



Staff Newsletter

What a privileged position we hold

On the week of May 17th to 21st I was asked to help out with interviews of potential students for Post Leaving Cert programmes in Nenagh School of Further Education. I was asked to be there for three days. In agreeing to do this I anticipated a fairly routine experience. However, routine it was not.

While there were many people with individual life stories a number of specific, but loose, categories could be identified.

There were women who had completed their 'family obligations' and now it was time to concentrate on themselves. They seemed relieved that this phase of their lifelong duty

to their children had concluded and now it was 'me time'.

There was another category, predominantly women, who had returned to education recently and were loving the experience. Their self-confidence had improved and they had developed a competent self-identity which had transformed their lives and they wanted to continue this wonderful experience.

There were people who had become unemployed recently, women and men, and their disappointment, anguish, and fear were obvious in the understated and repeated phrase 'its tough out there'. Within this group there was a palpable sense of shock at the

personal transformation from independent and confident individuals to dependent, help-seeking people who are placing their future hopes in education.

I was continuously struck, and reinforced by each passing interview, by the privileged position we have in society. Education is the process that enables people, particularly adults, transform their lives from an initial insecurity related to self confidence and self efficacy to one of increasing self confidence through self competence. My experience in Nenagh College of Further Education reinforced my conviction that we in North Tipperary VEC understand the vulnerability, and brittle

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nature of some of our students and the professional manner in which we respond to our privileged position. Our contribution to individual life transformations and to the social cohesion of our Republic is incalculable.

Occupational First Aid Course

It is important that a member of staff in each location throughout our organisation is competent in Occupational First Aid. With this in mind Dr Laurenz Egan at Coláiste Éile has organised a FETAC Level 5 Occupational First Aid Course for staff in the VEC, however places are limited to 12. The course takes place in the Anner Hotel Thurles next week on Wednesday and Thursday from 9.00am - 3.50pm and Friday 9.00 -

1.50pm. Lunch is from 1:00pm to 1.30pm on Wednesday and Thursday and Friday's training finishes at 1.50pm. There may still be a number of places so let me know if you are interested at noelcolleran@lllvec.ie

Colaiste Phobal Transition Year Trip to Achill

Transition Years have completed a three-day action packed outdoor activities adventure in Achill Island. Activities included water sports, hill walking, orien-

teering, abseiling to mention but a few. They were accompanied on the trip by Seamus Dennison, Cáit Leyne, Tadhg Maher and Ciara Ormond. By all accounts it was a wonderful experience for all concerned.

Extended timeframe for Applications for Professional Development Funding

A central contingency fund of €10,000 has been established by North Tipperary VEC and all schools, centres, and programmes

have contributed to this fund.

Staff following *relevant recognised courses* (other than those supported by the Teacher Fee Refund Scheme 2001) may apply to this fund for support.

Because our academic year extends into June this year completed applications Forms, which are available from your principal/manager, should be returned to Dr Noel Colleran, Lifelong Learning Service, Martyrs' Rd, Nenagh, **not later than Friday June 4th**.

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Programme for Supporting Educational Leadership in Schools and Centres of Education

- Educational Leadership
- Values and how they impact on action
- Educational Planning (in the context of



This Programme, which was attended by thirty-four VEC staff last year, is intended to support staff currently holding, or who intend to take up, leadership positions in post primary education.

The aim of the Programme is to provide for the development of knowledge, understanding, and skills required for effective leadership in Schools and Centres of Education.

The Programme Content aims to develop understanding of issues such as:

- Personality type profiling— a Myers Briggs Model

- School Development Planning)
- The changing educational context
- Interpersonal relations
- Conflict resolution.

An application form is available on the Tipperary Institute website or from Dr Noel Colleran at noel-colleran@llvec.ie

Professional Development for Special Needs Assistants

Ar Aghaidh Linn in conjunction with Gerard O'Brien, Principal at Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré, have been developing a week-long professional

development programme for all North Tipperary VEC's Special Needs Assistants. The support will be provided from June 21st to June 25th.

Included in the programme will be an introduction by David Leahy CEO. Carmel Callery, our Special Needs Organiser, will give an update on recent developments. Also included in the programme will be:

- Familiarisation with relevant software
- Approaches to bullying and harassment
- Literacy awareness and
- Support for visually impaired children.

A final programme will be available in schools and centres over the coming weeks.

Fifth Year Silver Gaisce Trip in Coláiste Phobal

Fourteen Fifth Years have just returned to Coláiste Phobal from Achill, Co. Mayo after completing three days of Outdoor Pursuits Activities to enable them earn a Silver Gaisce Award. They were accompanied on the trip by Amanda Rice and Diarmuid Haugh.

Professional Development for PLC Teachers of FETAC Administration Level 6

A Workshop for PLC teachers of FETAC Administration Level 6 will take place on Thursday June 3rd in Nenagh Vocational School from 9:30am to 1:00 pm

This will be an interactive workshop so those attending are asked to bring relevant materials such as module descriptors, marking schemes, exam briefs, teaching resources etc.

The programme will focus on issues such as:

- Exploring the Module Descriptors
- Teaching Materials and Resources
- Challenges related to teaching adults
- Assessment
- External Examination.

Integrated discussions will no doubt include:

- Cross-curricular links
- Authentic, not contrived, application of learning
- Expectations of and for Level 6 Students.

Further information with the Principals in the schools.

Sports News

Coláiste Phobal Munster Hurling Champions

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré

won the First Year Munster Hurling Final on Friday May 21st, defeating old rivals Causeway, Co. Kerry, by 3 points to bring the title back to the

school for the first time since 2002.

It was a hard-fought victory and great credit must go to the team and their trainers, Tadhg Maher and

Brendan Greaney for maintaining Coláiste Phobal's proud record of winning a Munster Title every year since the school's inception in 1999.