

ACCS

Newsletter Nuachtiris

Cumann na Scoileanna Pobail is Cuimsitheacha Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools

No. 2 2014/2015

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ACCS Communications Strategy

It has been a very busy opening to 2014/15 academic year for all our schools. It was great to meet so many Principals, Deputy Principals and Board Members at our Area Information Meetings. These meetings are a central part of the communication process within ACCS where current live issues in education are discussed and feedback informs our thinking. In this regard we feature our Communications Strategy as part of this newsletter.

The Strategic Plan 2013 - 2016 highlights the importance of how ACCS communicates its message and provides the route map to further enhance this aspect of what we do. The strategy involves:

- Communicating the uniqueness and achievements of Community and Comprehensive Schools
- Raising the awareness of Community and Comprehensive Schools and the role of ACCS with a wider audience to include teachers, parents, students and the wider community

To begin to meet these objectives we will:

- Include a greater focus on achievements from schools in each Newsletter
- Increase the number of copies issued to schools to include staffroom copies and copies for Parent Associations
- Highlight the latest Newsletter on the front page of the website www.accs.ie

The ACCS Website is currently being updated. This process is nearing completion and it is intended to formally launch the improved site in the near future. The site will include a section where schools can access their own information for updating purposes and forward news of significant events in their schools to ACCS head office.

Your feedback and suggestions will be very welcome.



Ms. Eileen Salmon,
General Secretary.

Achievements of Community and Comprehensive Schools

*The Strategic Plan 2013-2016 recommends:
"Communicate the achievements of ACCS schools"*



Pictured from left to right: Ms. Kathleen O'Brien (Deputy Principal), Emer Hickey, Sophie Healy-Thow, Ciara Judge and Mr. Shaun Holly (Young Scientist Co-ordinator).

Grand Prize
Winners at the
Google Science
Fair 2014



We are delighted to include a 'News and Events' section in our Newsletter. This will become a regular feature. The aim is to highlight the diverse range of achievements and opportunities available in our Community and Comprehensive Schools.

What better way to start than with World Champions. The achievement of the students of Kinsale Community School, Ciara Judge, Emer Hickey and Sophie Healy-Thow in securing the Grand Prize at the Google Science Fair is truly remarkable.

It places Irish Education and that of the Community and Comprehensive sector at the very pinnacle of success. Their project titled, 'Combating

the global food crisis: Diazotroph Bacteria as a Cereal Crop Growth' investigates the use of diazotroph bacteria as a cereal crop germination and growth aid.

We wish these students every success as they further develop their project and congratulate the entire learning community of Kinsale Community School which has nurtured this success.

During a recent visit by ACCS to the school the Principal Fergal McCarthy and Deputy Principal Kathleen O'Brien were keen to stress the hard work of the students and the support of their parents and teachers. They emphasised the cross curricular nature of the projects stating, "the project alone will not win

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www.accs.ie



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Please circulate to Board Members.



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in the RDS, it is the ability of the students to communicate their project that makes the difference". They went on to state that while these three excellent young students have done exceptionally well there are many other students who partake, and reaching the finals of the Young Scientist in the RDS is a significant achievement. Kinsale Community School's outstanding Young Scientist Programme is overseen by science teacher Shaun Holly supported by parents, management and many other members of the teaching staff.

The ethical nature of the winning project, looking at increasing crop yield to help alleviate world hunger, has captured the attention of the world. They are listed among the most influential teenagers in the world by Time Magazine. As well as meeting the winners of the Grand Prize at the Google Science Fair 2014, ACCS were also delighted to meet Eve Casey and Cathy Hynes, winners of the best Group Award at the 2014 BT Young Scientist for a project based on the study



Pictured from left to right: Mr. John Irwin, Ms. Eileen Salmon, Sophie Healy-Thow, Eve Casey, Cathy Hynes, Ciara Judge, Emer Hickey, Mr. Malachy Molloy (President ACCS).

of using statistical methods of people's attitudes to the ageing workforce of the future.

We look forward to following the careers of these young scientists with interest!

Data Protection

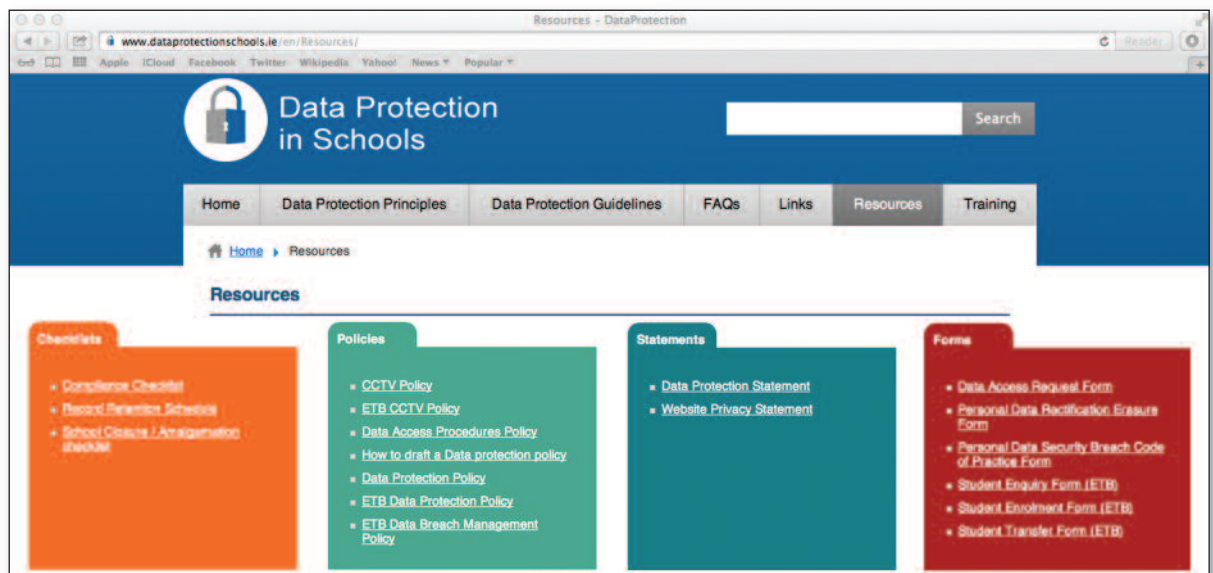
Millet and Mathews Solicitors have completed workshops on Data Protection hosted in Dublin, Cork and Athlone. They focused on

