

New arrangements for Professional Development Support

With effect from September 2010 new arrangements are being put in place for teacher professional development. The new integrated cross-sectoral support service, will be known as the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST). The new service will encompass the supports previously provided by other programmes and support services. The PDST will operate on a regional basis, providing teacher professional development and school support through multi-disciplinary teams of seconded teachers, who will work in close co-operation with the Education Centre Network, to respond to professional development needs as identified by schools. The Director of the PDST will be Mr. Paddy Keays (previously National Coordinator for T4, post primary support service for technology subjects).

The national administration base for the PDST will be Dublin West Education Centre with a regional base in each Education Centre Region. The Leadership and Planning Support Service will be based at Clare Education Centre and will provide services previously delivered by SDPI and LDS. Mr. Paddy Flood previously national co-ordinator of LDS will now have the role of National Co-ordinator of Leadership and Planning within the PDST framework.

PDA congratulates both Paddy Keays and Paddy Flood on their new roles and look forward to working with the services in the coming year.

National Centre for Technology in Education

The National Centre for Technology in Education is an Irish Government agency established to provide advice, support and information on the use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) in education. The NCTE has an excellent website, ncte.ie which provides a wealth of information on a broad range of matters relating to ICT in education and matters relating to professional development in the area.

Earlier this year post primary schools were asked to complete an NCTE questionnaire seeking to establish the extent of ICT infrastructure in schools in advance of the allocation of a promised ICT grant. Schools were assured that those who had taken the initiative and had established good ICT facilities would not be penalised when grants were allocated. Principals had been advised by the previous minister Batt O'Keeffe, T.D. that priority should be given to the needs of the new Project Maths area when funding was being utilized at school level. Unfortunately to date it has not been possible to prioritise any area as the long promised grant has not yet materialised.

It is the view of PDA that a quality ICT infrastructure in our schools is an essential pre-requisite for schools as they seek to play their part in establishing Ireland's credentials as a smart economy. We look forward to the early provision of the required funding.

Further Education in Vocational Schools and Community Colleges

Schools and Colleges under the auspices of VECs have effectively created and delivered almost the entire Further Education sector in this country. In the region of 90% of PLC courses are delivered within the VEC sector either in schools and colleges right throughout the country or in Institutes of Further Education located in large towns and cities. Given the wide range of locations courses, are highly accessible resulting in many adults returning to education in addition to thousands of school leavers availing of high quality further education experiences. In the past year in the region of 38000 students availed of such courses despite a cap on numbers placed at 32000. This indicates the efforts being made in our schools and colleges to meet demand with no resources being provided for thousands of participants

Courses are largely FETAC certified at either Level 5 or Level 6 with many opportunities for progression to Higher education. The work of providing for students is greatly hampered by the lack of an appropriate middle management structure. The failure to implement the McIver Report was a major setback but the situation is now worsened by the ongoing dismantling of the already inadequate Post structure. The resulting increased workload is continuing to place very unfair demands on PDA members as they try to cope with growing demand for limited places. PDA will continue to work actively with TUI with a view to bringing about necessary improvements.

Coistí Gairmoideachais ag cothú na Gaeilge

- 38 iar bhunscoil
- 23 VEC Patrons (70% of all schools)
- 2,803 daltaí
- 694 múinteoirí buan
- 102 múinteoirí páirt aimseartha.

Buntáistí a bhaineann le hOideachas Lán-Ghaeilge /

Advantages of All-Irish Education

Ireland like many other countries is bilingual and our Irish Language forms the basis of our unique culture. More than half the world's population speaks more than one language. Educationalists believe that a bilingual education can give children positive advantages. It helps develop mental agility and alertness. It provides the individual with two windows through which to look at the world.

- Teanga dúchais an dalta a bheith ar a thoil aige *Fluency in student's own native language*
- Buntáistí intleachtúla *Cognitive intellectual advantage*
- Foghlaimíonn an dalta an tríú agus an ceathrú teanga go héasca *The student learns a third language with ease*
- Cothaítear féin-mhuinín an dalta *Self-esteem of the student is enhanced*
- Caighdeán ard sna torthaí acadúla *Excellent academic standards*
- Pobal ann féin – spiorad a nascann daltaí na scoile lena chéile agus a thugann féinmheas don dalta.
- *Unique community spirit connecting students to one another, developing a sense of self-respect.*

Junior Cycle Review

In February of this year the NCCA published Innovation and Identity: Ideas for a new Junior Cycle and since then a process has been under way to consider what might be the future shape of Junior Cycle education. The current review was prompted when the then Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe T.D. asked the NCCA in June 2009 to look at the entire Junior Cycle experience and to review innovations happening in other places at this stage of education.

