



Welcome to our March newsletter. Some good news this month. The appointment of Ruairi Quinn as Minister for Education and Skills, as well as the Programme for Government's stated commitment to a more pluralist system of patronage in education provides us with cautious optimism that Educate Together at second-level will become a reality during the lifetime of this government.

The DES announcement in January this year of plans for several new post-primary schools (see ETSLN Vol 3, Issue 4 Jan 2011 for details) is also encouraging for our second-level start-up groups, many of whom have stepped up their campaigns recently. Several start-up groups were represented at the successful training session we held earlier this month, reflecting the growing support in communities for Educate Together at second-level.

Ann Ryan,
Second-level
Education
Officer



Business Breakfast Briefing

Mason Hayes + Curran hosted a **Business Breakfast Briefing** in partnership with Educate Together on **Wednesday 9 March**. Thinkers and opinion formers from industry and education met to discuss the key innovations needed in Irish second-level education. The Breakfast Briefing, a precursor to the forthcoming *Re-imagining Learning Conference*, was chaired by Prof Ferdinand Von Prondzynski, former president of Dublin City University, and newly appointed member of the Educate Together's Board of directors.



Pictured at the Breakfast Briefing: Emer Nowlan, Educate Together's Head of Education & Network Development; Dr Anne Looney, Chief Executive of the NCCA; Jerome Morrissey, Director of the NCTE; and Eddie Ward, Principal Officer in Teacher Education at the Department of Education and Skills.

Re-imagining Learning Conference

Strand Hotel, Limerick, 13 and 14 May

This conference will bring together teachers, innovators, researchers and change-makers to share ideas, experiences and learning about Junior Cycle. As well as asking what role schools should play in a digital, media-rich, globalised society, the conference will showcase examples of innovation from schools in Ireland and abroad.

The conference has been organised by Educate Together in partnership with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) and the University of Limerick.

Register at:

<http://reimagininglearning.eventbrite.com/>

Registration starts at €79 (Sat only) and concessions are available.

RE-IMAGINING
LEARNING

curriculum integration in
the early secondary years



Educate
Together

OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK

Innovation
& Identity
Ideas for a new Junior Cycle

NCCA
An Chomhairle Náisiúnta Curáil agus Measúnachta
National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

Second-level Start-up Groups

Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School Action Group (DETSSAG)

Information meeting

Boyne Valley Hotel, Dublin Road, Drogheda

Tuesday 12 April at 8pm

For more information, go to:
www.droghedaetss.com

Dublin 15 Campaign Group

Expression of Interest events will be held at ET schools in Dublin 15 from Mon 11 - Fri 15 April, and also at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre on Saturday 7 May.

For more information, and if you would like to volunteer, please contact Michael McLoughlin (Castleknock ETNS parent)
E: mmclo@eircom.net

Would you like to fundraise for the Second-level Campaign?

We are looking for volunteers to take part in the **Flora Womens' Mini Marathon** (6 June). To sign up, contact: Masina.Johnston@educatetogether.ie

Ethos Conference

Educate Together hosted an Ethos Conference on **Saturday 9 April** at the Clarion Hotel, IFSC Dublin from 10 - 3.30pm. The conference included presentations on the *Learn Together* curriculum and the Ethos Self-evaluation Tool. The Ethical Curriculum second-level working group also met during this conference.



Second-level Easter Camp

Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 April

Our first ever Second-level Easter Camp takes place later this month, when up to 25 Educate Together students will work collaboratively on projects from different curricular areas, using integrated approaches to learning.

The Easter Camp will take place at the The Bridge to College Learning Space, Oriel House, Trinity College, Dublin. Forms are available to download from our website: <http://www.educatetogether.ie/press-releases/2011/03/second-level-easter-camp/>. Closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 15 April**.

Second-level Start-up Group Training

On Sat 5 March, representatives from second-level start-up groups took part in a training session at our National Forum at Lucan ETNS. 19 people attended, many of whom came from established second-level start-up campaign groups around the country, including Drogheda, North Wicklow/South Dublin, Rush & Lusk, Dublin 15 and Kilkenny. We also had participants who are not yet in active groups, but who are interested in setting up campaign groups in their own areas.

Facilitated by Jarlath Munnely, Regional Development Officer; Ann Ryan, Second-level Education Officer; Aoife Murray, Communications Officer and Simon Cox, Second-level Project Support Volunteer, the session was designed to provide advice on how to establish and progress a local second-level start-up campaign group.

We also included a session on e-learning software platform Moodle, so that groups will be able to access relevant information for the different stages of their campaign, as well as adapt documents for their own start-up groups.

For more information on second-level start-up groups, please contact your Regional Development Officer. Contact details for all RDOs are on our website www.educatetogether.ie