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Wealth inequality is a serious challenge to childhood education

THE impact of poverty is keenly felt on education from a young age, with the gap between children from poorer families and their richer classmates widening as they progress through early learning.

Children from less well-off backgrounds are less likely to take music or art classes, play team sports or visit the library than those peers from wealthier homes. While those in DEIS schools, and those from poorer families, also experienced higher levels of anxiety about the future.

These are findings from the latest report from the Children's School Lives' study, a project led by the UCD School of Education following the lives of 4,000 children across 189 primary schools in Ireland. Focusing on equality and the impact of social background, it found slightly more than a quarter (26%) of children were from 'low affluence or poor' backgrounds, with the majority (54%) being classed as 'medium affluence'. The remaining 20% were from well-off/wealthier homes.

Almost €12 billion in education funding promised in Budget 2025

THE Government announced a €11.8 billion spend in Education and Schools in Budget 2025, an increase of some 9 per cent.

Some of the key features announced were

- €51 million funding to extend the free schoolbooks scheme to students in transition and senior cycle years.

- Significant increase in school funding with state funding per pupil – known as the capitation rate – increasing from €200 to €224 per student in primary schools and from €345 to €386 per student in post-primary schools.

- An additional €45 million in cost of living supports for all primary, special and post-primary schools in the free scheme.

- An additional 768 special education teachers and 1,600 special needs assistants (SNAs) to support children across mainstream, special classes and special schools. This is the highest ever number of SNAs allocated and so in 2025 we will have over 23,000 in our education system. This is in recognition of the growing needs of children across all settings. In

total there will be over 44,000 dedicated staff to support children with special educational needs in our schools.

- A new wellbeing initiative designed to support schools to implement bans on the use of mobile phones by post-primary school students during the day.

The teaching unions were not impressed by the spending plans. ASTI President Donal Cremin said: "While there is a commitment to increasing the capitation grant, there is no detail regarding this. Any increase in the capitation grant for second-level schools will be in the context of Ireland coming in last place out of 34 OECD countries for investment in second-level education as a proportion of country GDP."

INTO General Secretary John Boyle said that the budget "lacked the clear commitments necessary to meet the ongoing challenges facing our schools. Providing a higher allocation for mobile phone pouches than the increase in primary capitation is tone deaf to the pressing needs of primary and special schools."

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Survey shows more young people are receptive to pursuing apprenticeships or skills-based careers

AS 34,000 students descended upon the RDS, Dublin for WorldSkills Ireland 2024, a survey conducted on members of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors revealed that over three quarters (77%) of respondents have seen a shift in students' attitudes over the past three years, with more being receptive to pursuing apprenticeships or skills-based careers.

The survey by The Institute of Guidance Counsellors (IGC) and WorldSkills Ireland 2024 also revealed that parental or family influence remains the top factor for how students make career choices (87%) followed by pursuing interests/passions (79%) and potential earning capacity (64%). Other factors cited that play a role in career choices include perceived job security within trades (43%) and the rising costs of university education (41%).

Other findings from the survey include that a significant majority (87%) of respondents believe that the value of skills-based careers will rise in the next decade.

Over one in five respondents believe that



Doina Besleaga from Presentation College, Carlow pictured with a prosthetic head at WorldSkills Ireland 2024 attended by 34,000 students, 300 schools, 1,500 teachers and 2,600 parents.

there will be more interest in skills-based jobs due to the potential impact of AI

When reflecting on the barriers preventing students from pursuing skills-based careers, the top answers included the perception that

skills-based careers are less prestigious than university degrees (76%), an inability to identify employers to support their application (67%) and pressure from parents or peers to pursue traditional academic paths (67%).

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Did you know that 25% of Irish secondary schools give every student access to a secured laptop or tablet for learning?

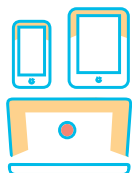
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Here are the top 5 reasons Irish school leaders make this choice:



1. The danger of students accessing inappropriate material on mobile phones

By allowing students to use their mobile phone in class, they can download any app whenever they wish or access content without restrictions which is both unsafe and distracting to the student and others in their class



2. The headache of every student using a different type of device for learning

Imagine asking all your teachers to be experts on troubleshooting basic issues on a range of over 20 or more types of devices and you can understand how messy this can become. Giving all students access to the same type of secured device gives teachers and students equal access to the exact same learning tools and features and saves teachers hours of time



3. The need to prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow

Most students only use technology at home for gaming and social media. Students need to be taught however how to use digital tools for learning to build their independent learning and digital skills and prepare them for the world of work which now relies heavily on technology



4. The desire to create a student-centred, personalised learning environment

Every student has different needs and learns differently. Teaching all students how to use the built-in learning tools in your chosen school device means that students can easily support their own learning and can choose the format that works best for them to showcase and submit evidence of learning



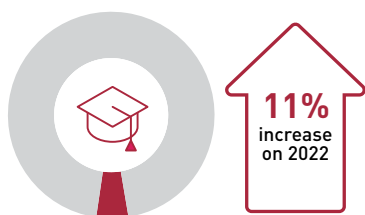
5. The peace of mind and time-saving benefits of secured, managed school devices

Schools do not have an IT team on-site so having all of your school devices set-up with your chosen apps and securely locked down means they are fit for educational use only. Not only that but staff can access a multitude of time-saving tools and features that save an average of 5 or more hours a week admin time!



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Education represents:

4% of all complaints

The top 5 bodies complained about:

- 34 Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI)
- 21 HEAR/DARE (Higher Education Access Route/Disability Access Route to Education)
- 17 Technological University Dublin
- 12 State Examinations Commission
- 11 Trinity College Dublin



Ombudsman sees 11% increase in education-related complaints

THE Office of the Ombudsman Annual Report 2023 recorded 217 complaints received in relation to the education sector in 2023.

This included complaints about the Department of Education (24), and the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (1). This is an increase from 195 in 2022 (up 11%).

The Office upheld or partly upheld 16% of complaints investigated against bodies in education and provided some form of assistance in a further

11% of cases. 73% of cases investigated were not upheld.

The Ombudsman received 34 complaints about Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI), which is an increase from 23 on the 2022 (up 48%). The report said that while they consider that the SUSI administration process generally works well, there remains no provision in primary legislation to correct errors.

12 complaints were on the State Examinations Commission in 2023, 33% less than in 2022.

Multi-annual higher education funding package welcomed by universities

THE Irish Universities Association (IUA) has welcomed the package of funding measures for higher education announced in the recent budget.

The provision of additional core funding, rising from €50m in 2025 to €150m extra by 2029 under the Funding the Future process, will enable the universities to invest in the necessary staff and supports to underpin the continued delivery of high-quality graduates for the workforce, said the IUA.

However, the IUA said it noted that it would seem that the full €307m funding gap identified by government in 2022 will not have been fully closed and it said that it is important that future budgets address this and that the government commitment is fully delivered.



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- ✓ Athbhreithnithe cáilíochta
- ✓ #myownwork
- ✓ Dámhachtain QQI
- ✓ Qualifax

**...bíodh iontaibh
agat as QQI.**

Facilitating accessible education at National College of Ireland camps

NATIONAL College of Ireland, located in the heart of the IFSC in Dublin, has always focused on making education accessible to all.

Facilitating outreach to those who need supports, and encouraging those who may be the first in their family to attend third level education, has always been a high priority in the college.

Over the summer, NCI engaged with students who will be filling out CAO forms in the coming years. In July 2024, National College of Ireland welcomed young people to their Mayor Square campus to some fantastic summer camps specifically designed to give secondary school students a taste of what attending college is like.

These camps allow students to explore college options, foster their potential, and encourage the enthusiasm of students while they discover subjects they enjoy.

The **Senior Coding Club** ran from July 1st – 5th, 2024 and again from July 15th – 19th, 2024. This camp was entirely free, and students aged 13-16 who were interested in technology were able to engage with real

hardware and programming that is used today, such as MakeCode and Python Programming for Micro:bit and Raspberry Pi devices, highlighting how their interest in computing can be easily transferred to their education.

The **Control Alt Compete** camp took place from July 8th – July 12th, 2024. Secondary school girls taking part in Transition Year (TY), enjoyed delving into all that coding entails, in another free camp, this time with the goal of challenging the gender imbalance in tech, encouraging more girls to code.

“We believe the problem-solving skills they developed during the camp will create opportunities in whatever field they choose. Or who knows, they may even choose computer science, as sometimes all it takes is a little nudge. When you’re given the confidence to reach for things you want, the world opens,” said Julie Power, Computing Support Tutor at National College of Ireland.

“It is crucial that young people who hope to go on to study at third level feel welcome and know that studying there someday is possible.”

