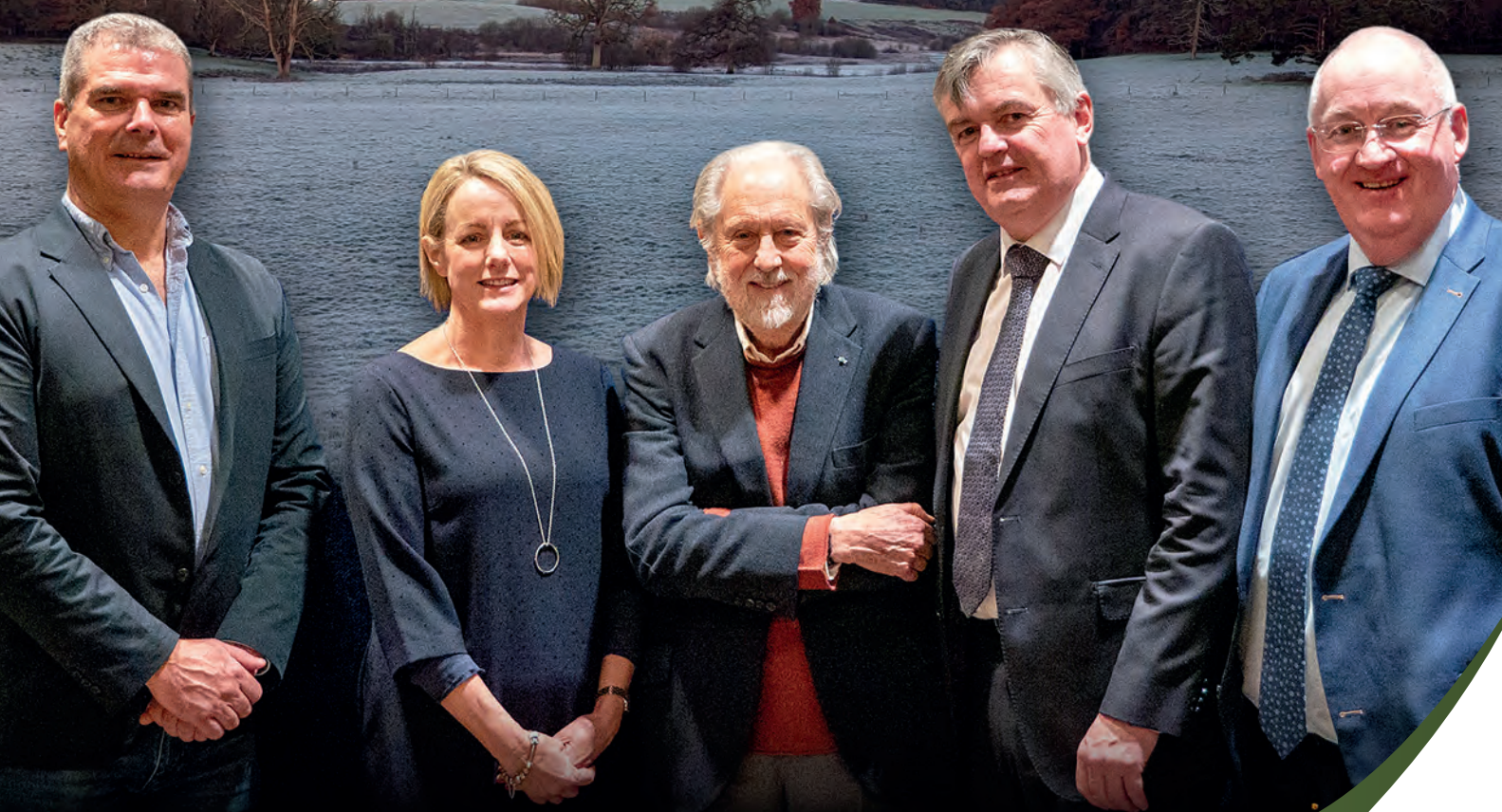


# ACCS NEWS

ISSUE 3 • 2023/2024

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- **Education for Sustainable Development**
- **Around the schools**



Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools  
Cúnam na Scoileanna Pobail agus Cuimsitheacha



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Layout & Print: Print Bureau

## A message from our President, James Duignan

### Down all the Days

From now on we can look forward to the gloaming. Chronologically, sunsets will fall later in the day, the sunlight will linger longer, minutes at a time, *cosúil le coiscéim coilligh*. We will sense it by minute by minute, for the best things in life are not things, they are moments.

