



Educate
Together



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SECOND-LEVEL PROJECT

ETSLN

Second Level Newsletter

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Welcome to our February newsletter. As we go to press, the General Election has just taken place, and a new Government will be in office shortly. We are hopeful that the next Minister for Education and Skills, whoever he or she may be, will be supportive of our Second-level project.

The recent announcement of plans to establish several new post-primary schools in a number of areas around the country provides hope for second-level start-up groups, and an impetus for other groups to be established. Educate Together has already applied for patronage of second-level schools in some of these areas.

Ann Ryan,
Second-level
Education
Officer



National Forum on Sat 5 March

This Educate Together National Forum is for all members of the Educate Together community. It will be held at Lucan ETNS this Saturday 5 March, from 10 - 1pm.

As part of the forum, there will be **second-level start-up group training**, as well as an opportunity for **second-level working groups** to meet and report back to each other on recent progress.

Conference Registration Open

Registration for the *Re-imagining Learning* Conference in May is now open. People who are interested in attending - or presenting - can find more information at <http://tiny.cc/reimagining-learning>

As a pre-conference event, Mason Hayes+Curran is hosting a **Business Breakfast Briefing** in partnership with Educate Together on **Wednesday 9 March**. This will bring together thinkers and opinion formers from industry and education to discuss the key innovations needed in Irish education. The Breakfast Briefing will be chaired by Prof Ferdinand von Prondzynski, former president of Dublin City University.

For more information contact conference@educatetogether.ie

Easter Camp - Piloting Integration

Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 April

Up to 25 Educate Together students will participate in a unique learning experience during this year's Easter holidays. Over three days (27 - 29 April), they will work collaboratively on projects from different curricular areas, using integrated approaches to learning.

The Easter Camp will take place at the Bridge2College, Oriel House, Trinity College, Dublin and will be open to students who are in Educate Together 6th Classes this year, as well as graduates of Educate Together schools who are now in 1st Year at second-level. For more information, and to apply for a place on the Easter Camp, please contact: ann.ryan@educatetogether.ie

Second-level Start-up Group Meetings

Drogheda Educate Together Secondary School Action Group

Public meeting on 12 April 8pm, venue tbc.

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

Dublin 15 Information Meeting Tues 5 April 8pm

Crowne Plaza Hotel , Blanchardstown SC, Dublin 15
Information Meeting for interested parents from all schools in the area. For more information, contact: gerry.mckevitt@educatetogether.ie

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

We are looking for volunteers to take part in the **Great Ireland Run** (10 April), and the **Flora Womens' Mini Marathon** (6 June). To sign up, contact: Masina.Johnston@educatetogether.ie

Working Groups survey reminder

Working group members have recently completed an online survey as part of an ongoing review of the working groups. If you are a working group member, and have not yet completed the survey, please do so as soon as possible. We will be collating the final results shortly. The survey is available here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2ndLevelWorkingGroups>

Educate Together presentation to ACCS

In December 2010, CEO Paul Rowe and Emer Nowlan, Head of Education and Network Development, presented to a group from the Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools (ACCS) on Educate Together's second-level plans. The ACCS has 91 member schools around the country. These schools are managed jointly by VECs and other patrons; at the moment Religious Trustees.

Educate Together believes the legal structures of a Community School would be well suited to an Educate Together second-level school and it is keen to build relationships with Community Schools and their representative organisation. Members of the ACCS group were very welcoming and seemed interested in Educate Together's plans.



Second-level Start-up Group Events

A number of different events, organised by start-up groups in counties Louth, Wicklow, Meath and Dublin Fingal during February and throughout the General Election campaign, attracted considerable attention - and support - from local candidates. The Drogheda Secondary School Action Group has now recorded over 700 expressions of interest, while the North Wicklow/South Dublin group has 640 and the Swords group more than 500.



Members of the Drogheda group with Paul Rowe, CEO in the Laurence Town Centre on February 5th

North Wicklow Group present to Town Council

On Tues 22 February, the North Wicklow/South Dublin Second level Action Group presented to Greystones Town Council. They were well received and their presentation was reported in the Wicklow Times. For more information about the North Wicklow campaign visit: <http://www.wicklow2school.ie/> or visit their Facebook page.