Frequent fizzy or fruit drinks and high coffee consumption linked to higher stroke risk

- **Frequent fizzy drinks doubles stroke risk**
- **More than 4 cups of coffee a day increases chance of stroke by a third**
- **Drinking water and tea may reduce risk of stroke**

FREQUENT drinking of fizzy drinks or fruit juice is associated with an increased risk of stroke, according to new findings from global research studies co-led by University of Galway.

The research also found that drinking more than four cups of coffee per day also increases the risk of stroke.

Lead researcher Professor Andrew Smyth, Professor of Clinical Epidemiology said: “Not all fruit drinks are created equal. Freshly squeezed fruit juices are most likely to bring benefits, but fruit drinks made from concentrates, with lots of added sugars and preservatives, may be harmful. Our research also shows that the chance of stroke increases the more often someone consumes fizzy drinks.”



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QQI unveils TrustEd Ireland: a new benchmark for international education

TrustEd Ireland, a new international education mark designed to guarantee the quality of education received by international learners in higher education and English language education institutions in Ireland has been launched. TrustEd Ireland aims to reinforce and protect Ireland's reputation as a premier global education destination according to Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

Education providers who wish to gain the TrustEd Ireland mark will be assessed against a comprehensive code of practice for either higher education or English language education, which will examine areas such as ethical marketing and recruitment, supports for international learners, transparency of fees and charges, and overall organisational and operational integrity.

Private/independent higher education and English language education providers will undergo thorough due diligence, including stringent assessments of their governance, finances and compliance with the law to assure QQI that they have the capacity and capability

to deliver robust, high-quality programmes.

QQI say that these measures will ensure that only providers meeting the highest standards of quality and integrity will be authorised to use the TrustEd Ireland mark.

In addition to setting high educational standards, TrustEd Ireland is underpinned by a Learner Protection Fund. This provides security for all national and international learners, ensuring they are protected in the unlikely event of their programme being discontinued.



Free NUJ seminar for student journalists

THE National Union of Journalists is holding its biennial student seminar at 7.00 pm on Thursday, November 7th in the Portershed, Galway City.

Entitled 'Making The Headlines: Pursuing A Career In Journalism,' this is an opportunity for the next generation of journalists to learn from experts in their field.

Students can expect advice about what to do and what not to do when starting out in a career in journalism, and a whole host of other tips about being a journalist. You will also have the opportunity to put questions to the speakers in a Q&A session afterwards.

Following the Q&A session there will be a reception, where students get a chance to chat with a working journalist face to face. As well as the five speakers at the top table, there will be journalists in the audience who will be available to talk during the reception.

The speakers at the event are Siobhan Holliman, Teresa Mannion, Máire T Ní Mhaoldín and Lorna Siggins.



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- Fulbright Irish Student Awards/Na Gradaim Fulbright do Mhic Léinn Éireannacha - postgraduate research/enrol in postgraduate degree programs in the U.S./taighde iarchéime/cúrsa iarchéime a dhéanamh sna Stáit Aontaithe
- Fulbright Irish FLTA Awards/Na Gradaim Fulbright FLTA - teach the Irish language in the U.S./téigh ag múineadh na Gaeilge
- Fulbright Irish Scholar Awards/Na Gradaim Fulbright do Scoláirí - research/lecture in the U.S./taighde nó léachtóireacht
- Fulbright Irish Tech Impact Awards/Na Gradaim Fulbright Tech Impact - taighde acadúil/garimíúil sna Stáit Aontaithe
- Fulbright Irish Schuman Awards - graduate & postgraduate study, research & lecturing in the U.S./staidéar iarchéime, taighde agus ag léachtóireacht sna Stáit Aontaithe

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Will your school help us end homelessness?

Support from schools just like yours has done so much to help children like Emma.

Please will your school take part in a Christmas Fundraiser to help us get even more families like Emma's out of homelessness for good?

Follow the QR Code and register your Fundraising Event



This will be Emma's second Christmas in homelessness. Please help us make her Christmas wish come true.

For Christmas I want a puppy for the whole family. And then some toys and some toys for my little brother. And a house.

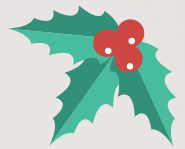
I know some people ~~are~~ are here longer than us.

But my friend was here the same time as us and her family got a house.

So I hope that we can get one too.

I would like a house so when I come home from school I don't have to come here.

It's hard to ~~sleep~~ sleep here because



FOCUS Ireland

Students and Teachers, we need your
help as Child Homelessness Rises
Above 4,400 for First Time.
Family homelessness also hits
a new record of 2,000

WE IN Focus Ireland want to tell you about a very special little girl. Her name is Emma. She is only nine years old, but she has already spent one year and two months of her young life in homelessness. This will be the second Christmas that Emma and her family have had no place to call home. But she doesn't know that yet. Emma is still hoping her wish for a home of her own will come true.

Focus Ireland is built on the kindness and generosity of people like you. That's why we are hoping that you will be able to help us make Emma's wish come true by organising a school fundraiser. It is easier than you think, but it means everything to those who need your support.

All the help you need

We'll give you all the help you require when you sign up. And you don't need to raise thousands to make a real difference. Every little bit of support is so valuable. Raising just €125 could help provide one week of training and educational supports for a young person.

The **Journey Home is on Friday 13th December** this year across the country (you can do it on a date that suits you also).

The Journey Home is where choirs and groups get together to sing their fav Christmas songs and carols in an effort to raise funds to support families, just like Emma's.

Calling at your station

We are also inviting you to sing at one of our pre-arranged Iarnród Éireann Stations – Heuston Station (Dublin), Connolly Station (Dublin), Kilkenny Station (Kilkenny), Kent Station (Cork), Colbert Station (Limerick), or at an alternative location of your choosing. **Get in touch here: events@focusireland.ie**

This is the ideal opportunity for your school to raise funds to help families experiencing homelessness. Children, parents, and teachers get the opportunity to practice songs, tune into the joy of Christmas and share this joy in your own school or locality.

A sense of solidarity

Sing out of your comfort zone and into a deep sense of solidarity and community, whilst raising vital funds for Focus Ireland to continue its work towards ending homelessness.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our team at any time and we will support you.

its very cold here in the room.
And ^{we} have no place to play. I have to
do my homework on my bed. But
the bed is kinda soft and I need
a hard table or else my hand-
writing is really weird.

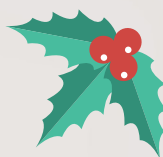
If we can have a house we
can have our own rooms and
everything just for us.

I would like a kitchen + a living
room and a garden. So we can
watch tv and I can invite my
~~Beats~~ friends over + bake.

I'm not really a baker but maybe
someday I will be.

My mam says we can't have a
puppy here. But when we get a
house, not the short term house
but the actual house. We can
get a puppy. Or a bunny. That
would be nice too.

EMMA



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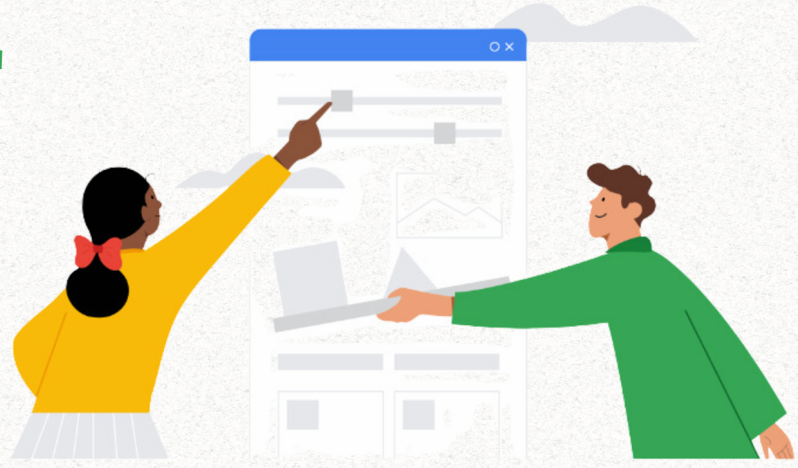
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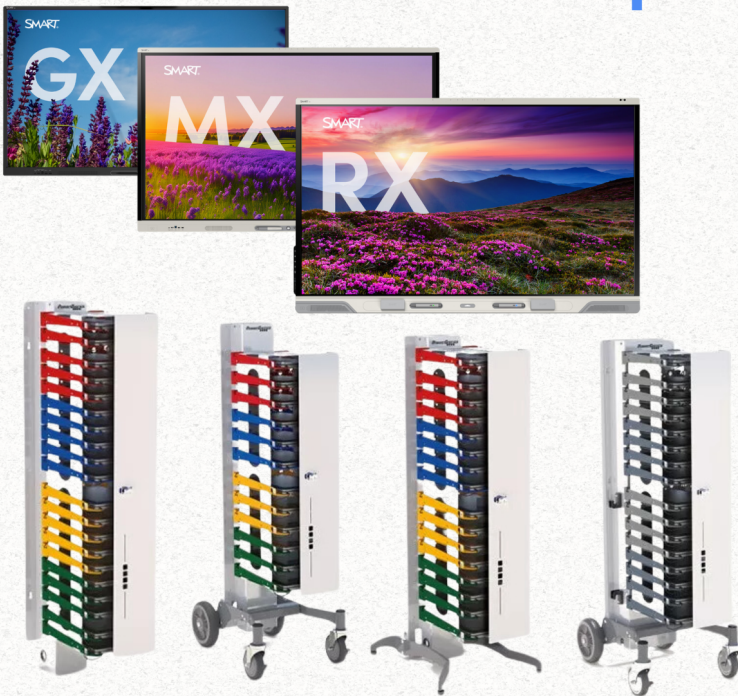
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Training Board

Your Pathway to Success

ARE you doing your Leaving Certificate this year or maybe you're looking to further your education but just not sure what to do?

