

APRIL 2016

EDUCATION NEWS

*Newsletter of the Department of Education
- passionate about all things educational!*

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It is wonderful to be putting together this second edition of our Department of Education Newsletter – and hard to believe how quickly time has flown! I was reflecting the other day on my experience here in Ireland over the past year and half. It strikes me as someone who has worked for many years in the educational systems of both Canada and Sweden that Irish education is no stranger to innovation. We in Maynooth are doing our best, along with you, to create a place where education means something more than fulfilling a course of study.



Professor Sharon Todd

When education is overly characterised in terms of training, testing, and measurement, we lose sight of its truly transformational potential. Education is about creating conditions for people from all backgrounds to live meaningful lives as full participants in society. This idea of education means taking risks and experimenting with new pedagogies, courses, and research directions. It means thinking imaginatively about our relationships and it means a willingness to try things out, evaluate them, and see what we can do better. For us education is about building a strong educational community by focusing on bringing our creative energies together. I like to think that in some small way our Department, in conjunction with the teachers, principals, counsellors and students we work with, contributes in constructive ways to making education better for all.

Over the past few months, our Department has been engaged in a range of activities that embody this spirit. I just highlight a few of them here. You can read more fully about them within the next few pages - and you might see some familiar faces in the pictures that accompany those stories as well! In collaboration with co-operating teachers on our PME programme and the PDST, we have become more involved with the practice of Team Teaching and organised a half day conference in Leixlip in February. Through our 3U Partnership we hosted a very successful Leadership Symposium on March 5th with over 500 in attendance. Bringing together educational professionals and activists, our Department held a tremendously innovative event on LGBT issues in education in January, with presentations and performances from students, teachers and senior administrators. In terms of programming, we have just launched a new flexible, modular-based M.Ed. programme to begin in September, designed to fit the needs of professionals and built on cutting edge research and ideas.

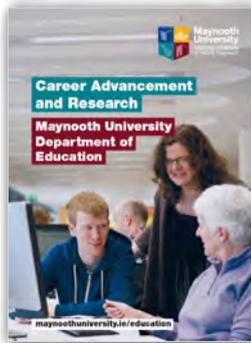
Please get in touch with us if you want to discuss developing links with our Department, or if you want to get a better sense of any courses we offer. Our doors are always open!

Courses on Offer at Maynooth University Department of Education

At Maynooth University Department of Education, our courses can be largely divided into two main categories.

We offer a concurrent undergraduate BSc in Maths and Science Education over a 5-year period and a 2-year postgraduate Professional Master of Education (PME). These courses may be of interest to School Guidance Counsellors as they support students to make choices around their CAO. Further information is available in the booklet opposite.

We also offer a wide range of courses for all teachers to develop their professional practice or to advance their careers within the field of education. These include postgraduate diplomas in management, leadership and school guidance counselling, a modular Masters programme, a Masters in school guidance counselling and an M.Ed in Innovative Learning; and further academic study through M.Litt and PhD programmes. We have a new modular design to the M.Ed degree that allows you to undertake either a specialism or general option of studies and allows it to be undertaken at a pace that suits your life. Further information is available in the booklet opposite.



Integral to our work is our partnership with post-primary schools that support our student teachers on school placement. We would like to thank all our partner schools for their commitment to supporting student teachers as they prepare for entry to the teaching profession. Details on the school placement arrangements and the benefits of facilitating a student teacher from the Maynooth University Department of Education can be found in the flyer opposite.



Modern Languages Teachers

On Saturday, March 12th, Maynooth University Department of Education, in collaboration with the Post-Primary Languages Initiative, organised another highly successful CPD event for teachers of modern foreign languages (MFL).

This event, entitled Digital Tools in MFL Teaching and Learning, was a follow-up to last year's Tablets and Apps in MFL Teaching and Learning. Once again centring on a bottom-up approach to CPD, it featured a series of hands-on workshops for language teachers led by language teachers. It brought together post-primary teachers of Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Russian and Spanish to share their expertise.



