

Fáilte chuig an Scoilbhliain 2016/17

As we look forward to the Academic Year 2016/17 may I on behalf of ACCS offer best wishes and every success to all in our school communities. In this first Newsletter of the academic year you will find details of the extensive programme of Continuous Professional Development, CPD, provided through ACCS. We take the opportunity to acknowledge those leaders in our schools retiring and welcome those newly appointed. We also continue to highlight innovative projects and events in our schools as well as providing details of the most recent Circular Letters emanating from the Department of Education and Skills.

Challenging times

There are challenging times ahead for school management. The new school year opens against a backdrop of potential industrial unrest. As the majority of Community and Comprehensive schools are dual union, ACCS is conscious of the challenges facing Boards of Management given the differing positions on the new Junior Cycle Framework and the Lansdowne Road Agreement adopted by the two teaching unions. Be assured that ACCS will advise and support school Boards of Management while also representing their concerns during this challenging time.

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

In this Newsletter you will find details of our extensive CPD programme. There are aspects which appear annually and also new additions which this year include;

- Role & Responsibilities of the Chairperson, Board of Management. With an ever greater emphasis on school governance this is an essential evening for Chairpersons and Principals.
- DEIS Symposium. A timely intervention as the Department near completion of their review of the DEIS Programme and the School Completion Programme.

- Interviewing Questioning Skills for the Appointment of Principals & Deputy Principals. A key further development when interviewing for senior management positions.

The Post of Responsibility Appointments CPD is particularly aimed at those who will be filling such posts this academic year. The Data Protection Workshops are really a must for all schools, even those who have previously attended, as there is a great deal of change occurring in this area. I would also advise schools to avail of the opportunity for individual Board of Management Training, particularly newly appointed Boards.

Junior Cycle

As we enter a new academic year I am reminded of the words of Professor Andy Hargreaves, "change is easy to propose, hard to implement". ACCS welcomes the introduction of the new Junior Cycle and would like to see all students in Community and Comprehensive Schools having access to all aspects of the programmes outlined in the new Framework for the Junior Cycle. We acknowledge that all teachers are committed to teach the new curricula but would like to see teachers having the opportunity to participate in the CPD available to them and implement all aspects of the Framework. I am reminded of what educational reformer John Dewey observed over a century ago: "if we teach today's students as we taught yesterday's, we rob them of tomorrow". The New Junior Cycle Framework provides a pathway to reforming lower secondary education for the benefit of all students. It provides the opportunity to address issues such as 'engagement of students' at Junior Cycle and over-emphasis on 'terminal examinations'.

ACCS is conscious that, while some of our schools have been able to move ahead with the reforms, there is a



Ms. Eileen Salmon, General Secretary ACCS

huge frustration with senior management in a number of our schools who are being prevented in implementing the new framework in its entirety because of the ASTI directive to their members. A very delicate path is being negotiated by senior management to maintain good relationships between all stakeholders in the school, particularly where some students are having the full experience of the new subject specification while other students are not. Unfortunately, in the current impasse, this will be further exacerbated in the new academic year.

Lansdowne Road Agreement

The ASTI directive to members to withdraw from the 33 Croke Park hours effectively places them outside the collective public service pay agreement. This ultimately means that school management must apply different terms and conditions to teachers serving in their school based on their Union membership. CL 45/2016 sets out how schools operate these terms and conditions.

www.accs.ie

This newsletter is a private and confidential document for circulation only to Boards of Management and Principals. **Please circulate to Board Members.**

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ACCS will continue to update schools as the implications of the ASTI decision unfold.

Teaching Council

On the 25th of July the Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D., commenced the Fitness to Teach provisions of the Teaching Council Acts 2001-2015. The Minister clarified in his statement that, "The Teaching Council's fitness to teach processes are not intended to replace the procedures that are already in place in schools to deal with issues of professional conduct and competence. Underperformance or

misconduct will continue to be dealt with first at school level and while generally school procedures should be exhausted before any inquiry by the Teaching Council takes place the Council can proceed where there are good and sufficient reasons".

