



**Educate
Together**



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SECOND-LEVEL PROJECT

ETSLN

Second Level Newsletter

**VOL 3 ISSUE 7
APRIL 2011**

Welcome to our April newsletter. It has been a busy month for the Second-level Project, with a number of events taking place, such as the very well-attended public meeting in Drogheda organised by DETSSAG, and our second-level Easter Camp during the Easter school holidays.

We have also been working hard to get everything ready for the forthcoming *Re-imagining Learning* conference, which takes place on Friday 13 and Saturday 14 May. This conference promises to be a rich experience for anyone interested in the future of second-level education. The conference programme shows the high quality of speakers and diverse range of presentations that will be on offer. This is a great opportunity to hear about educational innovation at first hand from truly impressive speakers. We hope you'll be able to join us!

Ann Ryan,
Second-level
Education
Officer



Re-imagining Learning Conference

Strand Hotel, Limerick,

Fri 13 & Sat 14 May

This conference will bring together teachers, innovators, researchers and change-makers to share ideas, experiences and learning about Junior Cycle.

Our keynote speaker at *Re-imagining Learning* is:

Prof John Portelli Co-Director of the Centre for Leadership and Diversity, Department of Theory and Policy Studies at OISE, University of Toronto.

His research and teaching focus on: democratic values and educational policy; leadership and pedagogy; student engagement and the curriculum of life; standardization, equity and "students at risk."

As well as Prof Portelli, we have an excellent line-up of speakers, who will raise thought-provoking questions and offer critical analysis on education policy and practice.

Saturday's programme includes workshops offering practical examples of innovation from schools that will be of particular interest to teachers.

Come along and join this vital conversation about how we want our schools to be.

Register at:

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

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

For more information go to:

<http://www.educatetogether.ie/press-releases/2010/12/upcoming-conference-re-imagining-learning/>

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

RE-IMAGINING LEARNING

curriculum integration in
the early secondary years



Educate Together

OLSCOIL LUINNIGH
UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK



**Innovation
& Identity**
Ideas for a new Junior Cycle



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



Second-level Start-up Groups

Dublin 15 Expression of Interest

Expressions of Interest are ongoing at the three Educate Together schools in Dublin 15, with over 200 signatures collected so far. The campaign group will also hold an Expression of Interest event at Blanchardstown Shopping Centre in early June (date tbc).

If you would like to get involved in the D15 campaign, please contact Michael McLoughlin (Castleknock ETNS parent).

E: mmclo@eircom.net

North Wicklow

On Wed 6 April, the North Wicklow Educate Together 2nd level Action Group participated in a Secondary Schools Information Evening at St Patrick's NS, Greystones. During the evening, they gave out leaflets, spoke to parents about the local campaign and collected more than 50 Expressions of Interest.

Congratulations to the Action Group for getting involved in this event - it was a great idea, and one that may be of interest to other second-level start-up groups around the country.

E: info@wicklow2school.ie

News In case you missed it....



Quinn to seek radical reform of Junior Cert - The Irish Times - Thu, Apr 21, 2011



Second-level Easter Camp Report

Wednesday 27 - Friday 29 April

Our very first second-level [Easter Camp](#) took place during the Easter school holidays (27, 28 and 29 April). This was a partnership initiative with [Bridge 2 College](#) (now Bridge 21) and took place at their Learning Space at Oriel House, Trinity College.

A total of 18 students participated in the project, the majority of whom came from Educate Together primary schools and were either 6th Class students or in 1st Year at second-level. The students worked in teams on a theme-based, technology-mediated project that aimed to integrate selected subjects from the Junior Cycle curriculum, with an emphasis on developing students' Key Skills.

We were delighted with the way the students worked so well together, especially as they came from different schools and didn't know each other at the start of the camp. Feedback from the students was overwhelmingly positive, with all of them reporting that as well as learning new skills, they also had fun!

Preliminary results from the Easter Camp will be presented at the *Re-imagining Learning* conference in May.

For more information on Bridge 21, go to: www.bridge21.ie

Drogheda Public Meeting

More than 100 people attended a public meeting organised by DETSSAG, Drogheda's second-level school action group. The meeting, held at the Boyne Valley Hotel on 12 April, included presentations on the proposals for an Educate Together second-level school, which were warmly received. Local politicians, including Labour TD Ged Nash and Minister of State Fergus O'Dowd, along with representatives for Gerry Adams TD and MEP Mairéad McGuinness, were also there. Chairperson of DETSSAG Elaine Hogan Hanley was delighted with the impressive turnout and positive reception: "We're excited about the future. We will keep talking to parents and the wider community. This school will be for every child in Drogheda, not just those who attended an Educate Together primary school."

E: actiongroup@droghedaetss.com or find DETSSAG on Facebook.