements of the KCETB Course Directory at a Carlow Volunteer Centre event in Fairgreen Shopping Centre

guidance counsellor worked with Ukrainians on an intensive English course which included a walkabout tour of Carlow town, taking in sites such as Carlow Library, Carlow County Museum and Carlow Volunteer centre.

In February, staff attended the Carlow Volunteer Centre information event in a local shopping centre. This was a great chance to meet the public, network with local services and arrange follow-up appointments with future clients.

Another busy year for Carlow Adult Guidance Service

Later that month, clients from Carlow Youthreach, Carlow VTOS centre and St. Catherine's Community Services Centre, accompanied by centre staff and guidance counsellors, enjoyed a guided bus tour as part of Carlow Institute of Further Education's Open Day. Learners were excited by the range of QQI Level 5 opportunities on offer and were facilitated by guidance staff in the application process.

March saw guidance staff join FET colleagues at the KCETB stand as part of a local DSP event. In what a very busy day, guidance counselling staff offered advice and guidance with many new clients arranging appointments and former service users dropping by to update on their progress.

As March drew to a close, a learner celebration event took place in the Seven Oaks hotel. This collaborative morning was organised by the Adult Education Co-ordinators and their respective teams. After an introduction by KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis, learners enjoyed a very entertaining motivational speaker – Richard Burke from Resilience Matters – some pottery demonstrations and a chance to catch up with classmates. The sit-down offered food and plenty of photo opportunities.

In April, the guidance service staff were delighted to share knowledge with local colleagues as presentations were facilitated at a KCETB/ Carlow Library collaborative event and at a CYPSC event in Carlow College with colleagues from local youth training and advocacy agencies and organisations.



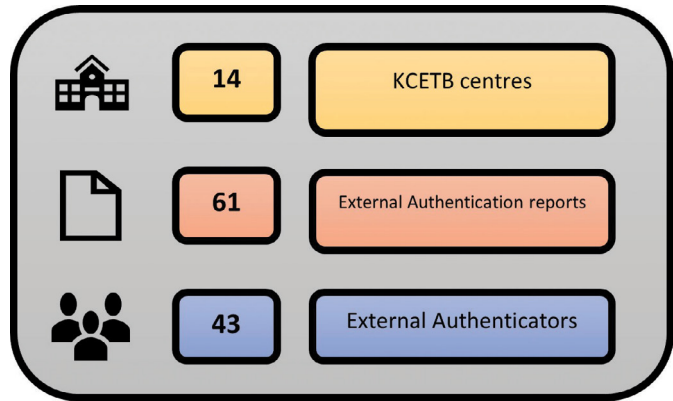
Learners practice their pottery skills with tutor Jayne Foley of Sunshine Pottery

Quality Assurance Department

The Quality Assurance (QA) department had a very busy year in 2022/23.

External Authentication Summary 2022

External Authentication is central to the consistent application of KCETB's Assessment Policy and ensures that grading decisions are made according to national standards. Throughout 2022, the EA activities are summarised in the graphic to the right.



Summary of the External Authentication Activities in 2022

QQI 10th Anniversary Event

The QQI 10th anniversary conference was held on 18 and 19 October in the Croke Park Conference Centre. The theme was Strengthening Strategic Partnership to Effect System Change and reflected on a decade of QQI's work with stakeholders and outlined future ambitions to continue collaboration. KCETB was well represented at the event which was attended by stakeholders from Irish higher education and international education organisations. There were themed posters on display for the Excellent Poster Exhibition. KCETB had two posters selected for the exhibition and was also involved in a multi-sector submission from the south-east region.

KCETB speakers participated in the lightning talks and panel discussions. Andrew Kennedy presented a lightning talk on *Learning Supports for Phase 3 Craft Apprentices Transitioning to Higher Education (Phase 4) across the South East* and Amanda Butler was part of a panel discussion on *Future-Fit Quality and Qualifications: Exploring Digital Transformation* that emphasised the role of Quality Assurance. This was a great opportunity to present the work that KCETB staff are doing on a national platform.

