

Youthreach Newsflash

By Youthreach Students and Staff



Newsletter—Fourth Edition—June 2008

WELL DONE CHRISTINE!!

Welcome to this years edition of our Newsletter. As usual we have plenty of stories and pictures from the centre. We hope you enjoy the read. We start with a success story of some of our Leaving Certificate Applied students.

When we were preparing for our Contemporary Issues task, Sinéad, our teacher, asked us if anyone would be interested in entering a competition for an all expensive paid trip to Strasbourg. The competition is run by the Michael Sweetman Educational Trust and the VEC. Some of us were interested.

When I had finished my task – Young People and Voting – we began to prepare a presentation for the assessor who was coming to interview me. I was a little nervous at first but I was put at ease very quickly. Myself and Amanda found out a couple of weeks after the interview that we were successful.



A week before we were due to leave Amanda found out she couldn't go. The prospects of going on my own were a little daunting at first. However, I had decided that I couldn't miss such a great opportunity so I prepared myself to go it alone. I knew that there would be many more Leaving Cert Applied students and I am quite good at mixing with people.

The 21st of April 2008 was when I went on the trip to Strasbourg, I was nervous but excited at the same time. The train left Boyle at 11:30 am and arrived in Dublin at 2:00 pm. I met Loman at Connelly Station, he was the assessor that interviewed me. The flight was at 6:40 pm so I got the bus out to the airport at 3:30 pm to be there two hours before the flight and check in.

I met all the other students and their tutors at the airport. Everyone was introduced to each other. They were very nice people and I blended in very quickly. There was 27 of us going altogether, 23 students and 4 tutors. We arrived in Germany late that night. We flew into Karlsruhe Baden airport. I stayed in a hotel called Zum Lowan in a town called Lahr, in Germany.



My Diary



Day One—I went to the European Parliament today. I went into the Parliament room and listened to the MEP's debating about budgets. I met our local MEP Marian Harkin and I talked to her about my task and I got a picture taken with her. I really enjoyed today and would love to go to the European Parliament again.

Day Two—I went for a tour around Strasbourg in the morning, some of the famous sites I saw were the Cathedral, the Protestant Church and the statue of Gutenberg, the man who invented the printing press. In the evening I went on a boat trip around Strasbourg to find out the history about all the famous buildings and famous statues.

Day 3—Today was the last day in Strasbourg. I went for a tour of a town called Baden-Baden in Strasbourg. Baden-Baden is famous for its spa water. I drank it and it was nice but wouldn't drink it again. I arrived back home at 8:55 pm that night.



I really enjoyed this trip and from my point of view I would recommend the LCA 1 students to go for it next year because it was a fantastic experience.

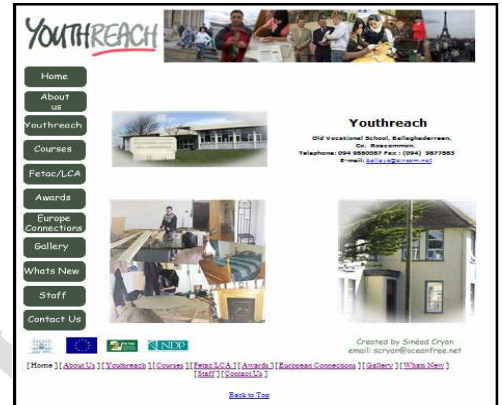
By Christine Murphy

YOUTHREACH BALLAGHADERREEN WEBSITE

We now have a brand new Youthreach website which came online in May of this year. The website contains information on what Youthreach is all about, the courses available, activities in the centre, latest news, a picture gallery and many other features.

It is a great way for past students to keep up-to-date with what is going on in the centre and also may be of interest to prospective students hoping to attend.

The address for the website is www.youthreachballaghaderreen.com. If you have any queries please contact us on ballayc@eircom.net or 094 986 0087.



TOP NOTCH GRUB!!



Food and Cookery is a Module offered at Level 3. It teaches student about planning, preparing and cooking health breakfasts, lunches and dinners.



Next year we hope to offer Catering at Level 4 which will build on the Food and Cookery Module. It deals with hotel and restaurant catering and safety and hygiene.



The Food and Cookery students help in preparing the daily meals provided in the centre and in doing so learn by practice.

By Iggy Caltagirone

LEAVING CERTIFICATE STUDENTS' TRIP TO PARIS

Last November John Moore told us we were going on a trip to Paris. So the first thing we had to do was apply for passports and we had to start saving. Most students hadn't gone out of Ireland before so it was a new experience for them. Other students had never been on a plane before so they were feeling a little anxious.

Kristy: "It was good, I thought it was similar to Dublin but more fancy"



John Moore: "it was fantastic and the students behaved brilliantly".

As it got closer to the trip the girls in particular started shopping for the trip for clothes, make-up etc. Carmel our French teacher frantically worked on phrases to use while in France. The morning of the trip arrived but most people hadn't gone to bed because we were leaving Youthreach at 4:45 am.