Team Teaching Seminar

A seminar was held on 22nd February 2016 to mark the culmination of the Maynooth University Department of Education and Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST) team teaching research project.



From left to right: Dr Thomas Walsh (Maynooth University), Mr Will Donnelly (PDST), Ms Rachel Farrell (PDST), Charmaine Dowling (PME student teacher), Jack Colgan (PME student teacher), David Lee (PME student teacher), Rachel Dudley McEvoy (PME student teacher), Ms Angela Rickard (Maynooth University), Professor Sharon Todd (Maynooth University), Ms Ciara O'Donnell (PDST) and Dr Celine Healy (Maynooth University).

The event was attended by close to 200 PME student teachers, principals, deputy principals and co-operating teachers from partner schools of Maynooth University, as well as educationalists with an interest in team teaching.

Speakers at the seminar included Professor Sharon Todd (Maynooth University), Ms Ciara O'Donnell (Director of the PDST), Dr Finn Ó Murchú (UCC) and Mr. Tomás Ó Ruairc (Teaching Council). PME student teachers (Charmaine Dowling, David Lee, Jack Colgan and Rachel Dudley McEvoy) who have engaged in team teaching while on school placement and who are undertaking a group thesis on students' attitudes and perceptions to team teaching also provided an insightful input to participants. The centrepiece of the seminar was poster presentations by close to 40 PME student teachers and their co-operating teachers outlining their experiences of team teaching and the learning they have distilled from these experiences.

The seminar also included the screening of a clip from a recently produced video on team teaching that has been filmed in two post-primary schools, St. Mary's Academy CBS, Carlow and Curragh Camp Post-primary School, Co. Kildare. This video, with footage of team teaching taking place and commentary from principals, teachers, student teachers and second level students, is part of a larger video project about team teaching that seeks to address the dearth of video footage about team teaching in an Irish context. It will be an excellent resource for schools considering the introduction or development of team teaching in their schools.

There was a fantastic atmosphere of learning, collaboration and sharing evident on the day. Presentations from the seminar, the team teaching video and all of the posters are available at www.pdst.ie/teamteaching.



Students and participants discuss their posters and experiences of team teaching.



Maynooth University Education Department at FaSMEd Consortium Meeting in South Africa

In February 2016 Dr Majella Dempsey and Ms Niamh Burke of the Department of Education at Maynooth University travelled to Muizenberg, South Africa for the third consortium meeting of the FaSMEd Project.

FaSMEd is a three year, €1.9M project led by Newcastle University looking at how technology can support formative assessment practices in mathematics and science. Working with partners across eight countries and with clusters of schools, researchers are working on the use of formative assessment and technology to improve interactions in the classroom and reduce the anxiety about performance that frequently limits learners' development in these subjects.

Majella and Niamh presented the work they completed in Ireland at the meeting in Muizenberg, which comprised of using a variety of technologies including iPads, data loggers and various tablet applications to promote effective assessment practice among teachers and with students in schools.

School visits in the surrounding areas of Cape Town to observe mathematics and science lessons formed part of this meeting. The schools visited included those situated in disadvantaged communities (townships) as well as semi-private and independent (private) schools. Lessons were observed in schools with varying facilities and levels of academic attainment. A member of the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences or a South African FaSMEd teacher accompanied partners to schools and provided insights into the South African education system. In the Fish Hoek High School mathematics and science lessons were conducted in very well equipped classrooms where teachers made use of card matching exercises to gauge student understanding. In contrast in the Manzomthombo high school (located in a township on the outskirts of Muizenberg), teachers taught science and mathematics in classrooms with little to no equipment teaching, only with a board. Despite the lack of equipment very rich cooperative learning experiences were observed in classes with in excess of 50 students.

Valuable insights were gained from the trip to South Africa and the findings of the FaSMEd project as well as teacher and student resources in relation to technology and formative assessment will be available on a toolkit website later this year.