The Director of the Teaching Council, Mr. Tomás Ó Ruairc, said that "teaching affected the lives of every single person in our society... that is why professional standards matter so much. The Fitness to Teach complaints process, therefore, is about improving teaching, not punishing teachers".

Detailed information regarding the

process is available in the Professional Standards section on www.teachingcouncil.ie.

Support

As you approach a new school year please be assured that ACCS is there to assist and support you in your role. Please do not hesitate to contact ACCS by phone or drop us an email if you require any advice or support. We will start the ball rolling with our Area Information Meetings commencing at the end of August where we will discuss all relevant matters with you and listen to your concerns.

Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, President of ACCS, appointed to the Board of the NCSE

The Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D., has appointed Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, President of ACCS, to the Board of the National Council for Special Education (NCSE).

The NCSE:

- Provides advice and information on special education to schools and parents
- Allocates resource teacher and special needs assistant supports to schools
- Undertakes and disseminates research into special education
- Provides policy advice to the Minister for Education and Skills on issues relating to special education.

The NCSE also has advisory roles in relation to the provision of specialist equipment/assistive technology for students and special school transport arrangements.

This is an area of great interest to Antoinette. She has in-depth knowledge having previously served on advisory groups to the NCSE but also invaluable practical experience through her work as school principal in Donahies Community

School. We wish Antoinette every success in her new role, a role we have no doubt she will fill with distinction.

The Council of the NCSE will be composed of the following members:

- Mr. Eamon Stack - Chairperson (Nominee of the Minister for Education and Skills).
- Mr. Seán Ó Murchú (Nominee of Minister for Education and Skills).
- Professor Sheelagh Drudy (Nominee of the Minister for Education and Skills).
- Ms. Anne Tansey (Nominee of the Minister for Education and Skills).
- Mr. Joe Hayes (Nominee of the Minister for Education and Skills).
- Mr. Don Mahon (Nominee of the Minister for Education and Skills).
- Ms. Eithne Fitzgerald (Nominee of the National Disability Authority).
- Mr. Tom O'Sullivan (Nominee of the National Disability Authority).
- Ms. Helen Guinan (Nominee of the National Association of Board of Managements for Special Education (NABMSE)).
- Ms. Marion Meaney (Nominee of the Minister for Health).



Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt, President ACCS, recently appointed to the Board of the NCSE by Minister for Education and Skills, Mr. Richard Bruton T.D.

- Dr. Finian O'Shea (Nominee of the Church of Ireland College of Education).
- Ms. Aine Lynch (Nominee of the National Primary Parents Association).
- Ms. Antoinette Nic Gearailt (Nominee of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools).

ACCS Convention 2017

The 35th ACCS Convention will take place on the 23rd, 24th & 25th March, 2017 in The Malton, Town Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Dates to remember

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 23rd December, 2016 | Nominations for Presidency and motions for Convention to be submitted. |
| 23rd January, 2017 | Draft agenda of business and nominations for Presidency and motions to be issued to Member Boards and Executive Members. Member Boards will be invited to submit amendments to the motions. |
| 23rd February, 2017 | Latest date for receipt of amendments to the motions. |
| 9th March, 2017 | A final agenda will be issued to Member Boards. |

Excellence in School Practice

ACCS Area Information Meetings

A series of Area Information Meetings are scheduled for late August and early September. These meetings will provide the opportunity for Board of Management Members, Principals and Deputy Principals to discuss the particular difficulties which arise from current changes in resources and procedures. Participants can advise ACCS of issues which require attention during the course of the year.

Data Protection Workshops Presented by Millett & Matthews Solicitors

ACCS has worked closely with the other school management bodies to put together a Data Protection Guidelines website which gives helpful advice and tailored templates for schools. Millett & Matthews have worked with the management bodies and the Data Protection Commissioner's Office on the project.

Objectives

This workshop is designed to give an overview of the website materials, and give some practical advice to schools on the most common data protection issues that arise. With the new General Data Protection Regulation ("GDPR"), which will have implications for schools, working its way through the European legislative bodies this is an opportune time to review school policies and procedures with regard to Data Protection.

