



Educate
Together



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SECOND-LEVEL PROJECT

ETSLN

Second Level Newsletter

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OCTOBER 2010

Welcome to our October newsletter. It has been a busy couple of months for the second-level project. The Gorey consultation process has just ended, and our proposal for the new school has been submitted to the Department of Education and Skills.

Our thanks to the Gorey campaign group and staff from the national office, who worked tirelessly throughout September to ensure people got the message on what Gorey Educate Together secondary school will be like.

Now all we have to do is wait for the Tánaiste, Minister Mary Coughlan, to make her decision on the school's patronage - watch this space!

Ann Ryan,
Second-level
Education
Officer



Gorey Campaign Report

The Gorey campaign group and staff from the national office were kept busy in September, circulating school prospectuses and information leaflets throughout the town to ensure that as many people as possible received the message on what Gorey Educate Together secondary school will be like.

Gorey's second-level committee had also assembled over 650 expressions of interest from local parents in favour of an Educate Together-managed school. Their campaign had garnered extensive support from local politicians, councillors and educationalists - including Nicholas Sweetman, former principal of Gorey Community School.

A part of this process the Department of Education and Skills organised a public meeting in Gorey on Tuesday 21 September. This meeting formed part of the public consultation on patronage for the new school, and both patron candidates; Educate Together and Wexford VEC; presented their plans.

Educate Together held a further public information meeting the following week, on Wednesday 29 September. This meeting allowed an open Q&A session for parents, as at the previous meeting they did not have the opportunity to ask questions of either patron candidate about their plans for the new school.

Lucan Negotiations

In July, the Tánaiste announced that, in Lucan, she plans to establish "a VEC school formally in partnership with Educate Together." She asked us to discuss with Co Dublin VEC how this might be achieved within the framework of the "Designated Community College" model. Following the agreement of the Lucan Task Force campaign group and the Board of Directors of Educate Together, we have entered negotiations with Co Dublin VEC, and have had our first meetings with them, which have been positive.

Key issues identified so far are the independence of the Board of Management, the capacity of the school to recruit its own staff, and how the school will be

Second-level Start-up Groups

North Wicklow/South Dublin Educate Together Second-level Action Group held a well-attended



public meeting in Greystones Rugby Club on 19 October. For further information please contact Jessica Bird on 087-646777, or go to the group's Facebook page.

Limerick

The Limerick campaign group met on Wed 20 October at Limerick City East ETNS. Contact Santhi Corcoran if you would like to get involved. E: santhil@eircom.net

Upcoming Meetings

Swords Action Group (SSETSAG) are meeting

Tues 16 November at 8pm at Swords ETNS. For more information go to: www.setsecondary.org

Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School Action Group (DETSSAG) are planning a further Expression of Interest event in December. For more information, go to: www.droghedaetss.com

Kilkenny

A public meeting/Expression of Interest launch will be held on Wed 1st December. Venue/times to be confirmed. E: MaryGalway@eircom.net

accountable both to its school community and to Educate Together for upholding the Educate Together charter.

Working Group meetings

The **Ethical Curriculum** working group met on Wed 27 Oct at Portlaoise ETNS, where they made valuable progress towards developing the ethical curriculum for second-level. Members are currently exploring a Values-Based Indicators Toolkit and will meet again in the coming weeks. For more information on the toolkit go to: www.wevalue.org

Upcoming meetings in November

Leadership, Management & Structure Wed 17 November 7.30 pm

At this meeting we will be focusing on the Articles of Management for Catholic secondary schools, and looking at ways of adapting those Articles for an Educate Together secondary school.

Curriculum, Teaching & Learning Wed 24 November, 7.30 pm

At this meeting we will be looking at curriculum integration in practice, working towards presenting examples of good practice in integrated curriculum in December, as well as offering sample themes for Junior Cycle study.

Conference in May 2011

Re-imagining Learning - Curriculum Integration in the Early Secondary Years

A new type of second-level school offers a unique opportunity to take a fresh look at curriculum and at approaches to learning and teaching. We are organising this conference to bring together key academics and practitioners to discuss approaches to early secondary education. The focus will be on creative and innovative approaches to curriculum and assessment that cross subject boundaries. The conference is being held at an important time of change in Irish second-level education, and a select number of key speakers in this area have been invited, including Professor James Beane. We are delighted to have two significant partners working with us on the event: the University of Limerick and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA).