Learning Supports for Phase 3 Craft Apprentices Transitioning to Higher Education (Phase 4) across the South East

Apprentices going through each year: 472

Phase 2: 472 Theoretical Apprentices

Phase 4 & 6: 480 Theoretical Apprentices

Key Message: A significant jump in the curriculum from Phase 2 to Phase 4. A much greater focus on theory at Phase 4. A significant jump in the curriculum for 2 to 28 hour blocks. Key links exist for additional support in learning class. Need for additional support has been identified by ETB and SETU staff. This identified the areas of greatest need.

Key supports in development:

- Apprentice Focused Pedagogical Approach
- Material Focused on Apprenticeship Symbiosis
- Better Transition to Phase 4

Jump from Phase 2 to Phase 4:

- Phase 2: Further Education, 50% Theory, 50% Practical
- Phase 4: Higher Education, 80% Theory, 20% Practical

Cross Sectoral Approaches For Effective Programme Development

Key Message: The development process followed a clear identified need with an efficient manner, with input from a broad range of experts and an extensive consultation process. The consideration of the broad standards in the development process also meant that the award is more applicable across a broad range of areas.

Objective: The development process followed a clear identified need with an efficient manner, with input from a broad range of experts and an extensive consultation process by the Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and a multi-sector approach.

Keywords: Collaboration, Programme Development, Executive Apprenticeships

Authors: Sarah Byrne, Triona Farrell

Key Stages:

1. Identification of Need
2. Collaboration
3. Broad Standards
4. Consultation of Need
5. Tutors' and Parents' Response
6. Key Messages

Tutors' and Parents' Response:

- Strongly Disagree
- Disagree
- Agree
- Strongly Agree

ePortfolios Innovation for Classrooms and Virtual Learning Environments

One of the most dramatic and visible impacts of the pandemic in education and training has been the wholesale adoption of online technology to support teaching, learning and assessment (TLA).

What is an ePortfolio? An electronic portfolio (ePortfolio) is a collection of electronic evidence assembled and managed on a platform.

Aim: To outline innovative practices adopted in classrooms and Virtual Learning Environments.

Objective: To highlight the innovative and creative modifications to teaching and learning in the classroom and outline how ePortfolios benefit teachers and learners.

Why Choose ePortfolios?

- Learner Centered
- Accessible
- Innovative
- Adaptable
- Formative

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

- Before the pandemic emergency: Face-to-face in the classroom, Paper based assessments, Physical storage of material.
- Since the pandemic emergency: Virtual Learning, Assessment material online, Consistency is key for good Quality Assurance, Authentication can be conducted online, Learner evidence available and accessible, Appeals are easier to access and review.

Benefits of ePortfolios include:

- Management, delivery and assessment of learning material
- Create, innovative and active teaching practices
- Opportunities for collaboration and integration of education
- An environment that is more cooperative than competitive
- Reduce stress and improve efficiency when organising assessments
- A more equitable and structural approach to learning
- Learners acquire digital skills for life

Impact of ePortfolios on Quality Assurance:

- Provides opportunities for consistency within centres and between centres
- Consistency is key for good Quality Assurance
- Authentication can be conducted online
- Learner evidence available and accessible
- Appeals are easier to access and review

Key Messages:

- Unintended Benefits: In addition to better organisation and digital skills, teamwork and collaboration improve.
- Online everywhere: Utilising a virtual teaching and learning environment... even when in the classroom.
- Skills for life: Providing learners with opportunities to acquire digital skills for lifelong learning.

SCAN ME

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The RPL team at KCETB worked with two groups in 2022 to formally recognise experience and work achieved in the workplace. This was completed using the KCETB policy and procedures for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

The first group was the Irish Defence Forces, whose work in the areas of health and safety, communications, work experience, IT skills and sports were recognised for a number of awards at QQI levels 4 and 5. The group received their certificates in February at a ceremony in James Stephens Army Barracks, Kilkenny.



