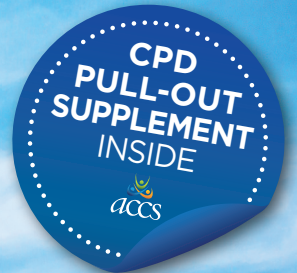


ACCS NEWS

ISSUE 1 • 2022/2023



Coolmine Community School received a 'Highly Commended award' for their Postcard Garden entry at the Bloom Garden Festival 2022

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• Retirees 2022 • Citizens Assembly



Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools
Cumann na Scoilcanna Pobail agus Cuimsitheacha

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Cover image: The Zen Garden,
Coolmine Community School.



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ACCS

Convention 2023

The 41st ACCS Convention will take place on the **22nd, 23rd and 24th March 2023** in the Great Southern Hotel, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:



Nominations for Presidency and motions for Convention to be submitted.



Latest date for receipt of amendments to the motions.



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.



A final agenda will be issued to Member Boards.



Retirees 2022

ACCS offers its gratitude and best wishes to those retiring or moving to pastures new in 2022. We hope you enjoy the next step in your journey and we hope our paths will continue to cross.

Ardee Community School
Liam Reilly

Ballincollig Community School
Kathleen Lowney

Dunmore Community School
Margaret Griffiths

John the Baptist Community School
Noreen Rafferty

Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair
Séamus Ó Briain

Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair
Nigel Ó Fearraigh

Scoil Mhuire, Clane
Padraig Brennan

Scoil Mhuire, Clane
Geraldine Brennan

St. Aidan's Community School
Karen Quigley

St. Aidan's Community School
Carol Keating

St. Clare's Comprehensive School
John Irwin

St. Columba's Comprehensive School
Frances Boner

St. Peter's Community School
Derek Dunne

St. Wolstan's Community School
Maria Barry

Scoil Chuimsitheach Chiaráin
Sinéad Nic Stiofáin

Welcome to the 2022/2023 school year

As we set out on the journey into the 2022/2023 academic year, I would like to welcome all newly appointed Principals and Deputy Principals to the ACCS school community. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with you all at our recent Induction Programme and I hope you feel reassured in the knowledge that the team in ACCS is on hand to guide you in your new role.

In this, the first edition of ACCS News we have included the ACCS Continuous Professional Development Programme for 2022/2023 as a pull-out supplement which we hope you will find useful and keep on your desk for the year.

You will note from the schedule that ACCS has adopted a blended approach to CPD events for this year. The online events have proven very successful for certain types of CPD. In general, participation rates were very high and your feedback in the evaluations of these type of events has been very positive. At the same time, we all recognise that the in-person events provide very important opportunities for school leaders to build professional networks with other school leaders and offer valuable purposeful engagement in professional dialogue with peers. The blended approach will also hold with our commitment to keep our carbon footprint down.

Human Resources

Guidance on Human Resources is an area which is increasingly in demand and under the leadership of Anne Marie Dillon, ACCS Director of Human Resources is expertly managed. In the last academic year in an effort to further improve this service we encouraged you to visit the HR section of our website www.accs.ie. This section is constantly updated, and you can access a comprehensive range of Human Resources documents to assist you. While we will always endeavour to return your call or email in a timely fashion, we hope that you will again utilise our website where possible.

Ukrainian Students

As many of our member schools continue to integrate Ukrainian students, we are grateful to the continued support of the Department of Education and their establishment of the REALT Teams across the country. It has been heartening to see how schools and students have adapted, welcomed and accommodated these new students who, overnight and through no fault of their own, found themselves in a new country and different education system. No doubt there are challenges ahead for all but as we aspire to be a more inclusive society, we are certain that our engagement with students from different cultures will reap rewards for all of us and indeed for the education system by broadening our minds and complementing our own educational values.

Ennistymon Community School

Congratulations to Orla Conway who was recently appointed Principal of Ennistymon Community School, the newest member of ACCS. Orla, welcome on behalf of the ACCS wider community and we look forward to working with you in the future.



L-R: Jim Twohig, School Building Project Advisor, James Duigan, President, ACCS and Orla Conway, Ennistymon Community School's newly appointed Principal.

Retirements

We take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the service of Principals and Deputy Principals who are retiring this year. We give due recognition to their contribution to their schools and wider communities over the years. This is greatly appreciated, and we wish them every happiness in the next chapter of their lives.

Finally, on behalf of ACCS, I wish all members of our school communities an enjoyable, successful, and healthy new school year.