Whatever your passion, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB) has over 1,900 courses to choose from. With the CAO deadline fast approaching, explore MSLETB's wide range of educational options will put you on the pathway to success!

Unlock Your Potential with our Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses!

Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) courses offered by Mayo College of Further Education and Training, North Connaught College, and Sligo College of Further Education present exciting opportunities for students transitioning from secondary level to the next phase of their education journey. These full-time, one-year programmes cater to diverse subjects, including Business, Sports, Dog Grooming, Nursing, Beauty, Science, Equestrian, Sustainability and much more!

Designed to strike a balance between hands-on practical experience, academic learning, and real-world work exposure, these courses will provide you with a unique blend that ensures that you are well-prepared for your chosen fields. Whether delving into the world of technology, exploring healthcare and nursing, or unleashing creative potential in the arts, these courses offer you an opportunity to discover and develop individual passions.

What makes these PLC courses particularly attractive is the inclusion of Erasmus opportunities, allowing you to avail of a three-week paid work placement abroad. Recognised by QQI, the qualifications obtained are not only nationally but also internationally recognised, opening doors to a world of possibilities.

Moreover, for those with aspirations for higher education, Mayo College of Further Education and Training and Sligo College of Further Education also house the first year of Tertiary Degree Programmes, providing a seamless pathway for those looking to continue their education journey.

Tertiary Degree Programmes: A Unique Path to Higher Education

The Tertiary Degree Programme is a new opportunity to obtain a degree at third level. Unlike traditional degree courses, you can apply directly, eliminating the need to wait for CAO points. Commencing your degree in a College of Further Education (1 -2 years depending on your chosen course) you will then progress to Higher Education to complete your degree. Options include degrees in Business, Sustainable Engineering, Laboratory Science and an access route to a nursing degree. There are no fees for attending a College of Further Education.

This flexible pathway opens doors to diverse higher education institutions and endless career possibilities.

Apprenticeships: Earn While You Learn

Unlike standard college courses, an apprenticeship allows you to earn money and become qualified while you are learning on-the-job, opening up exciting and rewarding careers. An apprenticeship combines learning in college combined with work-based learning in a company. Apprenticeships lead to internationally recognised qualifications. There over 70 apprenticeship programmes available in Ireland today in areas such as Finance, ICT, biopharma, construction, engi-



neering, hospitality and arboriculture.

MSLETB deliver three national apprenticeships - the Sales Apprenticeship, Craft Butchery Apprenticeship and Digital Marketing Apprenticeships.

MSLETB also deliver apprenticeships in Hairdressing, Cybersecurity, Software Development, Electrical, Commis Chef, Plumbing, Carpentry and Joinery, Vehicle Body Repair, Network Engineering and Electrical Instrumentation.

MSLETB teams up with many local and national employers, ensuring that what you learn is directly relevant to the job market. This collaboration not only develops valuable skills but also helps meet the demand for skilled workers in different fields. Apprenticeships are a fantastic way for you to start working with a solid set of skills, making you "job ready" while contributing to the economy. For more information or enquiries contact our team by email at apprenticeships@msletb.ie or visit www.apprenticeships.ie.

Traineeships: Job-Specific Training for Seamless Transitions

MSLETB Traineeships offer job-specific training, combining direct training and a significant period of Work-Based Learning (WBL) with an employer. These are full-time and all year-round opportunities to facilitate those entering the workforce for the first time. Traineeships include Beauty Therapy, Hairdressing, Welding & Fabrication, Manufacturing Technician and Equestrian Manager.

For our sports enthusiasts, we also offer we also run the FAI/ETB Player Development which enables learners to achieve their potential; to develop a career in professional football. The programme also prepares participants for a career in the sports and leisure industry as well as encouraging them to improve their level of education and reach their potential.

MSLETB Adult Educational Guidance Service

Feeling uncertain about your education choices? MSLETB Adult Educational Guidance Service is here to support you. Our team of friendly and confidential Adult Guidance Counsellors is ready to provide personalised advice for you. Whether you're considering education options, exploring new careers, or needing guidance on important decisions, we've got you covered. Schedule a meeting in a private setting with our experienced guidance counsellors to get the support you need.

Don't face these choices alone! Your future is full of possibilities, and we're here to help you navigate the way. Take that first step towards a brighter educational journey—reach out to us for the guidance you deserve. Visit www.msletbadultguidance.ie to find the closest team to you!

For those starting out, upskilling or simply looking for a career change - there's an option for everyone with MSLETB.

Contact us today at www.msletb.ie or freephone 1800 100 100! See Yourself at MSLETB.

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ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST BE OVER THE AGE OF 5 AND HAVE A WAIVER SIGNED

Further Education & Training (FET) and Apprenticeship Pathways for School Leavers

WITH the CAO application process for 2025 opening soon, there are now a diverse range of opportunities available for students post Leaving Certificate to prepare them for the career they want after school.

Further Education and Training (FET) and apprenticeships are now considered a valuable and recognised post-secondary learning pathway and are fast becoming a prime destination for school leavers. An increasing number of students are choosing FET and apprenticeship routes as they are well positioned to lead them on to a world of exciting careers.

As the further education and training authority in Ireland, SOLAS together with the National Apprenticeship Office (NAO) and key partners in the ETBI, and Education and Training Board (ETB) network are tasked with highlighting the range of FET and apprenticeships of offer around the country. The annual WorldSkills Ireland and Higher Options events, held in September in the RDS, provided the perfect platform to showcase the extensive range of opportunities for school leavers through apprenticeships and FET in one space.

Inspiring apprenticeship career stories

A key highlight of the WorldSkills Ireland event included a showcase of Ireland's Apprentice of the Year 2024 at the Heroes Stage, where nominees shared their inspiring career stories to an audience of Leaving Cert students, highlighting apprenticeships as a valuable pathway to achieve the career they want.

The apprenticeship route appeals to school leavers for many reasons including the opportunity to earn while they learn, gain important on-the-job professional experience and a qualification at the same time. There is also a world of choice with over 70 apprenticeship options now spanning a range of industries as engineering, finance, farming, construction, software development, insurance, aircraft mechanics, hospitality and the pharmaceutical industry.

Speaking ahead of the showcase at WorldSkills Ireland about why an apprenticeship was the right path for her, tech software developer Tobi Okwo, a second-year apprentice at Salesforce, said: "Entering the apprenticeship programme has been the best decision I've ever made.

"When I saw the opportunities it offers, choosing this exciting path to the tech industry was more than easy.

"I've made incredible strides in my career and found amazing friend-

ships throughout my apprenticeship. I've embraced the creative world of coding which offers a unique blend of logic and creativity, allowing you to craft solutions from scratch."

Further Education and Training has also experienced unprecedented growth in the last number of years and is in high demand with courses for school leavers on offer in every county through the network of 16 Education and Training Boards (ETBs). These Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) level 5 and 6, or Post-Leaving Cert (PLC) courses prepare students for direct entry into employment, an opportunity to try a topic of interest before applying for a four-year degree and can also provide an important pathway to university.

Sharing experiences of FET learners

The Higher Options event, which also took place in the RDS, provided a platform for FET and Apprenticeships careers talks, one of the panelists **Chelsea Lyons** shared her experience of signing up for a PLC course in Office Administration and Reception Skills at Coláiste Íde College of Further Education in Finglas. After completing her Leaving Certificate, Chelsea worked in retail for a short time before deciding that she wanted to continue her education. She spoke powerfully about how FET opened doors for her, with a strong message for Leaving Certificate students to consider applying for a PLC after school to give them that extra time to discover what they really want to do after school.

"I feel my course has had an amazing impact on my life. I needed a change of course in my life, and my further education journey has definitely given me that. My opportunities include job, and course offers, and I think I'll have many options from this course and cannot wait to see how my journey continues as a result of attending my course."

Chelsea's dream was to study law, and she has since started a degree course at Dublin City University (DCU) this September, her first choice.