### Leadership Unplugged

We thank our ISM Committee who pre-ordered the picture postcard scene that greeted us at conference in Farnham. Even though the temperatures were low outside we were warmed by the camaraderie of friends throughout our short sabbatical there. 'Twas a fitting time and setting to pay tribute and thank our recently retired colleagues and distinguished guest speakers, Lord David Puttnam, Professor Tom Collins and Jacinta Kitt. We should return there next year for further release, rest, reflection and realignment before re-engagement.

### Bells ringing out

One should celebrate what one wants to see more of. It is important to mark and commemorate what is good in our school communities, be it participation or effort, achievement or success, birthdays or anniversaries, special occasions or just fun. People who celebrate themselves, others and each other are happier people.

May I congratulate all our schools who are providing for comprehensive education within our communities, through wide-ranging, innovative curricula and activities which foster the academic, spiritual, moral, mental, physical and social well-being of our students.

### Ancora Imparo

NACED is the National Association of Community Education Directors which organises adult education programmes throughout our schools.

Offering opportunities for Adult Education and Lifelong Learning forms part of the Deed of Trust of our schools. Annually over 25,000 learners undertake and partake in night classes in a myriad of subjects, including QQI certified, hobby and leisure and professional courses.

Having attended NACED's recent conference I congratulate it on its work, commend our schools who offer Adult Education programmes and urge all schools to look towards establishing a night school. The Association advocates for and supports the Directors of Adult Education and class tutors nationally and is available to offer guidance to existing and prospective members.

### There's a light I hold before me

As we approach the celebration of Christmas, we recall all that has gone before. We remember all those who are *imithe ar slí na fírinne*, those who lit the way for us down all the years. We never forget those who showed us the way.

Inspired by the message of faith, hope and love, we work and play *faoi scáth a chéile*. With a sense of gratitude and determination, we will keep it going, pepped by optimistic lines of Shane McGowan.



I wish you and your families only the best of care, health, and happiness for Christmas and New Year.



## President's charity nomination

This year instead of sending Christmas cards, ACCS will make a donation to the President's nominated charity Children's Health at Crumlin.



# ACCS 2023 In-School Management Conference

The ACCS 2023 In-School Management Conference took place in Farnham Estate, Cavan on 30th November and 1st December. This year's theme was "*Leadership Unplugged*" and the conference included workshops for school leaders promoting a focus on building effective ICT practices in our schools while minding their own wellbeing.

This year ACCS was delighted to welcome Lord David Puttnam, film producer, educator and environmentalist, as our keynote speaker. Lord Puttnam's presentation on "*The Teacher of 2030: Future Proofing Education for the Digital World*" was inspiring and thought provoking and gave attendees much to discuss throughout the conference.

The workshops, "*Social Media, Selfies and Screen Time: Supporting Teens Online – Resources and Strategies for Schools*", "*Creating Phone-Free Schools with Yondr Lockable Pouches*" and "*IPPN – teacher recruitment – a look at [www.educationposts.ie](http://www.educationposts.ie)*" were all well attended and participants found these both relevant and engaging. Thank you to the following presenters and facilitators; Jane McGarrigle, Webwise, Sarah Leader, Yondr Ireland, Maria O'Brien, Deputy Principal, Blackwater Community School, Maeve O'Mahony and Brian O'Doherty, IPPN.

Thursday evening began with the now infamous ACCS annual quiz organised and facilitated by Dr. Howard Welch, Principal, The Royal & Prior Comprehensive School and the In-School Management Task Group. Thank you to the PCI Group who kindly sponsored the pre-dinner drinks reception and to VSware for sponsoring the quiz prizes. The evening culminated in a celebration of our Principals and Deputy Principals who retired during the 2022 – 2023 academic year.

Friday morning began with a "*Current Issues & Governance*" session for delegates and was followed by a panel discussion with Professor Tom Collins, Dr. Eilis Humphreys, CEO APTCS & Antoinette Nic Gearailt, ACCS Executive. The session "*Looking Back and Looking Forward*" was a follow up to the recent focus group meetings facilitated in three different venues during October. Following a brief report on the findings so far, delegates were asked to consider their own experiences and to share their observations of the lived reality of community and comprehensive schools. This research which will continue during this academic year and will focus on engagements with the patrons and the boards of management in the next stage. Following this engagement, the team led by Professor Collins, will reach out to students, staff and parents.