John Irwin
General Secretary, ACCS



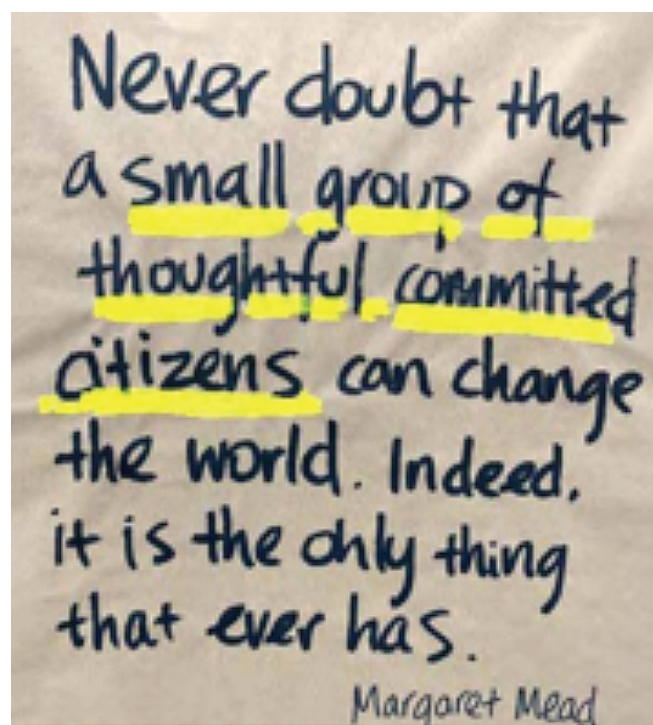
Preparing for the Citizens Assembly on the Future of Education

11-13th May 2022 'Creating an Unstoppable Momentum for Change'

Upwards of sixty participants including students, parents, teachers, academics, policy makers and many others from the field of education assembled at the Burren College of Art over three days of creative exploration of how to make the Citizens Assembly for the Future of Education (CAFÉ) as effective as it could be.

The symposium built on the 2018 symposium Towards a More Creative Education System at which the idea of a citizens assembly was born, and which also gave rise to the BEACONS process under the aegis of the Teaching Council enabling local conversations about education between students, teachers and parents.

This event was a unique opportunity which gave participants time and space to imagine a 21st century education system that is responsive to the needs of citizens confronted with a world in a profound state of flux. The scene was set on Wednesday afternoon with a video input from the Minister for Education, Norma Foley



Burren College of Art

TD who reminded the assembly that the current Programme for Government has committed to establishing a ‘**Citizens Assembly on the Future of Education ensuring that the voices of young people and those being educated are central**’. Current indications are that CAFÉ will be launched in early 2023. With Terms of Reference and the process by which student voice will be enabled yet to be determined, the symposium provided the ideal opportunity to explore these and other related matters.

Over the three days participants had the opportunities to explore ideas about:

- What is good and what needs changing in the current system?
- Why is change so hard?
- What’s going on in Irish education and what do we need to learn from other citizens assemblies? What questions might CAFÉ address? How can CAFÉ help?

Young people who made up about 25% of the attendees were placed centre-stage in the physical lay-out of the venue and they generated an abundant array of suggestions on how CAFÉ should be structured to hear their voice, and more importantly, ensure that their views were taken seriously as reflected in the Lundy model.

This was a wonderful opportunity to engage in a creative and honest conversation over three days about the future of education and ACCS wishes to acknowledge the work and efforts of the facilitators, Chris Chapman, Valerie Jackman and Ali Warner for the thought-provoking activities designed to keep the conversations flowing in the knowledge that this dialogue is “most important” and that “we are all in this together”.

Finally, huge thanks to Mary Hawkes Greene, President, Burren College of Art and the team for their generous hospitality and warm welcome and to Martin Hawkes Greene for producing the detailed report on the symposium. This report is available at www.accs.ie

Áine O’Sullivan
Assistant General Secretary, ACCS



CAFÉ: A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reimagine education and to consider Ireland’s education needs.



The Zen Garden –

Coolmine Community School



Congratulations to Coolmine Community School who received a Highly Commended award by judges at the Bloom Garden Festival 2022 for their Postcard Garden entry. This was an amazing achievement for first time entrants to the competition.

The Zen Garden, created by the students at Coolmine Community School, was designed as a space for students to calm the mind and focus. This postcard garden has been inspired by a garden which currently resides in the school to offer students a relaxing open-air space. It features an outdoor classroom which sparks curiosity and encourages students to learn in an outdoor setting. In addition to being a space to promote positive mental health, the Zen Garden supports biodiversity by featuring plants that attract bees and butterflies along with a range of sensory and edible plants.

The garden itself was made possible by a lot of people but in particular Thomas Byrne and his dad Thomas Byrne snr. Transition Year students Daniel Akash, James Prenderville, Bailey Jackson, Aaron Downey worked so well on the set-up day. Damian Tully provided some musical/zen props, Fin Ni Dhomhnaill supplied a lovely acer tree and chimes, and PJ Guinan provided the graft and wisdom.



Coolmine Community School

Lead the way with Dangers of Vaping Awareness Campaign

Coolmine Community School launched a competition for 2nd years to highlight the dangers of vaping for young people and teens. The aim of the competition was to allow for a student led approach of educating others on this growing issue for young people. Students were asked to design a PowerPoint focusing on the dangers of vaping for young people and the winning PowerPoint would then be shown to all second years with the aim of educating them on the real dangers of vaping, particularly on the heart, lungs

and the young developing brain. Emilija Latvyte, Emilija Rimkute and Aleksandra Grigorjan produced the top three PowerPoints.