For more information on FaSMEd see <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/fasmed/> or contact Majella Dempsey (majella.dempsey@nuim.ie) or Niamh Burke (niamh.burke@nuim.ie) from the Department of Education at Maynooth University.



Maths lesson in Manzomthombo, South Africa.



Science Classroom in the Vuyiseka High School, South Africa.



FaSMEd Partners at False Bay College, Muizenberg, South Africa.

3U Leadership Symposium Leading the Pursuit of Quality



The 4th annual 3U Leadership Symposium took place on Saturday 5th March at Maynooth University

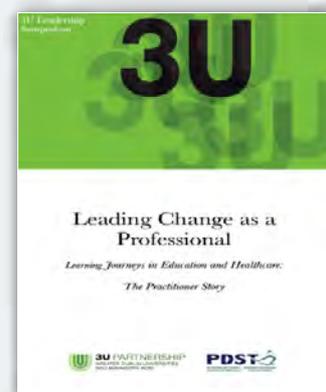
Over 400 delegates from education, healthcare and business were in attendance from the Department of Education at Maynooth University, RCSI and DCU.

Keynote contributors included; Professor Kathryn Riley, Institute of Education, London, Dr. Harold Hislop, Chief Inspector, Dr. Sean Ruth, Consultant and Mr. John Farrelly, Deputy Chief Inspector, HIQA.

Leading Change as a Professional New e-book on Leadership and the Practitioner Voice

Available very shortly on the Department of Education Maynooth University website (<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/education/>), a new leadership publication based on the experiences of practitioners who are graduates of the Department of Education (PGDEL) (Tórafocht) programme and leadership programmes at the Institute of Leadership at RCSI, with contributions from Professor John West-Burnham, Professor Áine Hyland, Mr. Tomás Ó Ruairc and many others.

Make sure to download your free copy!



Development Education Week 2015

This year with the advent of the two-year Professional Master in Education (PME), Development Education Week was extended from three to four days. In addition to the traditional three day DevEd week on campus for the PME year 1 students, we also organised a day off campus in Carlow for the Year 2 students.

On Monday 16th November teachers **Joe Clowry** from St Mary's Academy, Carlow and **Eleanor Lee** from Coláiste Bhríde Carnew created a suite of workshops that were delivered by combined groups of pupils from each of the two schools. The same groups also came to Maynooth on Wednesday to work with the PME Year 1 group.

In the afternoon of the Monday and courtesy of WorldVision Ireland we screened four episodes from the film **Girl Rising** (2013). This critically acclaimed film follows the life stories of nine extraordinary girls who struggle every day for freedom, education and a voice.

To finish the day in Carlow we were delighted to welcome **Dr. Garrett Campbell** and **Tony O'Rourke**, who presented the work of the **GlobalSchoolroom** (www.globalschoolroom.net). With the help of Irish volunteer teachers Global Schoolroom has been delivering a teaching diploma in North East India for the past eight years.

Back in Maynooth from Tuesday to Thursday that week the PME Year 1 students were introduced to **DevEd** through a rich programme of workshops and lectures. Workshops were designed and delivered by a range of Development Education partners including: **Jennifer Harris** (Waterford One World Centre), **Vicky Donnelly** (Galway One World Centre), **Claire Marshall** (Concern Worldwide), **Sian Crowley** (Debt and Development Coalition Ireland), **Lizzy Noone** (WorldWide Global Schools), **Aoife Tittley** (Maynooth University & DICE Coordinator) and **Lydia McCarthy** (Trócaire).

One of the outstanding features of DevEd week in Maynooth over the past number of years has been the involvement of second level pupils. In addition to having the pupils from **St. Mary's Academy, Carlow** and **Coláiste Bhríde, Carnew**, mentioned above, we were delighted to welcome pupils from **Portmarnock Community School**, from **Collinstown Park Community School, Clondalkin** and from **Coláiste Bhríde, Clondalkin**. With a combined total of around **60 pupils** leading no fewer than **14 workshops** using active methods and innovative technology they demonstrated not only outstanding teaching skills but also a passionate commitment to human rights and social justice education. This was a source of considerable inspiration for the PME students and we are very grateful to the all the teachers and pupils who put so much work into the preparation of these workshops.