There are currently over 1,500 Post-Leaving Cert (PLC) courses available through the network of 16 ETBs, as well as 70+ Apprenticeship programmes on offer nationwide across a wide variety of cutting-edge, dynamic industries.

Find out more about Further Education and Training (FET) opportunities for school leavers at www.thisisfet.ie or explore the 70+ Apprenticeships at www.apprenticeship.ie.



The National Apprenticeship Office team sharing information on the 70 plus apprenticeships on offer at WorldSkills Ireland



Chelsea Lyons, Coláiste Íde FET Graduate, speaking at Higher Options in the RDS Dublin



FET Zone at WorldSkills Ireland which included all 16 Education and Training Boards from across the country



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"The course has been a huge addition to our TY Programme. Our students have fully embraced the course and recognise the employment opportunities pathways it opens." - **TY Teacher, Ballyhaunis Community School.**



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Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

Intellectual Disability Nursing at Trinity College Dublin

THE School of Nursing and Midwifery, Trinity College Dublin, offers a four year nurse education course leading to a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Intellectual Disability Nursing.

What Do Intellectual Disability Nursing Students Learn?

Students study intellectual disability nursing, biology, psychology and sociology.

More importantly they learn how to support people with a diverse range of intellectual disabilities. This can involve learning how to support individuals who have physical or mental health challenges, teaching new skills and understanding how to communicate effectively with someone who may have communication difficulties.

As well as learning in the classroom, students develop their practical nursing skills in Trinity's state-of-the-art clinical skills centre at St James's Hospital and on placements with children and adults with intellectual disabilities facilitated by our partner, Stewarts Care. During the fourth year of the course students undertake a roster of 36-weeks of continuous placement.

Career Opportunities

An honours degree from Trinity College Dublin is recognised globally as a quality qualification and can open many doors.

Graduates of this course may apply to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) as a Registered Nurse - Intellectual Disability (R.N.I.D). Further study can lead to a research career, or registration as a Clinical Specialist or Advanced Nurse Practitioner.

The Importance of Registered Intellectual Disability Nurses

Addressing the health inequalities and inequities that people with intellectual disabilities experience is critically important. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities advocates that people with disabilities should receive the same care as everybody else.

Nurses are the largest healthcare profession with a patient-facing role, they can take a leadership role and advocate for policy change, training improvements and systems to meet the needs of people with intellectual disabilities and make sure they receive equal care.

Along with education and training, nurses (R.N.I.D.s) play a leading role in promoting the health and well-being of people with intellectual disabilities.



What our Intellectual Disability Nursing students say:

"As an R.N.I.D. you can work with people of all ages, from children with complex health needs to adults in the community in a variety of different roles and this diversity really drew me to intellectual disability nursing."

"The best part of the programme is the number of placements allocated from first year to fourth year. You get hands on experience in many different areas from pre-school children to supporting the elderly in dementia care settings."

Trinity Open Day

A chance to
meet our
lecturers and
students

**Saturday 2nd
November
2024
10am-5pm**



NETWORKS

Energise your future with an ESB Networks' Electrical Apprenticeship

RAPID advances in technology and the shift toward sustainability—including a sustainable work-life balance—are driving people towards degree course alternatives that allow them to earn while learning. ESB Networks is lighting a path forward.

"I started college in September 2021, and quickly realised the course was not for me," recalls Jamie McCourt.

"I took some time off to consider what I should do. I looked into the ESB Networks' Electrical Apprenticeship, and the chance to earn while I learned sounded brilliant."

Jamie is one of 280 apprentice electricians from all over the country, accepted into ESB Networks' Electrical Apprenticeship programme since 2021. The four-year programme, which combines on-the-job training with college classroom work, has grown in recent years to meet the rising demand for skilled tradespeople.

"People are realising that graduat-

ing with a degree, debt and no clear path to employment is not necessarily the way to a rewarding career and fulfilling life," says Kara Keenaghan, the Apprenticeship Programme Manager.

This shift in thinking parallels the transformation of the energy sector. New green energy policies have put electricity and ESB Networks at the forefront of decarbonising our economy. For ESB Networks' apprentices, the evolving energy landscape opens a world of extraordinary opportunities.

The evolving energy landscape opens a world of opportunity

"Upon completing the programme, apprentices have an internationally recognised, advanced Level 6 Electrical Trade Certificate," explains Kara.

"And, they will also be a qualified Network Technician. Many go on to work with ESB Networks going on call, becoming Network Operators,

**"Upon
completing the
programme,
apprentices
have an
internationally
recognised,
advanced Level
6 Electrical
Trade
Certificate,"**

Cable Joiners and Training Officers or with other companies including our fellow energy utilities here and abroad. The opportunities are unlimited."

For Conor Fenlon, a graduate of the Apprenticeship Programme now working as an ESB Networks Technician, the opportunities for career stability, continued progression and variety were particularly attractive.

"No day is the same, that's for sure," says Conor, who served with the Defence Forces on a UN mission to Syria prior to joining the apprenticeship programme.

"I currently work in overhead line construction, so I do everything from building new connections, to line retirement and patrolling, to installing pole-mounted transformers."

**The variety of indoor and
outdoor work, teamwork and
great career opportunities are
just some of the benefits of an
ESB Networks' Apprenticeship.**



While the programme requires an element of physicality, it also demands logical thinking and team work.

“There is definitely an adventurous element to the job,” says Jamie. “We’ve learned to climb electricity poles and pylons, and how to drive all-terrain vehicles. But we are also highly focused on safety, so learning how to assess a situation is a big part of what we learn.”

And, since our current situation demands that we create a low carbon economy, ESB Networks apprentices are building careers with purpose.

“It’s not merely about learning a trade,” says Kara. “It’s about becoming part of a movement that is building a brighter, more sustainable future.”

For the ESB Networks Electrical Apprenticeship individuals aged 16 or over with a Junior or Leaving Certificate, or equivalent can apply.



To apply, or learn more about apprenticeships with ESB Networks please visit www.esbnetworks.ie/esb/careers/apprenticeships



WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR *at Liberties College* CAN MAKE

Choose a one year course at City of Dublin ETB's Liberties College and give yourself the opportunity to - explore your interests, develop new skills and friendships, and work towards achieving a QQI Level 5 or 6 Major Award with opportunities to progress to third level and/or employment. Courses include Art, Childcare, Social Care, I.T., Media, Performance, Pharmacy Retail, Liberal Arts, Travel, Special Needs Assisting and Youth Studies. Full course details are available at libertiescollege.ie



Increase in use of eating disorder support services highlights breadth of support needs - Bodywhys

BODYWHYS, The Eating Disorders Association of Ireland has released its 2023 Annual Report, highlighting an increase in the utilisation of the organisation's listening, information and support services in 2023. Over 4,800 people accessed these supports, marking a 19.5% increase compared to 2022.

Ellen Jennings, Communications Officer with Bodywhys, said: "In 2023, we observed a significant rise in demand for our core support services across the helpline, email support and online support groups. Our helpline received 1,292 calls, reflecting an increase of 35%, compared to 2022. Over a quarter (27%) of queries to Bodywhys came by phone in 2023.

"Our email support service dealt with 2,346 queries, reflecting almost half (49%) of all queries responded to by our volunteers."

During 2023, Bodywhys launched several resources, including the free 'Guide for Families' and a guide on 'Speaking to Your Doctor,' designed for individuals with eating disorders and those supporting them.

BODYWHYS

The Eating Disorders Association of Ireland

2023 IMPACT REPORT

Based on our work, Bodywhys delivered support services to: 4,809 people

123
ONLINE GROUPS

1,292
HELPLINE Calls

ALEX EMAIL SERVICE

2,346 Emails dealt with



PILAR PROGRAMME

637

People attended across programmes delivered online

BODYWHYS CONNECT:

460 People attended

YOUTH CONNECT:

160 People attended

VIRTUAL SUPPORT GROUP:

335 People attended

2,523

Clinicians and allied health professionals reached through continuous professional development (CPD) training

POST-PILAR SUPPORT GROUP

209 People attended

NEW MAUDSLEY CARER SKILLS

219 Training workshop registrations
89 attendees at regular groups

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

90,148

Students got involved in the #MoreThanASelfie programme

HAPPY TO BE Me
PROGRAMME REACHED OVER

6,646

primary school children through schools nationwide

MEDIA REQUESTS



NATIONAL RADIO

14



REGIONAL RADIO

34



NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS

29



REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS

2



TELEVISION

10



MAGAZINE

2



ONLINE

3



TOTAL

95



38

PODCASTS PUBLISHED with 13,508 listens during 2023

Online Engagement



TWITTER

457,300

IMPRESSIONS



INSTAGRAM

21,053

REACH



FACEBOOK

21,354

REACH



WEBSITE

174,602

PAGE VIEWS



KING HOUSE

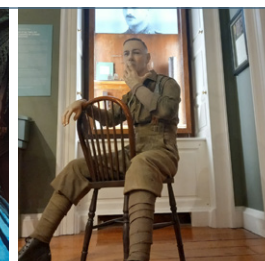
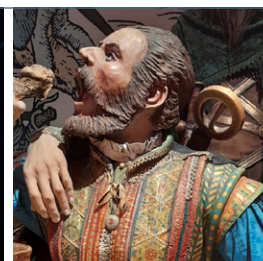
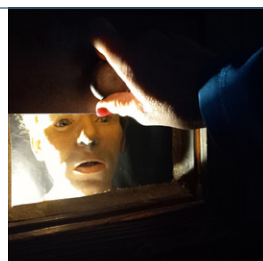
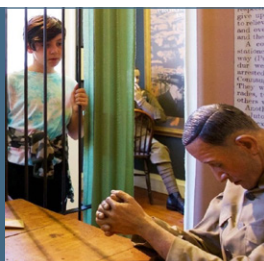
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Learn about the influential King Family, who were resident landlords of estates in Boyle for 350 years.