On Friday morning after coffee break, Jacinta Kitt, retired lecturer, researcher and organisational advisor, presented an enjoyable and hugely entertaining session on "*Reflective Leadership for Powering On and Off*" reminding all delegates of the importance of balance and positivity in our lives.

ACCS wishes to thank the ISM Task Group chaired by Denis Ring for all its work organising this enjoyable and interesting conference and to pay tribute to the Head Office team, Debbie, Elaine, Jasmin, Hannah and David who make themselves available before, after and during the event to manage all issues, answer any queries and to ensure that the event runs smoothly and successfully for delegates, presenters and exhibitors. All presentations and resources are now available on [www.accs.ie](http://www.accs.ie).

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**John Irwin**  
General Secretary, ACCS



**ACCS 2023  
In-School  
Management  
Conference**



*The panel*



*Jacinta Kitt*



*Tom Collins*



*James Duignan and Lord David Puttnam*







Elaine Shanahan Dunne, Ingrid Fallon and Pat McKenna



Dr. Howard Welch and Owen McConway



Francis Collins, Seán Mac Donncha and Mary Kelly



Cora Tighe, Jean Ryan and Angela Flanagan



Antoinette Nic Gearailt, John Irwin, Philip Rodgers, Sinead Keogh and Lucy Clarke, VSware



John Irwin, John McGuinness, Carndonagh Community School and Brendan Carroll, PCI



Dr. Howard Welch with table quiz winners Kinsale Community School



# Online Payslips

Did you know, you can use the Digital Postbox service to sign up and receive electronic payslips from the Department of Education?

This means that you will be able to access your payslip securely 24/7, anywhere, on any device; and have a record of stored payslips to assist with banking and financial matters



## Getting started

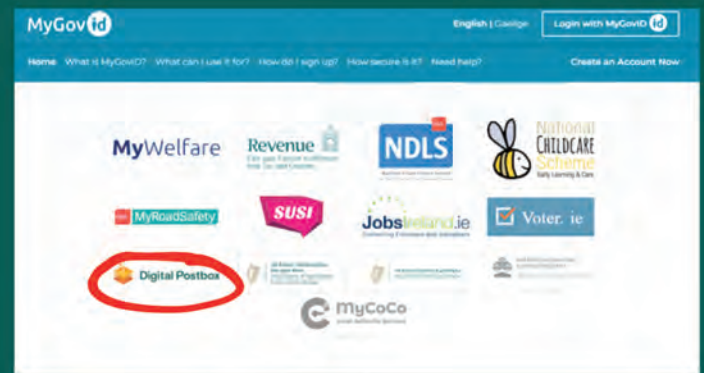
If you do not already have a Digital Postbox account, you will need to:

### Register for a MyGovID account.

- This is a single secure online identity which makes it easier to access a range of government services so that their identity can be verified in order to protect their account.
- An appointment with the Department of Social Protection will be required so that an account user can be registered and a public services card (PSC) provided. Registration takes approximately 15 minutes.
- You can locate your local PSC centre at the following link: [Public Services Card Centre](#)

## Final step

Proceed to set up a Digital Postbox account via the [MyGovID website](#) by clicking the digital postbox icon (circled in red in the screenshot below).



Please note, this is an optional service. For those individuals who do not wish to opt in to the service, they will continue to get a payslip printed and posted.

For more Payroll information, see [gov.ie/en/collection/efad5-payroll-services/](https://gov.ie/en/collection/efad5-payroll-services/)



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education



## Memories of Patrick Coffey, Past Principal, Tallaght Community School

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of past Principal Patrick Coffey. RIP.

Pat joined Tallaght Community School as Principal in 1994 and led the school in this role until his retirement in 2011. He believed passionately in the power of education to effect change and worked tirelessly in this regard.

Pat was a courageous leader who was a tireless advocate for the TCS Community. He fostered a strong working relationship with the Department of Education and knew who to talk to to get things done! This was most evident as he took on the task of rebuilding the school after a devastating fire.