Content includes:

- Description of Data Protection and why it applies to schools
- An update of the website materials
- Organising relevant policies in the school
- Data Access Requests: what they are and how to deal with them
- Safe storage and retention periods for different information
- Common scenarios that face schools regarding Data
- Future Developments

Who should attend?

Principals, Deputy Principals, Boards of Management members, Administrative Personnel with responsibility for data processing.

DATES/VENUES:

28/09/16, The Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary.

05/10/16, Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

Times to be advised

Post of Responsibility Appointments

Objectives

We are now operating Post of Responsibility Promotion and Appeal Procedures according to CL 25/2016. We would recommend this in-service to Principals and Selection Boards who will be making POR appointments in the coming year, in particular any Principals/Selection Boards who didn't attend the in-service last year.

Participants last year found it invaluable in supporting them in the process. The purpose of this in-service is to update schools on developments, particularly in relation to the Appeals Process and to ensure best practice for these appointments.

Content includes:

- Changes introduced with CL 25/2016
- Reviewing the schedule of posts
- Identifying vacancies
- Advertising posts
- Composition of the Selection Board
- The Interview Process
- The Appeals Process

Who should attend?

Principals and Trustee Nominees on Selection Boards and Independent Panel Members.

DATE: 14/09/16

VENUE: Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

TIME: 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.

Accountability and Management of the DES Administrative and Financial Guidelines

Objectives

Principals carry onerous responsibilities in finance and administration in their schools. They are ably assisted by their Clerical Officers.

This in-service supports both Principal and Clerical Officer in understanding the importance of the processes underpinning financial and administrative accountability in their school.

ACCS has now finalised the review of the Administrative & Financial Guidelines for Community & Comprehensive Schools with the DES and all relevant areas will be discussed.

Content includes:

- Board of Management Responsibilities
- Financial Returns/Audits
- Allocations: Funding & Staffing
- School Internal Controls
- Procurement
- Purchasing, Tendering, Quotations
- Banking arrangements
- Insurance and State Indemnity

Who should attend?

Newly appointed Principals with their Clerical Officers plus newly appointed Clerical Officers. Principals who wish to have a refresher/clarification of their role in school finances and administration.

DATE: 21/09/16

VENUE: ACCS Head Office, 10H Centrepark Business Park, Oak Drive, Dublin 12.

TIME: 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Booking Arrangements

Notice of arrangements will be sent to schools with appropriate enrolment forms prior to each course by email. Electronic booking forms are available on the ACCS website at www.accs.ie.

NEW

Role and Responsibilities of the Chairperson and Principal

Objectives

School Governance is an onerous responsibility for our Boards of Management. In particular, the understanding of the role of the Chairperson of the Board and the interaction/sharing of responsibilities between the Chairperson and the Principal are pivotal for the good governance of the school. This in-service will give participants an opportunity to discuss and learn about best practice in governing a school.

Content includes:

- Role of Chairperson on the Board of Management
- Relationship between Principal & Chairperson
- Protected Disclosures Policy
- School Self-Evaluation 2016- 2020

Who should attend?

Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Principals.

DATE: 03/10/16

VENUE: Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

TIME: 3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.

NEW

DEIS Symposium

Objectives

At this Symposium Principals, Deputy Principals and DEIS Co-ordinators will receive an update on all recent developments in the DEIS programme. This day will also provide the opportunity for schools to share their experiences and share models of best practice.

Content includes:

- Update on the Department DEIS Review
- Input from the DES
- Sharing best practice in our schools
- Open Forum

Who should attend?

Principals, Deputy Principals and relevant Co-ordinators in DEIS schools.

DATE: 26/10/16

VENUE: Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

Teacher Allocation & Redeployment

Objectives

This in-service is being held to coincide with allocations being distributed to schools by the DES. The intention is that schools will be alerted to any changes emanating from the Budget and will be updated on any DES changes to allocations. We will discuss how schools can use their allocation to best effect and how curricular concessions should be sought. Some of our school principals are very experienced in seeking curricular concessions and best practice in this regard will be shared. Redeployment will also be discussed, in particular the implications of the Ward Report and the potential implications of CL 45/2016.

