



Welcome to our June newsletter. More positive news for the Second-level Project this month, with the news that 20 new post-primary schools are to be established. Responding to this latest DES announcement, Educate Together's CEO Paul Rowe noted that Educate Together already has "existing applications and active start-up community groups in a large number of the areas announced by the Minister." The news is encouraging for second-level start-up campaign groups, who are continuing to gather evidence of demand - expressions of interest - in their local areas.

Our working groups will also meet over the summer, and will come together on 24 September to report back on their progress.

Enjoy the summer break,

**Ann Ryan,**  
Second-level Education Officer



### 20 new post-primary schools by 2017

On Monday 27 June, the Department of Education and Skills (DES) announced that 20 new post-primary schools will be established over the next six years. The complete list issued by the DES includes 7 new areas, in addition to those announced in January 2011. The complete list is as follows:

*Ashbourne & Navan (Co Meath); West Blanchardstown & Mulhuddart (Dublin 15); Claregalway (Co Galway); Maynooth & Naas (Co Kildare); Drogheda (Co Louth); North Co Dublin/South Co Louth area.* (announced in Jan 2011)

*Co Dublin (Rush/Lusk), South Dublin (Stepaside/Ballinteer), Co Louth (Dundalk), Co Wicklow (Greystones), Co Kildare (Celbridge), Cork City South (Carrigaline) and Cork (Middleton/Carrigtwohill).* (announced in June 2011)

The announcement describes the new process by which second-level school patrons will be selected from now on. Minister for Education and Skills, Ruairi Quinn T.D, highlighted the importance of parental choice in the new process: "Parental preferences should be at the centre of considerations about the type of school to be recognised," he said. "The new arrangements will provide that patron bodies proposing schools at either primary or second-level will be asked to provide evidence of demand."

The patronage process will include a New Schools Establishment Group, which will be chaired by Dr Seamus McGuinness, a retired senior lecturer from the Education department at Trinity College Dublin. The group also includes Sylva Langford, former director of the Office for the Minister for Children and Prof Sean O Riain from NUI Maynooth's Sociology department.

#### What happens next?

1. The DES will inform patron bodies about which schools will be established first.
2. Patron bodies will then make applications to the DES for consideration.
3. DES officials will draft a report based on these applications to be considered by the New Schools Establishment Group, which will then submit a report with recommendations for the Minister to consider.

View the DES announcement in full [here](#)

## Second-level Start-up Groups on

facebook

Click on the links below to find them:

- [Lusk Facebook Page](#)
- [Cork Facebook Page](#)
- [Dublin 15 Facebook Page](#)
- [Kilkenny Facebook Page](#)
- [Drogheda Facebook Page](#)
- [North Wicklow / South Dublin Facebook Page](#)

### Meetings

The next meeting for the Dublin 15 campaign group will be Tues 20 September at 8pm. Venue: Castaheany ETNS, Ongar Village, D15.

### News.. in case you missed it

Educate Together presented at the Forum on Patronage and Pluralism recently. Video footage is now available online, and is well worth a look. Click [here](#) to view the video footage.

## Second-level Start-up Events



Members of the Kilkenny Second-Level Start-up Group: L to R Mary Galway (Chairperson), Eamon Colman, Sandras Foley at Markets Cross Shopping Centre on Sat 11 June.



Second-level start-up groups in different parts of the country have been actively engaging local people in a variety of ways recently.

The **Kilkenny** second-level group organised a publicity stand at Markets Cross Shopping Centre on Saturday 11 June, where they talked to shoppers and gathered signatures in support of their campaign.

The **Dublin 15** campaign group also held an Expression of Interest event at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre on 4 June as part of their ongoing campaign.

The **South Dublin/North Wicklow group** organised a Big Fun Quiz which took place at Charlesland Golf Club on Sun 19 June, to raise funds for their local campaign. And **Drogheda's** Educate Together Secondary School Action Group (DETSSAG) have recently launched their own newsletter.

### Working Groups

Thanks again to all the working group members who completed the online survey as part of our review of working groups. The majority of respondents felt very positive about their experiences as working group members. They also felt that having clear terms of reference was extremely important, and that working group progress reports should be included regularly in the second-level newsletter. Detailed survey results have been circulated to all members and are available on [Box.net](#).

Over the summer, individual working groups will be meeting to prepare for **Saturday 24 September 2011**, when all working groups will have the opportunity to meet together and report back on their progress (venue and times to be confirmed). The Curriculum, Teaching & Learning working group have scheduled a meeting for **Wed 20 July at 7.30pm**.

If you would like to join one of the working groups, email:

[secondlevel@educatetogether.ie](mailto:secondlevel@educatetogether.ie)