A central aspect of DevEd week in Maynooth is the **creativity** that the PME students themselves show when asked to think about how they would **integrate DevEd into their own teaching**. To enable them to conjure up new ideas and to work together this year we called on artist **Deirdre Rogers** and four other colleagues from **ReCreate Ireland** (www.recreate.ie) namely: **Genevieve Hardden**, **Anne Cradden**, **Mark Holburn** and **Deirdre O'Reilly**. Located in venues stretching across the campus and beyond (!) Wednesday afternoon saw students work in small collaborative groups to produce a 'creative response' to what they had been learning over the previous day and a half. Their work was exhibited in the Iontas Foyer for a week or so afterwards so other groups could enjoy the astonishing artwork they produced in such a short length of time!

Some further highlights of the week were the keynote presentations: on Tuesday to start the week Professor and Head of Department **Dr. Sharon Todd** spoke to the theme of **"Glocalisation & Education"** while on Wednesday morning we were honoured to welcome to Maynooth **Prof. Vanessa Andreotti** from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Andreotti also generously gave her time to work with teachers and Maynooth staff. On Thursday a panel including another international guest **Barnabas Mwansa** (Barnabas Research & Training Institute, Zambia), **Meliosa Bracken** (PhD student in Maynooth University) and **Mr. Mirza Čatibušić** (a member of the



Prof. Vanessa Andreotti from the University of British Columbia delivers an address to staff and students during DevEd week

Bosnian Community in Ireland), offered their insights about development issues from their experience as educators in different settings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank a number of PME students whose help as volunteers was an invaluable addition to the running of the week. Our volunteers were: **Ancel Boyce**, **Alison Lynch**, **Sean Stoll**, **Siobhan Kieran**, **Steven McMahon**, **David Doyle**, **Caitriona Graham**, **Brian Waters**, **Mallory Gaffney**, **Laura Foley**, **Ian Carney**, **Megan O'Donohoe Tunney** and **Mark Heffernan**.

Development Education Week is supported by **Irish Aid** under the auspices of the **Ubuntu Network** and the international speakers we welcomed this year were funded with support from the **UNI-DEV project** in the Kimmage Centre for Development Studies.



Year 1 PME students show their creativity during DevEd week!
Back row (left to right): Siobhan Kieran, Naomi Pierce, Kelly Ryan, Christine Healy and Steven McMahon. Front row (left to right): Daryl Dunne and Jim Power.

Opening Conversations: Achieving Equality for LGBT people in Irish Schools

Opening Conversations was held on Friday 29th January 2016. Host to around 120 school leaders, teachers and guidance counsellors as well as educators from many institutions and associations, this event was as celebratory as it was informative and characterised by an openness to share the stories from school concerning LGBT experiences of inclusion.

The event was prompted by the national conversation concerning the Marriage Equality referendum in the past year and by a perception that schools, while being open to having honest conversations about equality, do not feel prepared for the changes in legislation and policy concerning LGBT issues. Our aim was to contribute to schools' existing efforts to support creative, sensitive and especially student-centered approaches to inclusion in their schools.

For our own part in the Department of Education we wanted to demonstrate our openness to having this conversation with and for our own students and the event has enabled us to link with many people involved in research, policy and practice in this area in Ireland in order to do that in the coming months and years. As a collaborative effort within the department it was in itself a new departure and involved a committee made up of many staff members (and a PhD student) in the department including: **Ms. Angela Rickard** (Chair), **Dr. Delma Byrne**, **Dr. Bernie Grummell**, **Mr. Seán Henry**, **Mr Anthony Malone**, **Dr. Grace O'Grady** and **Dr. Thomas Walsh** as well as **Dr. Fergus Ryan** from the Department of Law.