Building on 50 years of excellence in education in Tallaght Community School

Exciting news for Tallaght Community School in its 50th year! Following a visit from the Minister for Education Norma Foley, Aidan Lynch, Principal and the Tallaght Community School wider community were delighted with the subsequent announcement that a new 1000 pupil post primary school building including a four classroom Special Education Needs Base was approved.



Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara

Thug daltaí ó iarbhunscóil i gConamara faoin Eastóin i mí Iúil chun a saothar a chur i láthair ansin tar éis dóibh comórtas náisiúnta fiontraíochta a bhuaich.

Daltaí as Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara i gCarna a bhuaigh Clár na gComhlachtaí 2022, comórtas a bhíonn á reáchtáil ag Údarás na Gaeltachta do dhaltaí idirbhliana i scoileanna Gaeltachta.

An comhlacht Frámaí Chonamara a thug leo an chéad duais sa gcaobh náisiúnta a reáchtáladh sna Forbacha i nGaillimh. Is iad Clíona Ní Dhuinn, Dara Ó Cualáin, Stephen Breathnach, Ciara Áine Ní Mhaoilchiaráin, agus Ciara Máire Ní Chualáin a bhunaigh an comhlacht.

Frámaí pearsanta a bhí á ndéanamh acu le díol mar bhronntanais agus rinneadh sloinnte agus abairtí i nGaeilge a chur laistigh de na frámaí le dearadh speisialta.

Rinne daltaí Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara ionadaíocht ar son na hÉireann ag Comórtas Chomhlacht na Bliana Junior Achievement na hEorpa 2022 a reáchtáladh i dTaillinn, príomhchathair na hEastóine mí Iúil na bliana seo.

Chomh maith le Frámaí Chonamara, bhí comhlacht eile, Seodra Mara, ó Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara san iomaíocht don phríomhdhuais.



"By empowering young people from all across Europe to discuss and learn about entrepreneurship and employability, you are not only inspiring but preparing the next generation of Europeans to succeed in a global economy."

Roberta Metsola - President of the European Parliament addressing Junior Achievement Students at the finals in July



Ciara Ní Chualáin, Stephen Breathnach, Ciara Ní Mhaoilchiaráin, Dara Ó Cualáin agus Clíona Ní Dhuinn

Congratulations to Old Bawn Community School

student Zuzanna Cieslewicz

Congratulations to Zuzanna Cieslewicz and her teacher Ms Vita Ryan whose design 'Ex Static' was selected as a wild card to forward to the Junk Kouture world final to be held in Abu Dhabi later this year.



Recent **ACCS** Info Bulletins

BULLETIN NO.	SUMMARY
ACCS/Info Bulletin 16/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SNA Allocations for the 2022/23 School Year for mainstream classes: Circular Letter 0035/2022. 2. Recruitment of Special Needs Assistants Supplementary Assignment Arrangements for the 2022/23 School Year: Circular Letter 0031/2022. 3. SNAs and June Work.
ACCS/Info Bulletin 15/22	State Examinations Commission - Extension of the RACE Scheme to provide deferred Examinations for Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied.
ACCS/Info Bulletin 14/22	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Redeployment. 2. Ukrainian EAL Support for 2022/2023. 3. Information Note TC 0006/2022 re: COVID 19: Working Arrangements for Higher Risk Teachers and Special Needs Assistants (employees) for the 2022/2023 school year. 4. FORSA lifts Directive on working 72 hours on the school premises.

Recent Relevant **DE** Circular Letters

CIRCULAR NO.	SUMMARY
CL 46/22	Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2022/2023. Special Education Component
CL 45/22	Revision of Working Hours: Implementation of the Independent Hours Body Recommendations in relation to the Haddington Road Agreement Hours for secretaries and caretakers employed in Department-approved posts in Community and Comprehensive Schools
CL 44/22	Revision of Working Hours in Recognised Primary, Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme. Implementation of the Independent Hours Body Recommendations in relation to the Haddington Road Agreement Hours for certain employees in Recognised Primary, Voluntary Secondary Schools in the Free Education Scheme
CL 42/22	Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary schools
CL 40/22	COVID-19: Working Arrangements for Certain Higher Risk employees of Recognised Primary and Post Primary schools in the Free Education Scheme and of ETBs, Employed Using Grant Funding for the 2022/23 school year
CL 39/22	Coronavirus (COVID-19): Updated Working Arrangements For Staff Other Than Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in Education and Training Boards
CL 38/22	Coronavirus (COVID-19): Updated Working Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary schools
CL 36/22	Revision of Salaries and Annual Leave arrangements for School Secretaries employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary schools
CL 35/22	Special Needs Assistant Allocation 2022/23
CL 34/22	Cost Limits for Post Primary School Buildings
CL 33/22	Permanent extension of the Employee Assistance Service (EAS) to all school staff employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary schools
CL 32/22	Prescribed Material for the Junior Cycle Examinations in 2024 and the Leaving Certificate Examinations in 2024