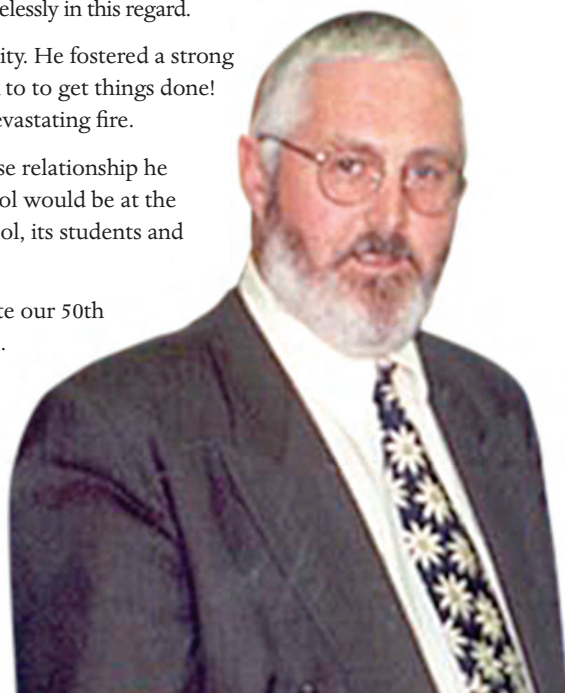
He immersed himself in the community of TCS and prided himself on the close relationship he fostered with the other Tallaght Schools. It was important to him that the school would be at the center of progress and change in the area, and as such he championed the school, its students and their families. This is the true mark of a Community School Principal.

We were honoured to have Pat return to the school last year to help us celebrate our 50th anniversary and share his memories of his time in Tallaght Community School. He was proud to see the staff that he had worked with in the school and those who continue to foster the values he had promoted.

Pat had great charisma, a witty sense of humour and was an effective educator and leader. Pat was a man whose character was larger than the man himself. He will be greatly missed.

The staff and students of Tallaght Community School extend their sympathies to his wife Mary, his sons and extended family.

Suaimhneas síoraí dá anam uasal. Ní bheidh a leithéid ann arís.



## Principal and Deputy Principal Induction Day at Mullingar Park Hotel



# Education for Sustainable Development

## News from the Department of Education

### Solar Panels for Schools Programme Launched

On November 23, the first phase of the Solar for Schools Programme was launched.

The scheme will assist schools in reducing their energy costs and their carbon footprint as part of the response to meeting the 2030 and 2050 Climate Action Plan targets for the schools sector, by providing 6 kilowatts of roof-mounted solar PV, which equates to approximately 16 solar panels.

The solar PV panels in schools will also be connected to the electricity grid, so that the schools can generate income by powering other homes and businesses with clean energy when schools are closed at weekends and during school holidays. See Schools Photovoltaic Programme for guidance documentation on the scheme, and schools can contact the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) helpline on 01 808 2100 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday, commencing on 30th November 2023, for assistance with their application.

### Sustainability Toolkit for Schools Launched

Under the Climate Action Plan, all public sector bodies are required to comply with a Public Sector Climate Action Mandate, other than some specified organisations including schools for which a separate mandate would apply.

The School Sector – Climate Action Mandate was published on 14 March 2023. See [gov.ie/ClimateActionMandate](http://gov.ie/ClimateActionMandate).

One of the objectives in the Mandate is that schools would adopt a Sustainability Policy Statement. A working group was established by the Department to develop templates and guidelines to support schools in adopting their statement. These documents are now available on the ESD to 2030 webpage including:

- A self-assessment audit to help schools identify their strengths and weaknesses in terms of Sustainable Development
- A Sustainability Guidelines document
- A Sustainability Policy Statement template

We hope these documents will assist schools in drafting their Sustainability Policy Statements and that schools will publish the statement on their websites. The toolkit is available at [gov.ie/SustainabilityToolkit](http://gov.ie/SustainabilityToolkit)

### ESD to 2030 – Funding for Schools 2023 Awarded

ESD to 2030 funding for schools has recently been issued. Circa. €550,000 has been awarded to 130 schools to support ESD related projects. A list of grantees is available on the ESD to 2030 webpage at [gov.ie/NationalStrategyForESD](http://gov.ie/NationalStrategyForESD)

### ESD to 2030 – Funding for Organisations Awarded

A funding call for organisations and projects supporting the implementation of ESD to 2030 in schools was launched in May, and funding of just over €267,000 has now been awarded.



