



Educate Together Second-Level Project

Educate Together Second-level News - Vol. 1, Issue 7 – October/November 2008

2nd Second-level General Members Meeting Debates Values and Curriculum



Paul Rowe, CEO of Educate Together, John Hammond, Deputy Chief Executive of the NCCA and Prof Aine Hyland

The 2nd Educate Together General Members' Meeting devoted specifically to the issue of second-level Educate Together education was held on Saturday, 11th October in the Clarion Hotel in the IFSC in Dublin. Over seventy people attended, including parents, teachers and past-pupils as well as representatives from some second-level education partners. The meeting provided an opportunity for start-up groups and working groups to come together to share ideas and there was a great "buzz" throughout the day.

The quality of speakers and participants on the day reflected the high level of interest there is in this project in educational and academic circles. Topics covered in presentations and workshops included Educational Leadership, Multiple Intelligences (Prof Aine Hyland), Values Education (Dr Carmel Mulcahy, DCU and Dr Marian de Souza, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne), Key Skills and Flexible Learner Profiles (John Hammond, NCCA), and Systemic Thinking (Simon Moore).

In addition, Educate Together's Regional Development Officers ran a workshop for Start-up Groups who are campaigning for second-level schools in their local areas and the second-level Working Groups on **Management and Structure**, **Campus and Built Environment** and **Curriculum, Teaching and Learning** gave an update on the work they have been doing.



Dr John O'Reilly, University of Limerick, reporting on the Curriculum, Teaching and Learning Working Group.

For more information about this event and to view the presentations visit:
http://www.educatetogether.ie/2_campaigns/Secondlevel_GMM_20081011.html

Petition Collects over 6,000 signatures



The second-level Action Day held by Educate Together national schools on 25th September attracted huge support and the petition calling on the Minister for Education and Science to register Educate Together as a second-level patron has now gathered over 6,000 signatures. Paper petitions have been sent in by X schools (*check latest figures with Barra*), with hundreds more signatures being gathered online. Many thanks to all those who helped to make this day such a great success.

The action day **also** attracted a great deal of attention in local print and radio media around the country. Many groups have also been lobbying their local politicians, with the result that this matter was raised in the Dáil by a range of TDs in

the first few days back after the summer break. The next step will be to deliver the petition to Minister O’Keeffe to put further pressure on him to accelerate the process to enable Educate Together to open second-level schools.

Anyone who has not yet signed this petition can do so at <http://www.gopetition.com/petitions/educate-together-second-level-campaign.html> until 5th November.

Educate Together invited to participate in Adamstown Community College Board

Following involvement in the Interim Boards of Management of newly established Community Colleges in Donabate and Phibblestown, Educate Together is pleased to have been asked to participate in a similar Board for the Adamstown Community College, which is due to open in September 2009.

This Interim Board is being set up by the patron of the Community College, County Dublin VEC and will have representatives from community and educational interests in the area. Tom Moriarty, principal of Adamstown Castle Educate Together National School will represent Educate Together on this Board.

The opening of the Adamstown school **will take the number to three of** “non-designated” Community Colleges which have opened under the patronage of County Dublin VEC in a two-year period. In addition, Minister Batt O’Keeffe announced in a press release on 22nd October that new Community Colleges in Balbriggan and Dublin 15 are also to have County Dublin VEC as their patron.

While Educate Together appreciates the invitation extended by County Dublin VEC to participate in Interim Boards of new Community Colleges in areas where Educate Together National Schools are established, and will continue to work in a spirit of partnership with County Dublin VEC in this regard, we are disappointed that the Department of Education and Science continues to make decisions on the patronage of new post-primary schools without consulting local parents, communities or patron bodies. Statements made last month by the Joint Managerial Body and the Irish Bishops Conference show that this concern is shared by other independent patrons.

There are now five Educate Together national schools in the wider Lucan area and parents from these schools have recently established a Task Force to step up the campaign for an Educate Together second-level school for Lucan. Demand for such a school was first proven by parents from Lucan Educate Together National School, who collected over 1,500 pre-enrolments in a campaign in 2002.

Waterford Second-level Group Complete Fun Run



Lorna Long, Noeleen Dooley, Joanne Ryan and Richard Rodger

Congratulations to the hardy runners who braved the elements in Waterford’s 10k Fun Run on Sunday, September 14th to raise awareness and funds for Waterford’s second-level Educate Together school campaign. The annual charity Fun Run is a fixture in the Waterford calendar and this year over 900 participants turned out to support a variety of causes. For more information see the Waterford group’s website:

http://www.secondleveletw.com/secondleveletw_latestnews.html.

Second-level Education Officer to Start in November

We are delighted to announce that Fiona Richardson will be joining the second-level team at the Educate Together national office from the beginning of November. Fiona brings a wealth of experience to the team, having worked in second-level schools in Ireland and the UK, as well as in the Second-level Support Service, on the Junior Certificate Schools Programme (JCSP), and the National Behavioural Support Service, as the National Literacy Officer for that programme.

Fiona was also involved in developing and implementing the Civic, Social and Political Education programme for second-level schools. She is an Educate Together parent and served a term on the Board of Management of Ranelagh Educate Together NS. During her first few months as Second-level Education Officer, Fiona will be collaborating with the working groups to develop the Blueprint for Educate Together second-level education.



Marie Moreau & Fiona Richardson

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

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