



Educate Together Second-Level Project

Educate Together Second-level News - Vol. 1, Issue 10 – March 2009

Great Turn Out for Meeting of 2nd Level Start-up Groups

At the meeting held in February, various local start-up groups from around the country gathered to discuss how their different campaigns for an ET second-level school was going and to plan future actions.

The groups outlined the many activities they have been involved in to date:

- Lobbying local and national representatives
- Gathering signatures of support from local community
- Collecting demographic information to establish need for a new second-level school in their area
- Holding public meetings
- Contacting the media
- Setting up websites
- Organising meetings with local VECs

The group decided that the next step would be to follow up the petition event with a **postcard campaign**.

Educate Together continue to await a reply from the Department of Education and Science in relation to their application to register as a second-level patron. The application was made in December 2007 and since then 3 start-up groups have also applied for an Educate Together second – level school for their area. They also await a response.

So what this space for details of the Postcard Campaign!

Student Voice Research Project

The steering group for Student Voice research project met and put in place further plans for the project. By June it is hoped to carry out a pilot and test out the interview frame that explores past pupils' perspectives on the idea of an Educate Together second-level school. The findings from this research project will contribute to and inform the development of the Educate Together Second-level Project and the Blueprint document.

Educate Together Participation on Boards of Management of Community Schools

Following involvement of Educate Together in the Interim Boards of Management of Donabate Community College and Setanta Community College, County Dublin VEC has invited representatives of Educate Together on to the Boards of Management of these schools.

We look forward to participating on these Boards in a continued spirit of partnership with the VEC and view our participation as an opportunity to bring the ethical principles and educational philosophy of Educate Together to Board discussions and decisions, as well as support the development of the ethos of the new school so that it reflects Educate Together's equality-based principles.

We continue to appreciate the invitations extended by County Dublin VEC to participate in Boards of Management of new Community Colleges in areas where Educate Together National Schools are established, but are disappointed that the decisions on the patronage of new second-level schools made by the Department of Education and Science, occur without consulting local parents, communities or patron bodies.

We hope that with the announcement of a new post primary school in Gorey, under the Department's public-private partnership (PPP) programme, that consultation with regard to patronage will involve local parents, communities and patrons.

Gorey start-up group have applied to the Department of Education and Science for the school to be an Educate Together second-level school. To gauge local support for the project the group collected signatures and in 4 hours over 1,000 signatures were gathered.

That's all for now. Don't forget to visit the second-level rooms in the forum and get chatting! www.educatetogetherforum.ie



FLORA Women's Mini Marathon 2009
Join the women in the National Office on June 1st
to raise money for the Educate Together National Office

Contact Masina Johnston on 01 4292500
or fundraising@educatetogether.ie



Educate Together Second-level Project

Project Manager: Emer Nowlan

Education Officer: Fiona Richardson

Email: secondlevel@educatetogether.ie

Web:

http://www.educatetogether.ie/2_campaigns/secondlevel.html

Educate Together Second-level News is published by Educate Together, the national representative organisation for multi-denominational education in Ireland. The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily the policy of Educate Together unless expressly stated. Any non-commercial organisation is free to copy the contents of this newsletter as long as the source is attributed.

Make a donation to Educate Together

We need you to help us make our vision for the future of Irish education become a reality.

Your support can help us provide more schools which will guarantee equality for children of all cultures, religions and social backgrounds, fostering interaction and understanding, and ensuring that Ireland's future generations are best prepared for the 21st Century.

Ways to make a donation

- * Donate online at www.educatetogether.ie
- * Send a cheque to Educate Together
H8a Centrepoint, Oak Drive
Dublin 12
- * Or call us on +353 1 4292500 for other alternatives.