A list of grantees is available on the ESD webpage at [gov.ie/NationalStrategyForESD](http://gov.ie/NationalStrategyForESD).

### Teacher CPD Inventory for ESD Published

In March 2023, the Department commissioned a mapping exercise in order to identify the available ESD related CPD that is available for primary and post-primary teachers. The inventory of CPD is now available on the ESD to 2030 webpage [gov.ie/NationalStrategyForESD](http://gov.ie/NationalStrategyForESD). The list will be updated regularly as new CPD opportunities become available.

### ESD Newsletter

Did you know that the Department publishes a quarterly ESD Newsletter? To read past issues, see [gov.ie/ESDnewsletter](http://gov.ie/ESDnewsletter). If you have an article you wish to see included in future issues, please get in touch at [ESD@education.gov.ie](mailto:ESD@education.gov.ie)

### Sustainable Development Goals Poster

The Department issued two copies of a poster of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals to all schools last year, as well as a flyer with information on Ireland's new National Strategy on Education for Sustainable Development: ESD to 2030, with details of how to access resources for schools.

Should you require additional copies of either the poster or flyer, please email [ESD@education.gov.ie](mailto:ESD@education.gov.ie).



An Roinn Oideachais  
Department of Education



# DCU marks dedication of Eileen Randles Lecture Theatre



Sr. Marie Celine Clegg, Elaine McDonald, AJP and Ann Looney, DCU.

On 7th November the DCU Institute of Education hosted an event to mark the naming of the Sr. Eileen Randles Lecture Theatre.

Sr. Eileen Randles (1937-2015) was a native of Kenmare, and a member of the Loreto Sisters. As a member of the Loreto Sisters, Eileen was motivated to ensure that all students, particularly women, had access to the highest standards of education and the best possible educational opportunities.

Her sharp intellect, expertise and command of the complex legalities of governance in Ireland single her out as one of the most influential figures in the evolution of the school system in Ireland.

Upon completing her second level education in Loreto Convent Killarney, she joined the Loreto Sisters in 1954. Her leadership ability was recognised at an early age; throughout her six decades as a Loreto sister she held several leadership roles including school principal, community leader and member of the provincial council.

Her leadership skills were also recognised in the public domain. In 1979 she was appointed to the Dublin Diocesan Education Secretariat and was head of the secretariat from 1981 to 1985. From 1982-1988 she served as the Ministerial appointee on the governing authority of UCD. She was general secretary of the Catholic Primary School Management Association (CPSMA) from 1992 to 2002. In subsequent years, she was president of Mater Dei Institute of Education; a member of the Education Commission of CORI (Conference of Religious of Ireland); vice-president of the Joint Managerial Body and a member



John Irwin and Sr. Marie Celine Clegg.

of the executive committee and trustee of the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools.

To all of these roles Eileen brought an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Irish education system, forensic analytical abilities and highly regarded political acumen. While much of her work was in Catholic education, she was generous in sharing her experience and she actively supported the development of Educate Together as school patrons.



# Pobalscoil Inbhear Scéine

## win TY Challenge for College Awareness Week

Congratulations to TY students, Ailish O’Driscoll, Kate McGann and Lúsaí de Faoite who won the TY Challenge for College Awareness Week in MTU Cork recently with their Careers Teacher, Ms Niamh O’Mahony.

A huge thanks to MTU, UCC & Trinity College Dublin for organising this excellent opportunity for students to share their creative and inspiring #collegeaware projects. It was evident that they learned so much about working in a team, how to research a college course, and how to design and create presentations. These students are a credit to our school community.



# Ballyhaunis Community School

## host action-packed Wellness Week



Traditional Irish Music Masterclass



Opening Ceremony with Cora Staunton

Ballyhaunis Community School’s Annual Wellness Week took place this year from the 20th to 24th November. The theme of Wellness Week 2023 was “This is Me”. The theme was a reminder that each person in the school is special, unique and a valued member of the school community. It encouraged each person to be true to themselves and to enable others to be truly themselves, by practising kindness and acceptance.