RPL awards Defence Forces Kilkenny

The second group to be formally recognised was the sales team at Nutribio, an industry leader in the manufacture of supplementary feeds for food-producing animals. The group was mentored and supported to match their work activities to the QQI level 6 award Consultative Selling. In February, the participants were presented with their individual awards at a ceremony in Mount Wolseley in Tullow, Co Carlow.



RPL awards - Nutribio, Carlow - February 2023

Both projects were enthusiastically supported by KCETB. The work involved was acknowledged by the employers who commended the individual RPL participants and KCETB for working collaboratively to achieve formal certification for the knowledge, skills and competencies that are achieved in the workplace. KCETB is looking forward to further RPL opportunities with employers in the region.

New programmes and awards

KCETB was involved in developing and validating a number of new awards in 2022 which were submitted for approval to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) and other specific awarding bodies.

On 1 March, during ETB week, the new *QQI Level 3 Special Purpose Award Learning to Support Children in Primary School* was launched at a special event in the Lord Bagenal Inn, Leighlinbridge. The development of this new award was led by KCETB in collaboration with nine other education and training boards. The event was attended by QQI, KCETB management and staff, ETB representatives and other stakeholders, including NALA and community representatives.

The award formally recognises and supports parents in their role as the primary educators of their children in areas such as literacy, numeracy and digital literacy and will provide certification options for learners participating in family learning programmes.



Pictured at the national launch of the *QQI Level 3 Special Purpose Award in Learning to Support Children in Primary School*, spearheaded by KCETB, are: KCETB Director of FET Martha Bolger; Director of Awards at Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) Barbara Kelly and KCETB Chief Executive Eileen Curtis.

Awards that KCETB were approved for in 2022:

- Level 5 Special Purpose Award - Certificate in Digital Assisted Eco Driving (Coach & Bus)
- Level 4 Special Purpose Award - Environmental Sustainability Awareness
- Level 3 Special Purpose Award - Learning to Support Children in Primary School
- Level 5 Special Purpose Award - Building Digital Business Skills
- Level 5 Special Purpose Award - Environmental Sustainability in the Workplace

Awards that have been submitted for approval, or in development:

- Level 5 Special Purpose Award - Lean for Sustainable Business Practice
- Level 5 Special Purpose Award - Resource Efficiency for a Sustainable Workplace

SENCO Community of Practice established across KCETB Schools



Dr. Johanna Fitzgerald, Mary Immaculate College, facilitating the inaugural SENCO Community of Practice, with Dr. Pauline Egan, KCETB Director of Schools

KCETB held its inaugural SENCO (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) Community of Practice in the Kilkenny Education Centre on Wednesday 3 May.

Special Educational Needs Coordinators from all 13 schools were in attendance on the day, who were joined by their school's senior management teams. KCETB Director of Schools Dr Pauline Egan officially opened the day and welcomed everyone to the event.

Dr Johanna Fitzgerald, who is a senior lecturer at Mary Immaculate College, and who heads its Department for Inclusive & Special Education, was a special guest. In collaboration with Linda McCormack from Kilkenny City Vocational School, who is the KCETB inclusion coach, Dr Fitzgerald delivered a series of workshops throughout the day. The workshops covered topics such as student support planning and using school provision mapping to support effective teaching and learning practices within the classroom. The agenda also included a session for SENCOs to work collectively to define the vision, aims and structure for the Community of Practice. The KCETB Community of Practice will give special education practitioners in its schools the opportunity to collaborate, share good practice and work collectively on streamlining key areas for SEN practice at ETB level that will be of significant benefit to all learners.

What a fantastic start to such a worthwhile initiative.



Dr Johanna Fitzgerald with Cathy McSorley, Principal KCVS, Seán Óg O'Sullivan, Principal, Grennan College and Dr Pauline Egan, KCETB Director of Schools



Conor Power, Principal Coláiste Cois Siúire, Mooncoin; Pat Coffey, Principal Borris Vocational School; Sara Kearney, SENCO, Coláiste Eoin, Hacketstown; Cathal Delahunty, SENCO, Borris Vocational School.



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