Their stories are intertwined with eventful periods of Irish history that take the visitor through the times of High Kings, Clans and Chieftains, through to the present day.

Visitors of all ages are enthralled by stories of medieval Ireland, the fascinating King family and the history of the highly respected Connaught Rangers. Through life sized figures, interactive displays and activities exhibitions bring the past to life sharing insight into the intriguing history of King House.

King House houses the Boyle Civic Art Collection, a nationally recognised collection with over 300 pieces of art from nearly every known contemporary Irish artist.

The House

18th Century | Georgian House Fully Restored | The King Family home

History Museum

Gaelic Ireland | King Family | Devils Own | Jail Cells

Exhibitions

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Emer Dillon concludes a Humanist wedding ceremony in Bellinter House in Co Meath in May 2024

Believing in people instead of just believing

By Niall Gormley

EMER DILLON describes her background as traditional Irish. Born in 1960. Educated by nuns. Went through all the stages: baptism, communion, confirmation, marriage.

No, not marriage. By the time marriage came round Emer had turned away from the religion of her youth and had embarked on a different set of ethics and understandings about how the world works.

She is a Humanist Celebrant officiating at ceremonies to name babies, bind people in matrimony and mark the end of lives. These are special

Interview with Emer Dillon

HUMANIST CELEBRANT and
MEMBER OF THE HUMANIST ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND

events for people and those who love them; occasions that form the way points of life and make lifelong memories.

She is a member of the Humanist Association of Ireland (HAI), a committed humanist, active in campaigning for separation of church and state, and legally enabled to make marriages.

A childhood journey

If her background was as conventional as she says it was, how did the journey in the other direction come about, I ask.

"I suppose I can probably actually pinpoint the first time I questioned whether there was a God or not. I was only ten years of age. My father was in a road traffic accident.

"I was told he was in an accident and I prayed and prayed and prayed and prayed. I promised I would do this and that. I was only ten.

"He died."

Our conversation comes to a dead halt. I wasn't expecting that. To lose your father at 10 years of age must be a life event bigger than the ones she officiates over.

Her mother told her that her father had gone to heaven but that didn't add up for her because God was supposed to be good and kind.

However, her mother's faith was still intact and she expected Emer to go to mass and be religious. As she exited her teenage years she didn't believe in it anymore, she was "skirting religion and not taking part".

"I suppose when it solidified was when I became a mom. Dan was born in 1987 and I decided there and then." Her son's father also agreed that they wouldn't be bringing him up religious.

She says that a lot of her friends at the time wouldn't have been going to mass but when they had children "they fell back into it. They got married in the church and they baptised their children."

So the decision was made not to go for a baptism. But this was 1987 in Ireland. I put it to her that it was fairly radical for the time and I wondered how her mother reacted.

"Well she would say to me 'think about that poor child's soul'. I said to her 'It'll be fine, mom'.

"I also said to her 'under no circumstances do you even think about putting him over the kitchen sink. And don't you dare put any miraculous medals into his cot or his basket because we could fall out quite badly'."

They didn't fall out and they agreed to disagree. Emer says that her mother felt let down by the scandals in the church and in her later years, she lived to 96, described herself as an 'a la carte Catholic'.

But like daughter, like mother. When Emer became a Humanist Celebrant her mother told her: "Don't you dare give me one of those humanist funerals. If you do I'll come back and haunt you".

Minding the kids

Heading into the 1990s and trying to raise kids without religion presented some difficulties. Emer wasn't married and she wanted her son to have his father's surname. She basically refused to register the child herself and got the child's father to do the registration. The other alternative was that the father would have to adopt his own child in order to have the same name.

The Status of Children Act 1987 was passed in December of that year. Up until then children who were born



Emer Dillon about to conduct a wedding ceremony at City Hall, Dublin (www.instagram.com/emerdillon)

outside marriage were 'illegitimate' and did not have the same inheritance or succession rights as 'legitimate' children. It included the right of unmarried fathers to register a child (See panel on next page).

In Emer's case the Registrar simply assumed they were married and things could have been complicated otherwise.

In order that her children wouldn't have to go through faith formation, communion or confirmation; or sit through all the religious instruction, she chose to send them to a small fee-paying Protestant school.

The Baptism Barrier

The other problem that she avoided by sending her children to a non-Catholic school was having to overcome the so-called 'baptism barrier'.

In many urban areas of Ireland

there is competition for school places and schools are oversubscribed. As the vast majority of schools are controlled by the Catholic Church, they could and would give preference to Catholic children, or more accurately children who were baptised Catholic.

The speculation was that many par-

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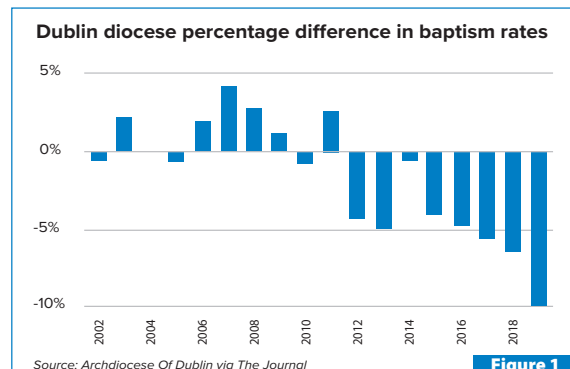


Figure 1

Data from the Catholic Diocese of Dublin showing a noticeable fall in baptisms in 2019 after the ban on the baptism barrier

>>>

ents were opting to get children baptised just in case they needed to qualify for their local Catholic school or a Catholic school of their choice.

In 2018 then Education Minister Richard Bruton introduced legislation to outlaw the 'Baptism Barrier' whereby religious schools were able to choose children of the faith of the school.

The Education (Admission To Schools) Act 2018 came into force despite the opposition of the church. The Journal news site reported that in the year following the ban on the baptism barrier the number of baptisms in the Dublin archdiocese fell by 10 per cent. (See Figure 1).

Finding humanism

Although she had gone well out of her way to avoid religion, Emer had not run into many people like herself either. The thought of herself as a bit of an outlier.

Then a good friend's mother died suddenly and with the shock she was at a bit of a loss about what to do because the lady in question wasn't religious. But they discovered that the women had, in fact, left clear instructions that her funeral was not to be held in a church.

Emer remembered she had seen a guy on RTE1 TV that week talking about humanist funerals and that he was now a celebrant.

The guy was Brian Whiteside, a long-term advocate for humanism and

campaigner for secular marriages. He conducted the funeral, and it was only his second ever.

Humanist marriage is another case of religious versus secular legitimacy. The Civil Registration Act 2004 recognised religious bodies only as marriage solemnisers. If people wanted a secular wedding, they also had to get a civil registrar to make it legal.

Emer refers to these as "symbolic" ceremonies because they didn't have legal force behind them.

After much campaigning by the HAI the Civil Registration Act 2012 was introduced which added non-religious organisations to the list of registered solemnisers.

The first Humanist wedding happened on the 6th of April 2013 and since then there have been around 14,000. Humanist weddings are becoming more popular with more than 2,000 per year taking place in 2022.

The change taking place in the type of wedding ceremony chosen by couples is breathtaking. Catholic ceremonies from 62 per cent in 2013 ago to just 35 per cent in 2023. Some of this reduction is due to the increase in other religious options such as spiritualist and 'new age' ceremonies. A larger proportion is due to the increase in non-religious weddings from the Humanists and civil registrations from the state. Figure 2 shows the narrowing gap.

And my teenage children were absolutely horrified because as far as they were concerned, they'd been able to live their lives free from any cultism. And now I was signing them up to a cult!,"

So we actually had time to work back and forth on the draft of the ceremony. What he wanted said. What he didn't want said

Finding her tribe

For Emer finding out about humanism was like a revelation. She immediately signed up for a family membership.