The week commenced with a whole school opening assembly with special guest, former Mayo footballer, Cora Staunton. Students participated in a question-and-answer session with former Mayo footballer, Andy Moran. Paul Coughlan gave a presentation on “Change is Achievable – the 10% Game”, and this was followed by a presentation “Breathe” from Jenna Walsh, Mayo Mental Health Association. Declan Browne conducted a wellness retreat with 6th year students. Community Garda, Karen Weymouth spoke to students regarding internet safety, Dr. Dermot Burns, presented “Unlocking Your True Potential.” Lizzie Harrison’s presentation was on the theme “Science of Happiness.” Jane Buckley Managing Director of Roc Ronoco – Jenny Glow spoke about her entrepreneurial journey to date.

Other speakers throughout the week included Cathal Cregg, Michael Dee McAndrew, and Emmet Major. Representatives of Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous and the Cenacolo Community also visited the school and presented to students. Students participated in multiple workshops such as Krav Maga self-defence, line dancing, Gaelic football, soccer, sign language, dodgeball, pool competition, yoga, meditation, and a masterclass in traditional Irish music. Teachers organised several wellness class activities throughout the week.

First Year Parents attended an information evening with presentations on “Internet Safety” by Community Garda, Karen Weymouth and “Improving the Health, Wellbeing, and the Potential of Our Children” by Emmet Major, Planet Youth Project.

Wellness week 2023 concluded with a whole school quiz and the closing ceremony led with a reflection from the school Chaplain, Ms. Burns and closing comments from the Student Council. Students and staff thoroughly enjoyed the action-packed week!



# Cashel Community School

## Careers Fair - 'Careers In Our Community'

Cashel Community School recently played host to a dynamic and thriving Careers Exhibition, catering to the aspirations of 4th, 5th, and 6th year students. The event, which took place on the 27th of November, garnered impressive attendance from both eager students and supportive parents.

The school's Deputy Principal, Mr. John Johnston, emphasised the significance of such exhibitions in helping students navigate the vast array of career opportunities and educational pathways available to them. He noted, *"It's crucial for students to explore diverse options and make informed decisions about their future. This exhibition served as a valuable resource in guiding them through this crucial phase of their lives and complements the existing work done by our Guidance Team and Year Heads."*

A crucial driving force behind the success of the event was the dedicated involvement of the school's Parents Association who turned out in force to help on the day. School Chaplain, Mr. Tony Nolan, expressed his appreciation for their unwavering commitment, stating, *"The Parents Association deserves accolades for their inspiration and relentless efforts in bringing this event to fruition. Their support has been instrumental in shaping the educational landscape for our students."*

School Principal, Mr. John Gallagher, lauded the strong sense of community spirit that permeated the event. He remarked,

*"Our school takes great pride in being part of such a vibrant and supportive community. The success of this exhibition is a testament to the collaborative efforts of our students, parents association, and local businesses."*

The exhibition featured a distinguished line-up of guest speakers, including the accomplished Mr. Cathal Minogue, a



past pupil now with Today FM, and Mr. Adriaan Bartels of The Cashel Palace Hotel. Their insights and experiences provided valuable perspectives for students contemplating different career trajectories.

The event not only showcased opportunities within the local community but also drew the participation of numerous businesses, multinational corporations, colleges, and further education providers. This diverse representation allowed students to engage directly with professionals and gather first-hand insights into various industries.

As the curtain fell on this successful Careers Exhibition, Cashel Community School stands proud, having empowered its students to chart their course toward a fulfilling and prosperous future. The event exemplified the school's commitment to holistic education and community collaboration, setting a standard for future endeavours in guiding students toward their aspirations.

# Kinsale Community School

**Kinsale Community School received Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Funding to buy a biodigester to deal with the problem of food waste at the school. It converts food waste using anaerobic digestion into methane gas and liquid fertiliser. The methane gas is used for cooking in the school's home economics room and the liquid fertiliser is used in the school's greenhouse.**





# Culture and Languages at St. Peter's Community School

One of the wonderful aspects of St Peter's Community School in Passage West, is the great cultural diversity that each class contains. Culture Day, organised by teacher and Chaplain, Maeve McGovern, is about giving our students the chance to showcase their cultures and countries and to be proud of their identities. We have 150 students (almost half the school's student body) who are firmly connected to 43 different countries and we showcased about 32 of these during the day. We also of course celebrate Irish culture and see how it compares to cultures across the world.