Content includes:

- Current issues affecting allocation
- Initial Allocation/Final Allocation
- Curriculum Check List/Audit
- Curricular Concessions Best Practice
- Appeals Board
- Redeployment

Who should attend?

Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of Boards of Management.

DATE: 8/02/17

VENUE: Mullingar Park Hotel, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Clerical Officer/School Secretary In-Service

Objectives

The work of the Clerical Officer/School Secretary is central to the effective working of the school. They engage with esinet/OLCS/P-POD which continue to evolve. The new General Data Protection Regulations (“GDPR”) emanating from the EU legislative bodies will also have implications for schools. Following on from our Clerical Officer in-services last year, we will provide an in-service that is practically based and will give both new and experienced Clerical Officers an opportunity to discuss their concerns and to share best practice. Following consultation we will provide in-service based on needs as outlined by Clerical Officers.

Who should attend?

Clerical Officer/School Secretary.

DATES/VENUES:

15/02/17, Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

28/02/17, Dunraven Arms Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Competency Based Recruitment and Selection for Principal and Deputy Principals Appointments

Objectives

This one day programme will provide participants with a clear understanding of a competency based approach to the appointment of a Principal/Deputy Principal. It is a practical programme which aims to develop and enhance the interviewing and selection skills of participants to ensure future selection decisions rest in the appointment of the best possible candidate for the position. ACCS has worked with the ETBI on the development of this competency based approach to the recruitment and selection of a Principal/Deputy Principal and ACCS recommends that members of selection committees are trained in this approach.

Content includes:

- Competency based Recruitment and how we can apply it to shortlisting
- Interview and evaluation
- An overview of the Competency based Recruitment and Selection Process Manual
- Questioning and Listening Skills
- Evaluating the Evidence
- Employment Legislation relevant to the Recruitment and Selection Process

Who should attend?

Selection Committee Members.

DATE: 26/04/17

VENUE: Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

TIME: 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

NEW

Interviewing Questioning Skills for the appointment of Principals and Deputy Principals

Objectives

This half day programme is designed to develop and enhance participant's interview questioning skills. It is primarily focused on interview questioning skills in the context of the competency based approach to Principal/Deputy Principal appointments. The programme will give participants practical examples of how to construct valid questions and use competency/behavioural questions to gather accurate and reliable evidence to evaluate candidates in a fair and effective way.

Content includes:

- Principal/Deputy Principal competencies
- Effective questioning at interview - types, practical examples, practice through role play
- Listening Skills
- Evaluating the evidence

Who should attend?

Selection Committee members, in particular those involved in Principal/Deputy Principal appointments.

DATE: 28/04/17

VENUE: Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.