"And my teenage children were absolutely horrified because as far as they were concerned, they'd been able to live their lives free from any cultism. And now I was signing them up to a cult!," she laughs.

She had already decided to become a humanist celebrant and her training was fast-tracked because another HAI celebrant was terminally ill and had many advanced bookings. She says she was "thrown in at the deep end".

I ask her about her approach to secular weddings, especially as for many people this is new territory as most people, especially older people, would be more comfortable with religious ceremonies.

"First of all, the couple would have made the decision. I'm quite clear. I'm kind of quite down-the-line. Absolutely no religious content whatsoever.

"So even if Auntie Mary wants to come up and read a reading that has a prayer that was read at her own wedding or something like that, you know, I might need to edit that. There's plenty of other readings that Auntie Mary could read."

But, I say, that sounds a bit, kinda, sorta.....

....militant?

She's not shocked at the allegation. "I am a bit," she says with a smile. There are other Humanist celebrants who are more flexible.

"I just think it's a mixed message, you know. The Humanist Association of Ireland celebrants are the only secular ones. So there's lots of others.

"First of all, there's the civil servants, which are the celebrants in the HSE when you go to the registry office. They will now come to some venues as well and conduct the legal elements to your ceremony."

Her point about the HSE Registrars is that they are not celebrants and these are thus not secular weddings. There are other celebrants as well such as the Spiritualist Union of Ireland or inter-faith celebrants.

Not like for like

Naming ceremonies are not direct replacements for baptisms. Firstly, there is no legal side to baptism, it's simply registering with the religious body involved. The civil registration of birth takes place in the hospital or wherever the birth happens and that is where children are legally recognised by the state.



A screen grab of Emer Dillon delivering the National Day of Commemoration Ceremony contribution from the Humanist Association of Ireland at National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks in Dublin.

A naming ceremony is a replication of baptism which, in turn, evolved from many birth traditions throughout human history. Because of the traditional beliefs around original sin, many Catholics got babies baptised as soon as possible.

Humanists are not keen on the idea of original sin and so there's no hurry. I ask Emer what the typical time frame is.

"In around about a year or so, usually around the first birthday. Sometimes it can be earlier, depending on the season. There's legal restrictions on where you can conduct a wedding whereas there's nothing on naming ceremonies."

Final destination

Weddings and naming ceremonies are happy occasions. The other main business of a celebrant is marking death.

"I became a celebrant in order to conduct funerals much more so than weddings. But of course, weddings have taken over most of the work I do," she says.

The reason for this is that weddings are planned and funerals can't be. So Emer may have weddings booked a year in advance but funerals really must be planned within a day in most cases.

While people can't accurately predict the day they will need a celebrant, there are many plans that they can make.

"You have to say what your intentions are, you have to. That's one of the greatest gifts you can give your family," she says.

"I will guide people through the process. I would always meet with the family. I'll drop things, I'll get into my car, I'll drive over to the other side of the city, or down to Kildare or whatever it might be."

What about tragic cases? How does she handle those?

"We do complete a certain amount of training over the years to prepare us for hard cases. So if somebody has died by suicide, that's a tough one. And I haven't done any baby funerals but there's a few Humanist Celebrants that have."

Emer recalls a case where she got a call from a woman whose husband was at the end of his life. He had attended two funerals that Emer had conducted and he said to his wife 'get that woman!'

"So I said, would he like to have a chat? And she said 'oh, he would love that'. So I took myself into the hospital where he was, three weeks prior to him passing away."

She read the draft to him and he was really happy. "So we actually had time to work back and forth on the draft of the ceremony. What he wanted said. What he didn't want said." Emer has also conducted some funerals for people that she knew, which she found to be personally difficult.

On the agenda

Finally, I ask her to put her Humanist Association hat on. What does she see as the secularist agenda over the next few years?

She points to the education system where the Catholic Church still has a huge amount of control. (See Figure 3). There has been very little change and she seems to accept that there won't be any wholesale handover of schools. Her approach would be to move the faith formation and sacrament preparation out of schools.

In the meantime, life outside religion is becoming more accessible and acceptable by the year and Emer Dillon intends to keep playing her part in that.



Emer Dillon at a naming ceremony in Stonybatter in Dublin

When children weren't 'legitimate'

The Cherish organisation was set up in 1974 with the aim of improving the situation for single mothers and their children. The group is now known as One Family.

On its website the group says that at the first Cherish conference in 1974 "The Unmarried Parent and Child in Irish Society", Professor William Duncan summarised the main legal discriminations against children born outside wedlock:

- Regarded as illegitimate and the child of no one (filius nullius) such children had no rights in relation to the estate of the natural father
- Rights to the natural mother's estate took second place to the rights of her legitimate children
- In order to obtain child support from the father, the mother had to take him to court within six months of the birth of the child
- Her evidence had to be corroborated
- If successful she would receive a maximum of £5 a week under a district court order
- The law reaffirmed an attitude of social disapproval and discrimination against single parents and their children

(Source <https://onefamily.ie/status-of-illegitimacy-was-abolished/>)

Schools by Ethos

■ Catholic ■ Church of Ireland ■ Multi-Denominational ■ Other

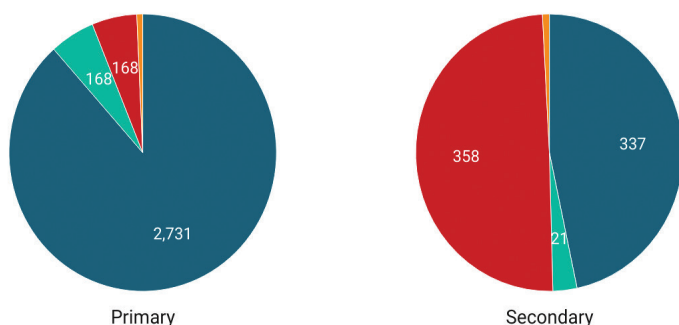


Chart: Niall Gormley • Source: Dept of Education: Statistical Bulletin Enrolments September 2023 • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 3

Marriage Ceremonies Religious/Non-religious 2000-2019

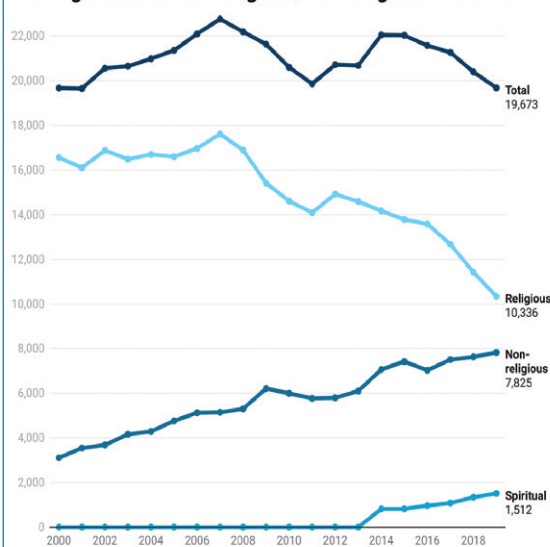


Chart: Niall Gormley • Source: CSO • Created with Datawrapper

Figure 2



Fully Funded Diploma Sustainable Transport Engineering



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an Engineering Degree"
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as a junior certificate and in
less than 4 years you can
secure your degree"*



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CENTRE MANAGER

Our engineering diploma gives learners a unique proven pathway to third level education.

The course is aimed at learners :

- Who maybe didn't reach the desired level of CAO points for their chosen course
- Adult learners looking to return to education
- Early school leavers looking to re-enter education (minimum Junior certificate)
- Learners who would like to sample a wide range of Engineering disciplines before committing to a degree program

On completion of the Diploma learners can:

- Continue in education through our proven degree pathway with TUS (Technical University Shannon)
- Learners have the option to potentially join year 2 of a three or four year degree course.
- Enter employment in the Engineering or cycling industry

www.bea.ie



Are there any financial supports in place for the students?

- **Tuition costs are fully covered by the Limerick Clare Education Training Board (LCETB)**
- Students currently in receipt of social welfare will not have there payments effected by enrolling in any of our courses
- Students not in receipt of social welfare may be entitled to:
 - Training Allowance
 - Travel Allowance

“

*Design, fabricate and Braze
your very own bicycle frame
while learning key
engineering skills such as:*

- *Brazing*
- *Metal fabrication*
- *Engineering trigonometry*
- *Engineering principles*

What certificates will i gain on successful completion of the course?