- Putting a Data Protection Policy in place
- CCTV systems in schools
- Data Access Requests
- Common Data Protection related scenarios in schools.

The feedback from these workshops was very positive.

We also bring www.dataprotectionschools.ie to your attention.

This very comprehensive site addresses all the key issues around data protection in our schools. The Resource Section is a rich source of useful tools including a template Data Protection Policy for schools and a guide to drafting such a policy.



Recent DES Circulars

Since our last Newsletter the following Department Circulars have been issued:

0061/2014	Discontinuance of Typewriting Examination after 2016.	0068/2014	HSE Post-Primary School Vaccination Programme 2014/2015.
0065/2014	Sick Leave Scheme for clerical officers and caretakers employed in post primary schools under the 1978 scheme.	0070/2014	Guidance for post primary schools on the provision of resource teaching and learning support.

News & Events from the Community & Comprehensive School Sector

In this section we aim to highlight news and events in Community and Comprehensive Schools. We welcome submissions from schools which can be forwarded to office@accs.ie

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Official Opening of Ballinamore Community School

On Monday 6th October, 2014 An Taoiseach Enda Kenny T.D. officially opened Ballinamore Community School's new state of the art building. All present had the opportunity to tour the school's new facility.



Pictured from left to right: Deputy Principal Diarmuid McCaffrey, Ruth McNiffe, An Taoiseach, Enda Kenny T.D., Ronan Maxwell and Principal Padraig Leyden.

Welcome Ballymakenny College

We are delighted to welcome Ballymakenny College to ACCS. The school is under the patronage of Louth and Meath ETB and Educate Together. We wish them every success and look forward to working closely with the school.



Kate Gorwood (first year student) cuts the ribbon at the opening ceremony of Ballymakenny College, along with from left to right: Mr. Alan Mynes (Principal), Mr. Peter Kierans (CE, LMETB), Mr. Oliver Tully (BOM Ballymakenny College), Mr. Brian Mc Craith (President, DCU) and Mr. Paul Rowe (CE, Educate Together) and in the foreground Ms. Ruth Doggett (Chairperson, Ballymakenny College).

Gorey Community School Showcases Teaching Excellence



FÉILTE 2014, the Festival of Education in Learning and Teaching Excellence, is a celebration of innovation in teaching. Two teachers from Gorey Community School, Grainne Mulcahy and Ger Duran developed a project titled: "Holocaust Memorial Exhibition - a whole school initiative". It includes resources for CSPE, History, English, Religion and a whole range of justice and peace issues centred around the Holocaust. It is a powerful methodology drawing many disciplines together to create a learning experience that can be used as a template for any subject area.

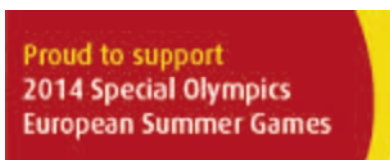
Shona Gregan European Silver Medalist



Shona Gregan, European Badminton Silver Medalist

Shona Gregan, a 6th year student at Gorey Community School was selected to represent Team Ireland at the 2014 Special Olympics European Summer Games.

She was one of 46 athletes who travelled to Antwerp representing the team in the Badminton Singles. All in Gorey Community School celebrate her magnificent achievement on winning the Silver Medal. *Congratulations Shona!!*



St. Louis Community School Kiltimagh, National Award Winners

It has indeed been exciting times recently for students from St. Louis Community School winning three national awards:

- Best Recycling Educational Facility in Ireland (Primary, Secondary and Third Level)

- Ambassador School for Mental Health
- National Award for sculpture for the Strokestown Famine Memorial Park.

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Best Educational facility for recycling in Ireland.
Pictured from left to right: Ms. Christina Gormally, Jessica Nolan, Megan Leadbetter, Michaela Higgins and Ms. Geraldine Molloy.



Caroline Leetch, National Youth Leader for Mental Health launched the 2015 "Cycle against Suicide" Campaign with Jim Breen.



National Sculptor Award Winners

This sculpture was created by the students and staff of the Special Needs Department within St. Louis Community School.

Jayke Morris, Peter Bredican, Mary Malee, Michaela Webb, Morton King, Stephen Mellet, Keeva Gillespie, Natasha Hirst, Sean Schokker, Rhys Burns, Shantinni Fenton.

Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne, An Daingean

Following on their success in Colleges football winning the Hogan Cup, Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne provided ten players to the All Ireland winning Kerry minor team. Teacher in the school, Eamonn Fitzmaurice coached both the colleges side and the victorious Kerry senior team.



Pádraig Firtéar, Priomhoide, staff and students of Pobalscoil Chorca Dhuibhne welcome members of the victorious Kerry minor and senior teams.