TIME: 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

ACCS Continuous Professional Development Programme 2016/2017

Date & Location	Programme Title	Participants
18/08/16 - 2.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. 19/08/16 - 9.30 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. (and 2.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. for Principals) Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath.	Induction of New Principals & Deputy Principals in Community & Comprehensive Schools.	All recently appointed Principals & Deputy Principals for an introduction to the sector.
30/08/16 Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal. 01/09/16 Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. (Dublin Meeting) 05/09/16 Clarion Hotel, Dublin Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. (Leinster Meeting) 07/09/16 Woodlands House Hotel, Adare, Co. Limerick. 08/09/16 Loughrea Hotel & Spa, Loughrea, Co. Galway.	ACCS Area Information Meetings. Ulster: 5.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. Dublin: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Leinster: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Munster: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. Connacht: 4.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m.	Principals, Deputy Principals, Secretaries Board of Management plus 2 Members of the Board of Management.
28/09/16 The Horse & Jockey Hotel, Co. Tipperary. 05/10/16 Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.	Data Protection Workshops. Presented by Millett & Matthews, Solicitors. Times to be advised.	Principals, Deputy Principals, Boards of Management Members, Administrative Personnel with responsibility for data processing.
14/09/16 Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath. Note: (Max. 40 Group)	Post of Responsibility Appointments. 2.00 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Principals and Trustee Nominees on Selection Boards and Independent Panel Members.
21/09/16 ACCS Head Office, Dublin 12.	Accountability and Management of the DES Administrative and Financial Guidelines. 1.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Newly appointed Principals with their Clerical Officers plus newly appointed Clerical Officers. Principals who wish to have a refresher/clarification of their role in school finances and administration.
03/10/16 Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22.	Role & Responsibilities of the Chairperson and Principal. 3.00 p.m. – 6.00 p.m.	NEW Chairpersons of Boards of Management and Principals.
26/10/16 Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath.	DEIS Symposium. 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	NEW Principals, Deputy Principals and relevant Co-ordinators in DEIS schools.
24-25/11/16 Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Limerick.	In-School Management Conference. Buffet Lunch from 12.30 p.m. 2.00 p.m. – 7.00 p.m. (Thursday) 9.15 a.m. – 1.30 p.m. (Friday)	Principals & Deputy Principals of Community & Comprehensive Schools. Note: Booking forms to follow
08/02/17 Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath.	Teacher Allocation and Redeployment. 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. followed by lunch	Principals, Deputy Principals and Chairpersons of Boards of Management.
15/02/17 Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. 28/02/17 Dunraven Arms, Adare, Co. Limerick.	Clerical Officer/School Secretary In-Service. 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. followed by lunch	Clerical Officer/School Secretary.
23/03/17 - 25/03/17 The Malton, Town Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry.	ACCS 2017 Convention.	Principal plus 2 Members of the Board of Management.
26/04/17 Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. Note: (Max. 25 Group)	Competency Based Recruitment and Selection for Principal & Deputy Principal appointments. 9.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.	Selection Committee Members.
28/04/17 Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin 22. Note: (Max. 25 Group)	Interviewing Questioning Skills for the Appointment of Principals & Deputy Principals. 10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.	NEW Selection Committee Members, in particular those involved in Principal/Deputy Principal appointments.
10/05/17 Mullingar Park Hotel, Co. Westmeath.	Education Conference. 9.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.	Principals, Deputy Principals, School Personnel & Member of Boards of Management.

The Role and Function of a Board of Management: In-service may be organized with individual Boards by request to ACCS.

Retirements and New Appointments

ACCS offers its congratulations to recently appointed Principals and Deputy Principals and its thanks and best wishes to those retiring or moving to pastures new.

RETIRED/DEPARTING PRINCIPALS AND DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Carrigaline C.S.

Principal: Mr. John Hourihan

St. Aidan's C.S., Brookfield

Principal: Sr. Ann O'Donoghue

NEW PRINCIPALS AND DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

Carrigaline C.S.

Principal: Mr. Paul Burke

Deputy Principal: TBA

Donahies C.S.

Deputy Principal: Ms. Michelle Horrigan

Heywood C.S.

Acting Deputy Principal: Mr. Peter Malone

Mayfield C.S.

Deputy Principal: Ms. Karen Casey

Pobalscoil Íosa

Deputy Principal: Mr. David Hayes

Skibbereen C.S.

Principal: Mr. Anton O'Mahony

Deputy Principal: Mr. Diarmuid O'Donnabháin

St. Aidan's C.S., Brookfield

Principal: Ms. Karen Quigley

Deputy Principal: Ms. Carol Keating

St. Patrick's Comprehensive

Deputy Principal: Ms. Sharon Brooks

Recent Relevant DES Circular Letters

CL 51/2016	Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2016/2017 – Maternity Related Absences Component
CL 50/2016	Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2016/2017 – Two Strands (Children without a school place & Children in Care without a school place)
CL 49/2016	Post-1 January 2011 New Entrant Special Needs Assistants – Recognition of Previous Public Service in another EU Member State
CL 46/2016	Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2016/2017 - Special Education Component
CL 45/2016	Public Service Stability Agreement 2013 – 2018 (Haddington Road Agreement/ Lansdowne Road Agreement) and the Financial Emergency Measures in the Public Interest Acts 2013 and 2015 - Teachers
CL 40/2016	Continuing Implementation of School Self-Evaluation 2016-2020 - Post Primary
CL 36/2016	Guidelines on access to PLC for certain participants in the asylum process for the 2016/2017 academic year
CL 35/2016	Recruitment of Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) - Supplementary Assignment Arrangements for the 2016/17 school year