This year Culture Day coincided with Cultural Language Awareness Week and the sixth annual #ThinkLanguages event which has inspired over 15,000 TY students and 180 schools nationally to take part in this week-long annual celebration of languages and culture just in time for Christmas.

This year's festival theme again focuses on "Think Global, Act Local". St. Peter's has also been selected as one of only 10 shortlisted schools for the #ThinkLanguages Competition where this year, if successful, they will be named #ThinkLanguages Champion Team and win the enviable prize of an exclusive trip to the multicultural capital of Europe, Brussels.

St. Peter's hosted some live workshops, an exhibition and an intercultural language exchange, as well as creative cookery and music classes including French with Beekeeping, Irish Sign Language, Spanish with Flamenco, Portuguese and Capoeira, and Translation with EC Translators.

MFL teacher and #ThinkLanguages Festival supporting teacher Lorraine Walsh praised the time and effort given by the Transition Year students, "there was a great atmosphere around the school amongst the Transition Year students who have given hours of their time to make this Festival happen."





# Coláiste Chiaráin

Culture Day success!



Coláiste Chiaráin Culture Day celebrated all the different cultures and ethnicities found in the school. The day was a great success and educated students and staff alike on the differences and similarities of our cultures. Coláiste Chiaráin showed that its culture was something to be celebrated not forgotten.

Culture Day also saw the return of past pupil, Aishah Akorede, Ms. Universe Ireland and Law school graduate, who addressed students over the intercom. Her main message to the pupils was *“Remember that our differences make us unique but our shared experiences are what brings us together”*. A heartfelt message to inspire the pupils.

Coláiste Chiaráin News Team



## St. Wolstan's Community School

**Blue & White @ St. Wolstan's C.L.G. Cill Droichid**  
Abú! On Friday 20th October we celebrated the Blue & White of Celbridge G.A.A.



The event was in honour of our students who are involved at both Junior and Senior level with the club.

There is a very strong tradition of G.A.A. spirit, dedication and success here at St. Wolstan's - long may it continue! Mile buíochas to all at Celbridge G.A.A. for their positive impact on the entire sporting community.



### ACCS/NCCA Student Voice - Dublin Castle 2023...

representatives from our Student Council attended a very informative Student Voice event in Dublin Castle last September.

Facilitated by ACCS and NCCA, students discussed the vital role of the student voice in our schools.

Those in attendance got the opportunity to engage in very insightful dialogues covering a vast range of important topics such as student well-being, inclusion, teaching and learning and assessment.

A huge thank you to ACCS and NCCA for providing the platform for our students to have their voice heard in a very meaningful and worthwhile way. Every voice makes a difference.



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# Scoil Mhuire Community School Clane

## Student leaders visit Áras an Uachtaráin for the swearing in of three new Ambassadors

On Friday 10th November, twenty-five student leaders comprising of nineteen prefects, a sixth year member of the student council and five mentors together with five members of staff travelled to Áras an Uachtaráin to witness their Excellencies, the Ambassadors of the Republic of Cyprus, of Malaysia and of the Republic of Rwanda present their Letters of Credence to President Michael D. Higgins.

This was the first visit of any school to the Áras since the covid pandemic curtailed visits.

The new Ambassadors appointed were:

- H.E. Mr. Louis Telemachou, Ambassador of the Republic of Cyprus
- H.E. Mr. Wan Aznainizam Yusri Bin Wan Abdul Rashid, Ambassador of Malaysia
- H.E. Mr. Busingye Johnston, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda



On the day, students and staff were welcomed to the Áras by the President's Aide-De-Camp who treated us to a very interesting and educational tour of the Áras.

We then witnessed the very formal ceremony where President Michael D. Higgins received and appointed the Ambassadors. During the ceremonies, all Ambassadors and the President stressed the importance of maintaining positive diplomatic relations between our countries. After the presentation of their credentials, the group made their way out to the courtyard to hear each Ambassador's national anthem which was played by the army band. Following this, each ambassador inspected the army guard of honour. President Higgins then wished each new ambassador well in their new roles and they were whisked off to their residencies. We then availed of the opportunity for a photograph and meeting with President Higgins.

It was a wonderfully ceremonious occasion and one which will be remembered with fondness by our entire group.

