

WELCOME TO The ETBI Newsletter

Welcome to the second edition of *Connections*, the newsletter from Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) where we hope to share information about, and get your feedback on, the services ETBI provides to our 16 member ETBs.

There are over 32,000 staff working across Ireland's Education & Training Boards and we want to celebrate a collective sense of pride in the services ETBs provide to learners of all ages across primary, post primary, FET and Youth Services.

We also would like your feedback and suggestions and the best suggestion will receive a €250 all gift voucher. See our survey on page 4.

Interview with Áine Lynch, CEO National Parents Council



In the latest interview in our *Future of Education & Training in Ireland* video series, ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle talks to Áine Lynch, CEO of the National Parents Council.

[Interview Here](#)

In a wide ranging interview, Áine, who left school at 16, talks about her educational journey and the opportunities and challenges of leading the joint primary and post primary National Parents Council. She also discusses curriculum reform, Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) challenges and how, while we may have let go of Covid, it hasn't let go of some of our students in terms of mental health.

In this 'back to school' edition of Connections , we also talk to Teaching Council Director Dr Lynn Ramsey



In this Edition you'll also find:

A Day in the Life of a...School Secretary; FET & Youth News; Upcoming Events.



[Read more](#)

Learner voice takes centre stage at ETBI Conference

Learner voice in education, citizenship & democracy will be the theme of this year's [ETBI Annual Conference](#) which takes place in Clayton Whites Hotel, Wexford on 25th & 26th September. With an upcoming budget and general election, this year's conference will have a political flavour with MC Ivan Yeats, Electoral Commission CE Art O'Leary and a panel discussion with the education spokespersons from the political parties who will explore what a new programme for government might mean for ETBs.



[Interview Here](#)

Interview with Dr Lynn Ramsey, Director of the Teaching Council

In a wide ranging interview with Paddy Lavelle, Dr Lynn Ramsey of the Teaching Council talks about meeting the challenges of teacher supply, achieving greater diversity in the teaching profession in Ireland, and her strong connection with Donegal.



iVET Tasters show FET pathways for school students

Initial Vocational Education and Training modules or iVET modules will be available as part of the Transition Year Programme in the academic year 2024/25. These modules will expose post-primary students to vocational learning and experiences and highlight the variety

of Further Education and Training (FET) pathways open to them. The inclusion of the iVET module in the TY Programme aims to support existing programmes that schools and FET providers are currently engaged in, promote the opportunity to schools nationwide and enhance the pathways potential from school to FET. Designed as a flexible module that can be intertwined with, and delivered through, any further education and training taster course that is offered by a FET provider, the iVET module provides students with the opportunity to explore the key competencies of senior cycle through hands-on engagement with FET. It is envisaged that a nationwide promotional campaign will accompany the availability of the module in the 2024/25 academic year.



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[Read more](#)

First national ETB Youth Conference makes a splash

Over 150 youth workers, ETB Youth Officers and youth stakeholders attended the first *Youth Work Matters* conference in June. The event, developed in collaboration with Limerick & Clare ETB, included keynotes and panel discussions on the impact of youthwork, creativity and diversity and youth homelessness. In his address, ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle called on the government to restore funding for youth work to pre-austerity levels, and ensure pay parity for youth workers. And since the conference, ETBI has been invited to join the the influential national children and young people's policy forum, a key part of the Young Ireland Framework.



[Read more](#)

ETBI Summer School addresses key challenges affecting Middle Leaders

The third Annual ETBI Summer School for Middle Leaders in ETB Schools took place in the University of Limerick. Themed "Nurturing Leadership for a Changing World", this year's gathering involved lectures, group work and outdoor learning to support their leadership journey. Visiting speakers included Child & Adolescent Psychotherapist Colman Noctor and Professor Patricia Mannix McNamara.



[ETB Jobs](#)

ETBs collaborate to meet recruitment challenges

ETB Communications and HR personnel are collaborating to develop a shared approach across the sector to boost the profile of Ireland's 16 Education & Training Boards as employers.

The project, which aims to highlight the breadth of employment opportunities available and the unique selling points of ETBs as employers, will include high quality videography/ photography for use in national and local campaigns. It is hoped to launch the campaign in early 2025.







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A Day in the Life of.....a School Secretary



In each edition, we meet a member of staff from an ETB to learn about their role. Here we chat to School Secretary in Mullingar Community College, Brigid Kiernan, pictured here with Tánaiste Micheál Martin. She has been a school secretary with Longford & Westmeath ETB (and the VEC before that) for almost 40 years, and is hugely popular with staff and students. See [here](#) for more info.

Upcoming Events:

-  [ETBI ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WEXFORD- 25/26 SEPT](#)
-  [FINANCE CONFERENCE - ATHLONE - 15/16 OCT](#)
-  [CLIMATE ACTION CONFERENCE - ATHLONE - 17 OCT](#)
-  [EURO GUIDANCE EVENT - ATHLONE - 24 OCTOBER](#)

ETB Jobs:

<https://www.etbi.ie/etb-recruitment/>

ETB Podcasts:



*Enter!
to Win!*

Answer our short survey to be in with a chance of winning a €250 all gifts voucher

CLICK HERE 

Have a story for the newsletter?
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