We were surprised at how short the flight was. After checking into the hotel we met a tour guide and went for dinner. That evening we went on a boat trip down the River Seine. The next day we went to the Louvre Museum and saw the Mona Lisa and went to the Eiffel Tower and some students went all the way to the top of the tower. Later that evening we went for dinner and ended up missing the bus back to the hotel and we had to walk back.

On the last day we went to Disney Land, it was a long day but fun. There were lots of different shops and a lot of things to visit. We went on most of the rides and Space Mountain was the best. That night we had a meal in the hotel which was lovely. That was the last day of our trip, the following day we went home. It was a great experience one which we will not forget.

Robert: "it was very exciting".



by Geraldine O'Donnell and Rachel Keane.

VISIT TO THE PRINT MUSEUM

As part of our Art and Information Technology class, a trip to The Print Museum in Dublin was arranged by our class teachers. We left early in the morning and arrived in Dublin for a guided tour of the museum.

Our guides were very nice and showed us all the old printing presses and how they were used in the past. We printed certificates using old printing blocks to create our names. It was interesting and difficult as we had to place the letters up-side-down and in reverse.



We got to see an original copy of The Proclamation of Independence which was printed in 1916 and which is kept under lock and key and is guarded by an alarm. It was interesting to see how much work was involved in printing newspapers and books in olden times.

After the museum, we went shopping to Liffey Valley Shopping Centre and also had some lunch. We travelled back to Ballaghaderreen. We had a long but enjoyable day.

By Joanne Cassidy

THE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE!



Hairdressing and Beauty are offered as part of the Leaving Certificate Applied and as a FETAC Level 5 Course.



Students completing Level 5 study Hairdressing Science and Hairdressing Theory and Practice. These subjects cover a wide range of essential topics for the budding hairdresser. Students can progress on to a traineeship in a salon or to further education at a higher level.

By Anne Burke

ART PROJECTS IN THE CENTRE



Art is offered at Leaving Certificate Applied level and also FETAC Level 3 and 4.

These modules cover areas such as elements of art and design, tools and equipment, and good workshop practice.

By Kitty McDaid

BACK TO WOOD BASICS

Those who do not wish to partake in Hair and Beauty have the option of studying Woodwork.

Woodcraft is offered in the centre at Level 3 and 4 where students learn about tools and equipment, preparation and design, woodcraft techniques and safety.



services, woodcraft, etc.

Graphics and Construction is offered as part of the Leaving Certificate Applied programme and covers areas such as graphic communication, construction, building

By Pdraig Philips

TECHNOLOGY AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

Computer are offered at all Levels in Youthreach, from Computer Literacy at Level 3, Information Technology Skills at Level 4 and a full FETAC Business Studies Award at Level 5.



This Award concentrates on Word Processing, Text Production, Database and Spreadsheet Methods.

We also offer Information and Communication Technology as part of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

By Deirdre Travers

PIECES OF SELF—QUILTING PROJECT

The quilt which was a 'little sister' project and sprang from the original piece of work produced by women from different cultures throughout the county they worked together in the n the READ centre. They put together an outstanding piece of work, raising awareness of poverty by marking the United Nations International Day for Eradication of Poverty on 17th October 2007. This project was supported and funded by the Combat Poverty Agency.



From this original idea a number of staff from Youthreach considered proposing to the young women in the centre that they could be part of this initiative. They thought it was something they would like to be involved with. There was a recognition that it was not going to be produced in the way that traditional quilting is carried out, in groups. The young women all had their own reasoning for being part of the process. They worked in their own way, some in groups, some individually. Staff from Youthreach, The READ Centre and Castlerea Prison also contributed to the piece all working with young people who are identified as at risk.

The theme is Stars, recognising that each woman is a star within her own right and given opportunity, she has the potential to shine. By being part of this project we were working towards these aims. We are also showcasing the young people in their own county and giving them a unique opportunity to be part of a wider initiative of the Combat Poverty Agency

Each piece is an element of every one of the participants, showing their life, skills passion or a simple willingness to be included. It was never about quilting perfection tidy stitching or colour coordination just a collection of works of art born out of opportunity and recognition that each contribution is an act of citizenship and history



The theme stars has been adopted by each person they have taken the idea given it meaning and translated it into this constellation to produce a unique creation.

The launch, which takes place at the end of May, should be equal to that of the original quilt showcasing all the young people to that aim we are seeking funding. The quilt will be displayed throughout the county.

By Olga Spellman

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

This is one of the most popular subject areas, covering all of the FETAC Levels.



These include Outdoor Pursuits at Level 3, Health Related Fitness at Level 4 and a full Level 5 Sport and Recreation Award.



In this Award students study Health Related Fitness, Outdoor Recreation and Health and Safety.

They students also partake in the practical outdoors like swimming, camping, work placement, visiting the local gym, etc.

By Colm Mahon