A consultation process is currently under way and the NCCA website, NCCA.ie provides an opportunity to view or download Innovation and Identity or to express your views by email, blog or through an online questionnaire. Further developments in the this consultative process can be expected in late Autumn 2010.

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before October 1st 2010

The History of the PDA

The First Constitution of the "Association of Vocational Principals" was drawn up by Muiris De Roiste [Killorglin, Co Kerry] and accepted and revised at a meeting of Headmasters from Co Kerry and Co Cork at Mallow on June 21st in 1969.

- It was modified by a sub-committee consisting of Pat O Mahoney [Carlow] and H. Finlayson [Tullow] and accepted with further modifications at the inaugural General Meeting of the Association under the title of "Cumann Ard Maistri na hEireann" in Athlone in October 1969.
- In 1971 the Association at a special convention in Athlone on January 23rd became known as "the Association of Principals of Vocational Schools".
- In 1977 the title of the organisation again became known as "Cumann Priomh Oidi na nGairm Scoileanna".
- In 1989 the annual convention accepted a revision of the constitution to name the organisation as "Cumann Priomh Oidi na nGairm Scoil agus na gColaisti Pobal" or A.P.V.S.C.C. as the Association of Principals of Vocational Schools and Community Colleges.
- In 2004 after many years of effort the Constitution was further changed or amended to allow for the inclusion of Deputy Principals in our organisation as Cumann Priomhoidi agus Leas Priomh Oidi or the P.D.A. [Principals and Deputy Association].

It is with pride in this newsletter that we record this history and commend our forbearers of the organisation for their foresight to establish and change the constitution of the organisation as it was required over the years. P.D.A. as an organisation in this year 2010 is there to represent the members of Principals and Deputy Principals of our Schools at regional or national level. Be part of the forebearers and make this organisation the voice of your concerns, anxieties and realisations in the years ahead.



TUI Support for PDA

The P.D.A. have a positive working relationship with our parent body T.U.I. The National executive is a sub-committee of the TUI Executive which enables us to have direct access to make representations to our parent body. PDA is actively engaged with TUI on all aspects of our Conditions of Service. The National Executive recommends that the regional rep of T.U.I. attend all our area meetings. A member of the national executive is in attendance at our national executive meeting. This ensures that throughout the regions and executive our concerns and issues are brought to the national executive of T.U.I. At each executive meeting the area or regional reports are given and the national officers are afforded the opportunity of a meeting with the T.U.I. national officers to raise those issues and concerns.

- National Officers and Support Officers are available by invitation to visit. The regions to provide advice, support



Bernie Ruane
newly elected
President of TUI



2010 PDA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dates: 17th - 19th November

Taking Place in the Splendid surroundings of **Mount Wolseley**

4* Golf and Spa Resort.

Relax, Learn and Network.

Contact your PDA Executive Member for full details. Reserve your room now by contacting the hotel on 059 9180100 or visit website:

www.mountwolseley.ie

Why Attend the PDA Conference 2010?

- Meet with colleagues from Vocational Schools, Colleges of Further Education, Community Colleges and Gaelcholaisti from around the country.
- Consult on a one to one basis with the President and General Secretary of the Teachers Unions of Ireland.
- Debate and discuss vocational schools' and colleges' issues.
- Be first to hear of developments in the Vocational Sector and how they may affect your work.
- Share Vocational Sector Expertise and Experience.
- Access the PDA Support personnel on work issues.
- Access, through the Executive, the Irish Vocational Education Association (IVEA) and the Adult Education Officers and Chief Executive Officers Association (AEOCEO).

Social Outings

The golf outing at our national conference is always a great social event and we encourage you to support it. The areas hold social events for retired personnel and once again they are great social events. For 2011 would you like to visit schools in Germany, England or else where?

Why not E Mail your ideas or preferences to M.Kilroy:

Email: mattie.kilroy@gmail.com