Following the official welcome from the President of Maynooth University **Prof. Philip Nolan** and the Head of the Department of Education **Prof. Sharon Todd**, we were delighted to introduce a distinguished alumnus of our department, politician **John Lyons TD**. John, whose own honesty and openness in the national media about the impact of homophobic bullying on him, shed light on the ways dominant narratives in society can hurt young people: simply acknowledging that some people don't fit the assumed heterosexual story can be radical in itself and he made the point that **inclusion favours not only the otherwise marginalised but improves life for everyone**.

Before the coffee break in the morning we moved from speeches to a 'fireside' conversation with a panel and tried to evoke the idea of the many kitchen table, living room conversations that Irish people have had in the past 12 months. Speaking with some of the key people involved in the Marriage Equality campaign, **Ms. Angela Rickard** explored the implications that changes in the constitution and other legislative reforms have for schools. She discussed these with **Dr. Gráinne Healy**, co-director of the Marriage Equality Campaign, **Dr. Fergus Ryan**, law lecturer and co-founder of the *Lawyers for Yes* and **Ms. Sandra Irwin-Gowran**, Director of Educational Policy Change in GLEN (Gay and Lesbian Equality Network).

Coincidentally, just the day before saw the launch by the Minister of Education **Jan O'Sullivan** of the **Being LGBT in School** resource for schools that Sandra coordinated. <https://www.education.ie/en/Publications/Education-Reports/Being-LGBT-in-School.pdf>

Following the conversations over coffee and tea in the Lontas Foyer the parallel sessions before lunch were billed as **workshops** and allowed participants to explore ideas and creative lessons from and for schools. The sessions led by second level students were exceptionally well received and we were delighted to have Transition Year boys from Moyle Park School, Clondalkin with their teacher **Mr Eóin Houlihan**. A number of the members the **SPECTRUM club** in Mount Temple Comprehensive School, Malahide Road were also hugely popular and widely and deservedly praised for their input. Other workshops included a creative writing workshop by **Nicole O'Rourke** from Big Smoke Writing Factory, another led by writer **Debbie Thomas** and a performance workshop offered by theatre maker **Peter Hussey**. The morning's



From left to right: Ms. Sandra Irwin-Gowran (GLEN), Dr Fergus Ryan (Maynooth University), Ms Angela Rickard (Maynooth University), Dr. Gráinne Healy (Marriage Equality), Mr. John Lyons (TD), Prof. Sharon Todd (Maynooth University) and Prof Philip Nolan (Maynooth University).

suite of workshops also included a session led by Youth Coordinator **John Ruddy** from Dundalk Outcomers who explored understandings of LGBT issues and shared resources that would be useful for schools engaging in CPD in this area. Finally, teacher and part-time lecturer **Michelle Stowe** led a session on Restorative Practice.

The sessions after lunch focused on the area of policy and included presentations from teachers **Vicky Stokes** and **Kelly McGrath** as well as parent **Karen Farrell** from Castleknock Community College (CCC) who charted the college's journey in relation to inclusion and provided insightful and practical advice for school leaders seeking to support transgender children make a smooth and enjoyable gender transition. Elsewhere **Dr. Declan Fahie** presented his research about LGBT teachers in second level schools while **Karen O'Shea** and **Dr. Mary Gannon** (collectively known as *Uaisleacht*) presented a range of resources to support conversations about equality in schools. Meanwhile, a series of **Roundtable discussions** took place that focused on school leaders, management bodies and unions as well as a separate session aimed at supporting the politics of care in School Guidance and Counselling.

Our final plenary conversation sought to explore new conversations and included a panel chaired by Professor Todd and including **Sam Blanckensee**, **Danny Tynan** (founder of the SPECTRUM club in Mount Temple) and well known educator and equality activist **Dr. Mary Gannon**.