For a complete list of relevant DES Circulars please refer to the ACCS website, www.accs.ie, and follow the DES tab → Relevant DES Circulars.

News and Events in our Schools

Man of Passion – Clifden Arts Week founder Dr. Brendan Flynn

Dr. Brendan Flynn, retired Principal of Clifden Community School and key figure in setting up the Clifden Arts Festival, has been honoured for his love of teaching and the arts with the award of an honorary doctorate of law at NUIG. The following is an extract from an article by Judy Murphy which appeared in the Connacht Tribune on Friday June 17th.

Brendan Flynn is a text book example of how a good teacher can influence students for life. The retired Principal of Clifden Community School has helped shape the lives of countless people through his belief that the Arts should be at the heart of education and not separate from it.

This visionary man was a key figure in setting up the Clifden Arts Festival in 1977 when he was vice-principal of the school. The festival was rooted firmly in the school but soon branched out to the wider community, so that everybody in North Connemara could enjoy music, literature, theatre, street spectacle and visual art, regardless of age.

For this vision and his lifelong commitment to education and arts across so many platforms, Brendan was awarded an honorary doctorate of law at NUIG recently, joining a list that includes world-renowned figures that include Nelson Mandela, Hillary Clinton and Margaret Atwood. Typically, however, Brendan is modest about his honour, saying simply: "I'm delighted for the arts and education. Arts within schools is what we have been promoting all the time."

Even since retirement from the school ten years ago he has continued that mission. The day before we met, he brought a group of first year students from Clifden Community School on a tour of Thoor Ballylee and Coole Park, allowing them to walk in the footsteps of Yeats, Lady Gregory, and many other figures who were central to the Irish literary revival of the early 20th century. That is a tradition he began 30 years ago with the aim of making literature come alive for pupils of Clifden, something he feels is a vital part of education. "They might recognise the river and tower poems when it comes to Leaving Cert poetry, so while the experience might not be relevant when they are 14, it might be relevant then," he says, "and more so throughout their own lives."

Brendan quotes a line from Yeats which states that "culture is a community bound together by its imaginative possession" – this sums up his own philosophy perfectly.



Courtesy of the Connacht Tribune.

Dr. Brendan Flynn, Director of the Clifden Arts Festival, who was conferred with the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at NUI Galway. Brendan, a native of Taughmaconnell, Ballinasloe, was educated at Garbally College and University College Cork and served as Principal of Clifden Community School. An awareness of the distance from cultural happenings and artistic encounters led to the inception of Clifden Arts Festival in 1977, where artists such as John McGahern, Richard Murphy, Seamus Heaney and John Behan were among the first to participate. He has served on The Arts Council, the board of the Irish Museum of Modern Art and is a member of 'Creative Engagement', a committee responsible for arts in education under the auspices of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals.



Courtesy of the Connacht Tribune.

Dr. Brendan Flynn, Director of the Clifden Arts Festival, on receipt of his Degree of Doctor of Laws at NUI Galway, pictured with Dr. Jim Browne, President of NUI Galway, and Introducer Ms. Nuala McGuinn, Director of NUI Galway's Centre for Adult Learning and Professional Development.

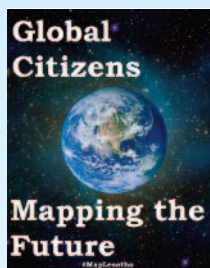
Brendan could never have guessed, when Clifden Community School held its first arts week nearly 40 years ago, how intrinsic Clifden Arts Festival would become to North Connemara. Many of those who are now involved with the event are past pupils, and this sense of community ownership has been crucial to its success. "It's the extraordinary success of arts in a school that allowed that system," he says of this arts-centred approach to education. "Because it

is a system, when you allow music and arts to be the foundation stone for education."