- All our qualifications are issued by internationally recognised City & Guilds
- 2850-34 Level 3 Diploma in Mechanical Manufacturing Engineering
- 2850-301 Health & Safety
- 2850-302 Engineering Principles
- 2850-307 Manufacturing Engineering
- 2850-312 Tig Welding Of Materials
- 2850-327 Detailed Fitting Of Materials
- 2850-329 3D CAD
- 3528-12 Skills Foundation certificate in Electronic Engineering
- 5546-02 City & Guilds Award in Employability Skills (Preparing for Employment)
- 3902-28 Level 2 In Cycle Mechanics
- Advanced Bicycle Technician & E-Bike
- Advanced Technician, E-Bike & PPT
- Bicycle Engineering Academy Certificate of Completion

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TRANSPORT
ENGINEERING

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Course Content

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- Electronic Engineering
- 3D Design (Autodesk Fusion 360)
- Tig Welding & Brazing
- CNC
- 3D Printing
- Advanced Bicycle Mechanics
- Frame Building & Design
- Employability Skills
- Business Skills

Who Can Apply?

- Early School Leaver
- Return To Education
- Mature Student
- Inclusive To All Individuals
- Upskilling To Advance
- Parent Returning To Education

Course Benefits

- Proven Pathway To Third Level (TUS)
- Fully Funded By LCETB
- Open To All Aged 16+
- Covers Various Engineering Disciplines
- Business Startup Guidance
- Design & Build Your Own Bicycle Frame (Brazing)

Supports Available

- Training Allowance
- Accommodation Allowance
- Travel Allowance
- Subsistence Allowance
- Social Welfare Payments Are NOT Affected
- Education Assistance Support



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Smiles Dental launches 'Netflix-style' Dental Subscription Service

"Our new dental subscription is a first to market, giving patients easy and more affordable access to dental and hygienist appointments"

SMILES Dental has launched a new Netflix-style dental subscription service that provides people in the Republic of Ireland access to routine dental care to help them stay on top of their oral health.

The subscription spreads the cost of dental care throughout the year and covers a set number of check-ups and hygiene appointments to meet all oral healthcare needs, up to two routine dental X-rays per year, preventative dental advice and 10% off selected private dental treatments.

This new service comes as research conducted by Smiles Dental found that over a third of those in the Republic of Ireland find it difficult to get a dental appointment, and a further 25% say they wait on average between 3-7 days to see a dentist.

Regular appointments

Having regular dental appointments is vital for both oral health and wider health. With regular check-ups, a dentist will be able to spot concerns like gum disease and tooth decay, as well as mouth cancer, which affects over 700 people in Ireland each year.

Dentists can also act as the first line

of defence in detecting oral health conditions that could indicate early signs of health issues like diabetes or heart disease.

Of those surveyed, almost three quarters (74%) have other subscriptions. However, 41% would consider getting a dental subscription service due to better access to dental services (38%), and others said because their health meant a lot to them (37%). More than a third (37%) would also welcome the convenience of getting an appointment, reflecting the demand in 'one-tap' services in other areas such as gym memberships, supplement, and other wellness subscriptions.

The research also revealed that a third (32%) of people say they would value a GP or dental subscription service more than their television streaming subscription.

Peter Crockard, Regional Clinical Director for Smiles Dental, said: "Our new dental subscription is a first to market, giving patients easy and more affordable access to dental and hygienist appointments, which are an essential part of maintaining good oral health.

"We know early intervention can stop oral health worries from getting worse, so this convenient plan means people get the peace of mind that they can access routine care and treatment when they need it."

Smiles offers two plans: Routine (2 check-ups, 2 hygiene appointments), and Enhanced (2 check-ups, 4 hygiene appointments). There is a one-off set-up fee of €10, and the monthly price of the plan is calculated using the cost of planned private check-ups and

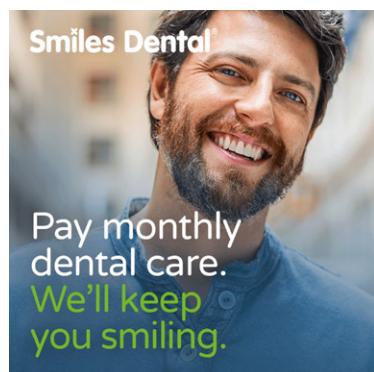


Dr Peter Crockard, Regional Clinical Director for Smiles Dental

- Smiles Dental launches subscription service, providing patients with fast access to routine check-ups and hygienist appointments
- Better access to services (38%) ease of getting appointments (37%) and the importance of health (35%) are the most cited reasons people would sign-up
- Almost one in three (32%) say they would value a dental subscription service more than their TV streaming subscription

hygiene appointments at the practice, discounted by 10%, divided by 12 and rounded to the nearest 50c. This allows patients to spread the cost into manageable payments and is up to 10% cheaper than paying at each appointment.

For more information on Smile Dental's new subscription service, visit:
www.smiles.ie/smiles-dental-plan



Smiles Dental[®]

Save on routine
dental care.
All year round.

Pay monthly for year-round
dental care and save up to 10%*

Find your nearest Smiles Dental Practice
- visit www.smiles.ie

Find out more at smiles.ie/smiles-dental-plan
Terms and conditions apply



Applicants must be aged 18 and over.

*Equivalent appointment prices of included treatments (check-up & hygiene appointments) are an average of 10% less than when booked as a standalone appointment. (53% of 19 participating practices).

Smiles Dental is a trading name of Xeon Dental Services Limited. Registered in Ireland. Registered number 391309. Registered address: St Martins House, Waterloo Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, Ireland.

DUK13918 | July 24



Exploring Pathways to Further Education and Employment in Laois and Offaly:

The role of LOETB in shaping future careers

FOR school leavers and adult learners in Laois and Offaly, the opportunities for further education and training have never been more diverse and accessible.

Whether aiming to progress to third-level education, apprenticeships, or direct entry into the workforce, Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB) offers a variety of pathways to help along the way. From hands-on practical training to advanced learning opportunities, LOETB provides flexible and practical learning solutions for those looking to further their education and broaden their skills closer to home.

Pathways into Third-Level Education and Employment

LOETB's extensive range of programmes caters to individuals at different stages of their educational and professional journey. Whether

you're a recent school leaver uncertain about the next step, a mature learner hoping to return to education or already in employment and looking to upskill, there's a course designed to fit your needs.

For those interested in progressing to third-level education, LOETB provides a wide array of courses through its Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) programmes. These programmes are designed to equip students with both academic and practical skills that prepare them for higher education or employment. Many students complete PLC courses as a stepping stone to access third-level universities. This pathway often helps students who may not have been eligible for direct entry into third-level education through the CAO or who may not be ready to attend immediately after leaving school.

Additionally, LOETB offers a variety

From hands-on practical training to advanced learning opportunities, LOETB provides flexible and practical learning solutions for those looking to further their education and broaden their skills closer to home

of traineeships and apprenticeships, which combine practical, on-the-job training with classroom-based learning. These programmes are highly regarded by employers and provide students with real-world experience and a direct route into employment. These programmes are designed to align with industry needs, ensuring that learners are job-ready upon completion.

In recent years, the resurgence in the popularity of apprenticeships has highlighted their growing appeal as a viable option for learners. These programmes offer an alternative to traditional academic routes, combining hands-on training with classroom-based learning.

The introduction of new Occupational Apprenticeships, which range from Levels 5 to 9, reflects the increasing demand for skilled workers across various sectors. These apprenticeships cover a wide range of industries, including biopharma, finance, hospitality, ICT, insurance, and property services, providing learners with practical skills tailored to meet industry needs.

LOETB Tertiary Programmes: Learning Close to Home

Another appealing aspect of LOETB's offering is its tertiary programmes, which provide higher education opportunities in partnership with South East Technological University (SETU), Carlow. The initial programmes on offer in Portlaoise Institute are:

The introduction of new Occupational Apprenticeships, which range from Levels 5 to 9, reflects the increasing demand for skilled workers across various sectors





- Bachelor of Business Studies
- Bachelor of Science in Software Development
- Bachelor of Science in Information Technology

These programmes make third level education more accessible to learners in our region. The option for learners to complete a significant element of their undergraduate studies closer to home provides many benefits including reduced accommodation and travel expenses, greater study/life balance, and a smoother transition to higher education, leading to greater retention and completion rates.

Tertiary education through LOETB offers a more personalised and supportive environment compared to the traditional university setting. Students benefit from smaller class sizes, more direct access to tutors, and support services.

This focus on quality, accessibility, and practicality makes tertiary programmes an excellent choice for individuals who may have hesitated to embark on a traditional university pathway. With the option to study locally, learners can achieve recognised qualifications that open doors to both further study and employment opportunities, all while remaining within their own community.

New Construction, Engineering, and Renewable Pathway to Employment or Apprenticeship

A new and exciting opportunity within LOETB is the Construction, Engineering, and Renewable Pathway

to Employment/Apprenticeship. This innovative course is designed for school leavers and anyone interested in pursuing a career in construction, civil engineering, or renewable energy sectors.

The programme is specifically tailored to meet the growing demand for skilled workers in the construction and engineering industries. Its flexible design offers several progression routes, allowing students to either enter the workforce directly, pursue an apprenticeship in civil engineering, or continue their studies by enrolling in a **Construction Site Management Level 7 degree at TU Dublin**. This course provides multiple pathways to success.