The day – a busy one indeed – culminated in an outstanding 'staged reading' and discussion of the play **Citizenship** by **Mark Ravenhill** which was performed by the **Kildare Youth Theatre** under the directorship of **Peter Hussey**.

The full programme for the Opening Conversations event can be found [here](https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/education/news/opening-conversations-achieving-equality-lgbt-people-irish-schools-friday-29th-january-2016): <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/education/news/opening-conversations-achieving-equality-lgbt-people-irish-schools-friday-29th-january-2016>



Students from the SPECTRUM club in Mount Temple Comprehensive School deliver an insightful workshop to participants. From left to right: Dan O'Connor, Catherine Grogan, Danny Tynan, Seán Talbot and Niamh Cuddy.

Maynooth University Announces New Accreditation Pathway for GPA Madden Leadership Programme

Designed to develop leadership skills amongst county Gaelic football, hurling, ladies football and camogie players, the Madden Leadership Programme is individually tailored to athletes performing at an elite level, with each student working with a professional life coach, addressing their development needs and helping them reach their personal goals.

The students will attend workshops in personal development, interpersonal skills, and group skills, designed to assess their leadership strengths and weaknesses. They also will attend a series of Leadership masterclasses with experts from business, community, and sport which are designed to explore the critical behaviours, attributes, and capabilities that foster key leadership skills.

The accreditation pathway, leading to a qualification in professional leadership, will be offered through the Department of Education at Maynooth University, and has been designed to complement and enhance the student experience. More details are available from Paula Kinnarney, Department of Education (Paula.kinnarney@nuim.ie).



Pictured at the launch (left to right): Mr Dessie Farrell (CEO, GPA), Ms Christine Barrett (Microsoft), Ms Mags D'arcy (Wexford camogie player), Professor Philip Nolan (President, Maynooth University), Mr Stephen McDonnell (Cork hurler), Mr Michael Madden (sponsor of the Jim Madden Leadership Programme), Ms Anna Geary (WGPA), Mr Noel Connors (Waterford hurler), Mr Dermot Earley (President, GPA) and Mr Paul Flynn (Secretary, GPA).

Activities from Partner Schools

Empower: LMETB Inspiring Global Citizens

Yvonne Myles, Year 2 PME

On the 24th of November 2015, I was delighted to be part of the first Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) Student Meet which took place in Athboy, Co. Meath. The event was organised by Sinead Edmonds, Aideen Flood and the Development Education Committee of St. Peter's College, Dunboyne, of which I am a member. Guest speakers included Liz Lavery (Education Officer of LMETB) and Peter Kearns (CEO of LMETB), as well as Education Consultant Conor Harrison and Patsy Toland of Self Help Africa. Angela Rickard, an advocate of Development Education from Maynooth University, was also in attendance.



From left to right: Sinead Edmonds (St. Peter's College, Dunboyne), Liz Lavery (Education Officer, LMETB), Conor Harrison (Education Consultant) and Angela Rickard (Maynooth University).

Students and teachers from all over the Louth-Meath area got the chance to attend workshops and exhibitions that highlighted global issues and to consider the 17 Global Goals (<http://www.globalgoals.org/>). The event also allowed attendees to learn and share innovative ways to empower young people and inspire action. A wonderful and inspiring day was had by all.

Ms Edmonds, Ms Flood and the Dev Ed Committee are already planning for next year. EMPOWER2016 will take place in Maynooth University on Friday, 9th September 2016. The day will see TY students from across the Louth Meath ETB join with student teachers in Maynooth University to combine their energies and ideas to learn about Development, Social Justice and Human Rights. More power to them!

Study Visit to Nicaragua February 2016

Andrew Keating, Year 2 PME



The study visit group with staff from Trócaire's Nicaragua Office.