All in ACCS congratulate Brendan on this richly deserved award in recognition of his commitment to education and the arts. Comhghairdeas a Bhreandáin as an onóir seo. Is iontach an obair atá déanta agat ar son na h-ealaíne agus oideachas. Go n-eirí go geal leat i gcónaí.

News and Events in our Schools

Portmarnock Community School crowned Young Social Innovators 2016



Under the guidance of Mr. Niall Fitzgerald, YSI Coordinator Portmarnock Community School, the 'Global Citizens Mapping the Future' team from the school was recently crowned Young

Social Innovators of the year. Their project has been two and a half years in the making and began as a humanitarian mapping project of The Kingdom of Lesotho. Four of the team have been invited to represent Ireland as Young Social Innovators in Manila, The Philippines in August 2016. There they will meet teams from 21 other participating countries.

The project involved the students

mapping the entire country and concluding a verifying process which involved 24 hour mapping sessions. Lesotho, due to its size, is an ideal country to demonstrate the effectiveness of this project and its application to issues like climate, justice and tackling poverty through strategic planning.

In parallel the students have created two apps, an emergency call out service app for developing countries and a tourism app. The emergency call out service app provides the option to link to Ambulance, Fire, Police, or Search and Rescue services providing information on your location, distance and estimated time to reach your destination. The tourism app tags and links your location with tourist destinations within a country giving automatic direction to tourist sites. The apps objective is to



Student members of the Portmarnock Community School YSI Team who were recently crowned Young Social Innovators 2016.

create a pathway out of poverty through maximizing tourism opportunities. This dimension of the project has been supported by IBM in Blanchardstown.

Pobalscoil Neasáin – The Fighting Words Book Project



'25 Stories High' a collection of short stories by TY students from Pobalscoil Neasáin, Baldoyle.

The Fighting Words Book Project offers the opportunity, each year, for one Dublin Transition Year group to create an anthology of short stories under the leadership of Roddy Doyle. Pobalscoil Neasáin applied and was chosen as the participating school for the 2015/2016 school year.

Each Thursday the group of students and their accompanying teacher travelled to Fighting Words where they worked collaboratively with Roddy Doyle, the Fighting Words staff and volunteer team and each other. Each student, with guidance from their assigned volunteer, was responsible for creating, writing and editing a short story. Roddy would introduce ideas on dialogue, beginnings, endings, the editing process and the students would incorporate them into their stories. However, their content was solely their own. There were no assigned topics or required content and the range of creative stories that emerged is as varied as the student's own personalities.

When the stories were complete the student authors then became responsible for writing their bios, choosing a title (the apt, 25 Stories High), working with a graphic designer to create a cover and engaging with both local retailers and social media to market and promote the book. The final product is a book that the students and the Fighting Words team can be very proud of. This amazing achievement was celebrated in May 2016 at Pobalscoil Neasáin where 25 Stories High was officially launched by Roddy and the students to a delighted audience of friends, family members, school staff and community members. Perhaps the only result of this project that outshines the book itself was the students' deep engagement with literacy and the creative process. In the case of some students this has had a marked impact on

their confidence with and commitment to written work within the school walls as well. The Fighting Words Book Project is a fabulous opportunity for TY students, we only wish that we could participate each year!

Justine Durrant, Pobalscoil Neasáin.

Irish Times review

25 Stories High was recently reviewed in the Irish Times where the entire project was highly commended. In relation to the pupils creative writing the reviewer commented "these 25 stories, written by transition-year students of Pobalscoil Neasáin, in Baldoyle, include personal tales that unite (bullying, friendship, loyalty, trying to survive school, trust and family); and stories of pure imagination". Congratulations to all involved in such a wonderful project.



The '25 Stories High' project team from Pobalscoil Neasáin with author, Mr. Roddy Doyle.