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## Sister Act, The Musical at

# Tullow Community School





## ‘The Chase’ star, Darragh Ennis returns to Holy Family Community School to host fundraising quiz

On Friday 17th November, Holy Family Community School welcomed former student, and star of ITV’s ‘The Chase’, Darragh Ennis, back to our school. Darragh has been a proud supporter of our school over the years, and recently offered to host a quiz as a fundraiser for our school.

Darragh visited the school on Friday morning, reminiscing over his time, and meeting up with former teachers, classmates, neighbours and friends. He also offered his time to record some promotional work for our school and parents’ council social media platforms.

Following a huge promotional campaign, the stage was set at the Louis Fitzgerald Hotel for our quiz night. Having sold out in a matter of days, over 200 people attended the quiz night, primed and ready to take on the quizmaster. With Darragh as quizmaster, there were plenty of questions across a broad range of topics that got the brain juices flowing across the 42 teams participating. Throughout the quiz, we had a bumper raffle with over 50 amazing prizes. While guests of the quiz had the opportunity to win some of these incredible prizes, we also had a raffle for the ultimate prize – beat the quizmaster! Four people went head-to-head with Darragh – one emerged victorious, two drew against him, and one lost. Darragh very generously donated the prize money, both for the winner and for those who drew against him!

We are so very grateful to everybody who contributed to the funds raised – from ticket sales, to raffle sales, and to all the local and national businesses who provided advertising sponsorship, as well as the many wonderful raffle prizes.

The quiz was an incredible event, which highlighted all of the wonderful support of HFCS – from our supportive parents, teachers, past pupils, and wider community. Everyone who attended was enthusiastic about it, delighted to meet and chat with Darragh, and overall, they thoroughly enjoyed the night! It was a night that won’t be forgotten for a very long time, and we look forward to welcoming Darragh back to our school again in the future.

*Ingrid Fallon, Principal*



Aoihe Power working on her Junk Kouture Project as part of the Creative Schools Initiative.

## Portumna Community School

Portumna Community School Art Department recently welcomed costume designer, Cherie from Macnas. TY students taking part in this year’s Junk Kouture got invaluable tips on garment construction and designing techniques. This is part of the Creative Schools Initiative and is organised by Anne Keane.



Students learning about opportunities in Apprenticeships on their visit to TUS Athlone. L-R Shane Martin, Ronan McCole Madden, Eoin Glynn, Dean Naylor and Callum Keane.



# Recent **ACCS Info Bulletin**

BULLETIN NO.	DATE	SUMMARY
<b>ACCS/Info Bulletin 19/23</b>	<b>06/12/23</b>	Re: Follow-Ups from ACCS In-School Management Conference: 1. Reporting Arrangements with TikTok. 2. Materials referenced at Webwise Workshop. 3. National Debating Competition. 4. NACED Annual Conference.
<b>ACCS/Info Bulletin 20/23</b>	<b>11/12/23</b>	Nominations for the Election of Area Representatives to the ACCS Executive at Convention 2024.

# Recent Relevant **DE Circular Letters**

CIRCULAR NO.	SUMMARY
<b>CL 56/23</b>	Cost of living measure to support increased school running costs
<b>CL 58/23</b>	Force Majeure Leave and Illness in Family Leave for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
<b>CL 59/23</b>	Domestic Violence Leave for Registered Teachers employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools
<b>CL 60/23</b>	Domestic Violence Leave for Special Needs Assistants employed in Recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools

Dear Colleagues,

It has been our pleasure to work with you in 2023 and we hope that you will get the opportunity to enjoy a very well deserved rest.

Enjoy the time with your loved ones and take care of yourselves.

*Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.*

James, John, Áine, Anne Marie, Debbie, Elaine, Jasmin, Dave, Hilary, Catherine, Aisling, Hannah and Jim.



# Important Dates for your Diary

## ACCS 42<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION 2024

**Dates:** Wednesday, Thursday and Friday the 13th, 14th and 15th March 2024

**Venue:** The Galmont Hotel & Spa, Lough Atalia Road, Galway

Member Boards are asked to take particular note of the following important dates:



**Draft agenda of business and nominations for Presidency - including resolutions/motions - to be issued to Member Boards and Executive members; amendments invited.**



**Deadline for submission of amendments to resolutions/motions.**



**Final agenda to be issued to delegates and to the Secretary, Board of Management.**



**Opening of ACCS Convention 2024.**