From left to right: Lydia McCarthy (Trócaire Ireland), Ann Marie Sweeney (Trócaire Ireland), David Salgado (Trócaire Nicaragua), Theresa Geaney, Johnny Tyndall, Ronie Zamor (Trócaire Nicaragua), Sinead Mongan, Martin Larrecochea (Country Director Trócaire Nicaragua), Micheal Kilcrann, Nadine Cosgrave, Shona Burke, Aoife McDermott, Lucia Medina (Trócaire Nicaragua), Andrew Keating, Jessenia Campos (Trócaire Nicaragua), Alfredo Soza (Trócaire Nicaragua).

Photo credit: Alan Whelan (Trócaire Ireland).

Between the 11th and 20th of February, I was part of a group of eight Irish teachers (1 training primary, 1 training post-primary, 3 qualified primary and three qualified post-primary), along with three Trócaire staff that took part in a study visit to view Trócaire's work in Nicaragua. It was a thoroughly engaging, eye-opening and fulfilling experience that all of us hope we can in some way replicate in our classrooms. The trip brought home the effectiveness of Trócaire's partnership approach in working for a just world and left me re-energised by the enthusiasm, gratitude and above all, warmth of the people.

More information about Trócaire's work in Nicaragua and their partners can be found at <http://www.trocaire.org/whatwedo/wherewework/nicaragua>

Activities from Partner Schools continued

Unicef Ireland UReport Youth Summit at Dublin Castle Printworks

Yvonne Myles, Year 2 PME



Pictured from left to right: Kerri-Ann McQuaid, Ms. Yvonne Myles, Rachel Kavanagh, Cindy Takyi

On March 8th 2016, sixteen students from St. Peter's College Dunboyne, accompanied by Ms Yvonne Myles (Year 2 PME student teacher), were among the first people in Ireland to become Unicef UReporters. Morning sessions involved presentations on issues such as gender equality, inequality, mental health and the 17 Global Goals. David Beckham, amongst others, backed the initiative and gave a pre-recorded message to all participants. After lunch students took part in workshops creating their own campaigns around the set topics. We had a fabulous day and I was very proud of all the students from St. Peter's who now have formed a new Social Justice group. #iamaUreporter @UReportIRL.

Five Nations Network Conference

Sinead McCarthy, Year 2 PME



Sinead McCarthy, PME Year two student teacher of English and CSPE at Maynooth University.

In early November, I was given the privilege of being the only student teacher in Ireland that was selected to participate in the Five Nations Network Conference in Cardiff, Wales. The conference facilitates educators from Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales to meet and to share resources and ideas based around citizenship education and values on an annual basis.

As part of my involvement with the network, my students in Scoil Mhuire Trim

and I planned and completed a project which was aimed at discovering the truth about asylum seekers and refugees' experiences in Ireland. My students produced fantastic work and I was very proud to present their achievement in front of my colleagues at the conference.

I wish to extend a special thank you to; Conor Harrison who is my C.S.P.E lecturer at Maynooth University. Conor selected me to participate in the conference and I am very grateful to him for involving me such an enjoyable and educationally rich experience. I would also like to thank Rose Dolan for welcoming me to participate in the experience and for being so helpful to me. It is an experience that I thoroughly enjoyed and one which I will never forget.

Allergies and Anapens

St Joseph's College, Lucan



Back row left to right: Our teacher (Abina), Laura Morgan, Hannah Murphy, Eimear Murphy. Front row left to right: Soraly Nzanga, Aoife McAuley, Eleni O'Dwyer, Thomas Walsh (Maynooth University).

We went to Maynooth to discuss our project 'Allergies and Anapens' with Dr Thomas Walsh and Dr Rose Dolan which aims to raise awareness about the lack of knowledge that teachers have regarding allergies. Our aim is to introduce a module to train teachers in how to deal with allergies and allergic reactions. We feel that with the guidance of Thomas and Rose we can develop our ideas further and take on board their expert advice.

You can contact us on allergiesandanapens@gmail.com

Lunchtime Music Recitals

Marc Oliver, Year 1 PME



This semester Marc Oliver, PME student of Maynooth University, in conjunction with resident teachers Mr Ephrem Feely and Mr David Burke are organising 'Lunchtime Music Recitals' in St Joseph's Mercy Secondary School, Navan, County Meath.

The Lunchtime recitals will start in May in the Music Room for all year groups. This is an opportunity for students to perform for staff and fellow students in a friendly lunchtime setting.

Auditions will take place on Mondays between 1pm and 2pm in the Music Room and there will be 3 acts/performers per recital, with each performance lasting approximately 3 to 5 minutes.

Supervision will be by members of the music department on the day of the events and flyers for each recital will be posted throughout school.

Activities from Partner Schools *continued*

Judging the SciFest Schools Competition

Laura Shiels & Lisa Griffin, BSc student teachers



From left to right: Ms. Sheila Porter (CEO, SciFest), Mr. Vincent Coldrick (SciFest Judge), Lisa Griffin (BSc student teacher), Laura Shiels (BSc student teacher).

On Tuesday the 1st of March, we were invited to The Kings Hospital Secondary School in Palmerstown to take on the role of judging at the SciFest Schools competition. SciFest Schools competition allows second level students to prepare and present their scientific investigations. Judging at SciFest has allowed us to see how valuable such activities are to both the students and staff alike. On viewing the various projects it was evident how enthusiastic and creative the students were about the task. We feel this creativeness and willingness to explore science should be nurtured in contemporary science classes. The Best Project Award was awarded to an innovative project called 'An Investigation into the effect of flooding on or around local soil quality'. Judging at SciFest was a fantastic experience and we would highly recommend taking part if given the opportunity.

We would like to say a special word of thanks to the staff of The Kings Hospital Secondary School for inviting us, and to Sheila Porter, the CEO of SciFest.

NCCA Award Winner

Kevin Donohoe, Year 2 PME

The Research and Development Programme 2015/16 has been established by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment to support knowledge of, engagement with and critical reflection on educational assessment theory and practice. A particular focus is placed on proposals relevant to the junior cycle of post-primary education, but also assessment in early childhood, primary or senior cycle education in Ireland.



Kevin Donohoe, PME student teacher at Maynooth University. Kevin is undertaking his school placement in St Patrick's College, Cavan Town.

My own research proposal was successful under the Masters strand and will be based around designing assessment and associated resources for the History curriculum and specifically aimed at the new Short Courses for Junior Certificate. I aim to specifically look at the events before, during and after 1916 in Ireland and a focus on trying to design new ways of bringing these key events to life in the History classroom.

Teaching with Different Abilities

James Cawley, Year 2 PME



James Cawley, Year 2 PME student and Secretary of the Arthrogryposis Association of Ireland, raising awareness about AMC.

"Arthrogryposis Multiplex Congentia (AMC) is a physical disability which affects my upper, lower limbs and spinal cord confining me to a wheelchair. My parents and family have always treated me as one of the 9 siblings. I definitely think this has shaped me into the person I am today. I entered MU through the DARE scheme and I have been supported through the Maynooth access programme which has allowed me to live and lead an active student life both academically and socially.

My advice for anyone faced with a challenge is to identify the challenge and source a solution to that "problem". University is a hub of help waiting to be availed of, so ask for help, it's a real strength being able to identify difficulties".

St Mary's School, Baldoyle at Emmanuel 2016

Andrew Hamilton, PME student teacher



Emmanuel is a project of the Dublin Diocesan Liturgy Resource Centre.

St. Mary's School for Girls, Baldoyle joined 600 other students for Emmanuel 2016 which took place in The Helix, DCU on 3 March 2016. Emmanuel is a concert of liturgical music led by Ian Callanan. It fuses 63 schools together to perform over 4 nights with over 2,400 students performing in total. Schools receive their scores in music class and these are practised throughout the year. It was an enjoyable few weeks where I conducted and co-conducted rehearsals on the piano, guitar and CD, along with performing alongside the students on the night. The students of St. Mary's School for Girls, Baldoyle were thrilled to be a part of such a huge event and performed with great capability, talent and enthusiasm.