The benefits of this programme are far-reaching. Firstly, it provides a hands-on approach to learning, allowing students to apply the theoretical knowledge gained in the classroom to real-world scenarios through employment-based training. This practical experience is invaluable, as it equips learners with the skills and confidence needed to excel in their chosen field. By the time students complete the course, they are not only work-ready but also possess the qualifications necessary to progress in their careers or continue with higher-level studies.

The Construction, Engineering, and Renewable Pathway is a bespoke programme, offering students a comprehensive education in the fundamentals of construction, civil engineering, and renewable energy technologies. What sets this course

The options for further education and training in Laois and Offaly through LOETB are diverse, flexible, and tailored to meet the needs of both learners and employers

Tertiary education through LOETB offers a more personalised and supportive environment compared to the traditional university setting

apart is its integration of industry-relevant qualifications, such as CSCS tickets for Site Dumper and 360° Excavator. These certifications are highly sought after by employers and are essential for those looking to work on construction sites in Ireland and abroad.

Students will also gain practical skills in site surveying—an essential competency for anyone entering the construction industry. Understanding how to measure and map construction sites accurately is a critical aspect of project planning and execution. Additionally, the course includes a series of awareness workshops covering emerging technologies and practices within the renewable energy sector, including Solar PV (Photovoltaic systems) and Domestic Heat Pumps. With increasing emphasis on sustainability in construction, these skills provide a competitive edge for graduates, enabling them to work in traditional construction roles as well as in the growing green energy sector.

In conclusion, the options for further education and training in Laois and Offaly through LOETB are diverse, flexible, and tailored to meet the needs of both learners and employers. Whether students are seeking to continue their studies, embark on an apprenticeship, or enter the workforce, LOETB provides a range of pathways designed to ensure success. Studying locally has never been more accessible for those in Laois and Offaly.



What is Barretstown?

Barretstown offers free therapeutic programmes at our unique specially designed campus in County Kildare, and through outreach programmes in schools and hospitals throughout Ireland, for children and their families living with cancer and other serious illness.

Childhood stops for seriously ill children.



What is the Barretstown Residential TY Programme?

This programme is an opportunity for students to develop leadership, communications, decision making and problem-solving skills. Students will strengthen class bonds through team building activities and challenges.

This immersive programme gives TY students an insight into the services that Barretstown offer.

Programme Details

- Develop social responsibility by working together towards a fundraising target
- Develop understanding of challenges faced by families with serious illness
- Learn about decision making and problem solving
- Opportunity to develop self-awareness and reflection skills
- Take part in challenges to promote team building and self discovery



This year Barretstown - with the wonderful help from people like you, is celebrating 30 years offering free, specially designed camps and programmes for children and young people living with cancer and other serious illness, and their families.

Thank you for making this possible.

Find out more
www.barretstown.org

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Visit Coláiste Dhúlaigh College of Further Education during College Awareness Week Open Day

COLÁISTE Dhúlaigh College of Further Education are holding their Open Day on Thursday 21st November, during College Awareness Week. All are welcome to attend this interactive event in CDCFE's Coolock campus.

Coláiste Dhúlaigh offers more than 70 courses across its three campuses in Coolock, Raheny and Kilbarrack in north Dublin. With 13 faculty departments, CDCFE offers a broad range of programmes in disciplines such as Media & Animation, Science & Technology, Nursing, Performing Arts, Business & Tourism, Art & Design, Hairdressing and more.

As well as Post Leaving Certificate courses for school leavers, CDCFE also provides qualifications at QQI levels 4, 5, & 6 as well as the National Hairdressing Apprenticeship, Work-based Traineeship programmes, BA degree in Animation and a selection of part-time day and evening courses.

Most courses charge a €50 registration fee for the year, making it an attractive option for students. Mature students, and anyone looking to return to education are welcome to apply for enrolment. CAO points are not necessary for entry to a course, although there may be minimum subject requirements.

Why choose Coláiste Dhúlaigh?

Students receive a personal learning experience from supportive tutors in a relaxed environment. Curriculums are majority continuous assessment, taking exam stress out. CDCFE has excellent progression routes to higher education through the CAO system, as well as links with University of Wolverhampton to BA degree level in the area of Animation.

The Erasmus+ mobility programme allows students the opportunity to study abroad with our international partners in Corsica, Spain and Italy. PLC courses are an affordable option for students who are unsure of their future career path and would like to try out a subject area before committing to a full degree. Qualifications also provide a route into higher education for students who did not meet CAO entry requirements for university.

For students who want to do a practical course, CDCFE offers work-based learning through its Traineeship programmes. These courses provide a work placement with CDCFE's industry partners. Traineeships are available in the areas of Tourism & Hospitality, Logistics & Forklift Training, Outdoor Adventure Management, Nutrition & Lifestyle Coaching and TV & Film with Audio Practices.

Coláiste Dhúlaigh also offers the National Hairdressing Apprenticeship, which allows participants to earn while they learn. Apprentices work in a professional salon four

days a week, and study at CDCFE's fully equipped salon "Cabello" on one day, allowing them the chance to become qualified hairdressers. The NHA is the only fully recognised international hairdressing qualification.


Most courses charge a €50 registration fee for the year, making it an attractive option for students. Mature students, and anyone looking to return to education are welcome to apply for enrolment.

Part time day courses

CDCFE's part time day courses are funded through the government's Back to Education Initiative (BTEI), which offers participants the chance to gain certification in areas like Early Learning & Care (ELC), Healthcare, Barbering, ESOL, Entrepreneurship, Horticulture, Youth Activity Worker and Café & Deli Skills with Barista Training. Graduates of these programmes can progress into employment, or onto further and higher education.

The Skills to Advance programme at Coláiste Dhúlaigh CFE provides government-subsidised training courses for employers who want to upskill their workforce. CDCFE can offer bespoke programmes based on employers' needs, for example in Health & Safety, Healthcare Skills, Digital Marketing etc.

For more information about all the courses that Coláiste Dhúlaigh CFE provides, follow them on social media or see more at www.cdcfe.ie.



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Open Day - Thursday 21st November

Coolock Campus: Barryscourt Road, Coolock, Dublin 17. D17 T227



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Equally
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Springboard to Success

Why Sallynoggin College should be your students' first choice

FOR students in Leaving Cert Year deciding what to put on their CAO can be challenging. Faced with a broad choice of options and unsure where their interests and talents lie, many students opt for courses which are popular or in vogue rather than what will suit them.

The latest HEA Student Progression Data shows that in 2021/22 the non-progression rate from first to second year was 15% (13% in females and 18% in males). That's almost 7,000 students dropping out of a college course, which can carry a considerable financial cost as well as negatively affecting the student's self-esteem and confidence.

Guidance counsellors play a pivotal role in shaping the future of secondary school leavers. When it comes to exploring career options and charting an educational path, Further Education offers students an opportunity to explore their interests and grow in confidence, while gaining valuable skills and qualifications. In Sallynoggin College of Further Education (SCFE) we see how completing a PLC opens so many doors for our students.

SCFE: A Gateway to Diverse Opportunities

SCFE offers a variety of Level 5 and 6 courses across various disciplines, perfect for students undecided on their dream career. Unlike the traditional academic route, SCFE provides a hands-on learning experience with practical skills development.

This experience, as evidenced by Stephen Joyce's story, equips students with a strong foundation for higher education.

Success Stories Speak Volumes

After completing his Level 5 in Social Studies in SCFE in 2023, Stephen received several CAO offers to study Psychology. Stephen decided to enrol in UCD's Open Learning Programme which allowed him to progress to the BSc in Psychology in UCD.

As Stephen says "SCFE gave me amazing experiences—from trips to the District Court to an Erasmus in

When it comes to exploring career options and charting an educational path, Further Education offers students an opportunity to explore their interests and grow in confidence



Stephen Joyce with Teacher Steven Foley, receiving his Erasmus Certificate in Porto

Portugal. The teachers were always there when I needed help, and they played a key role in my progression to UCD's Psychology program."

Stephen's journey is just one example of how SCFE supports students from all walks of life in discovering their true calling. Like Stephen, Ayoub Deboub also found his path in an unexpected field.

From Uncertainty to Sporting Success:

Ayoub's story showcases SCFE's inclusivity. After exploring different career paths, he found his passion in fitness through SCFE's QQI Level 5 Fitness Instruction and Exercise Science course.

Ayoub then continued to our Level 6 Personal Training, Strength and Conditioning course. These courses, with their group projects and diverse learning environment, helped Ayoub develop the confidence to pursue his dream of studying Sport & Exercise Management at UCD.

Ayoub's story is a testament to SCFE's commitment to empowering students of all backgrounds to achieve their goals.

Alannah Kavanagh: Finding Her Calling

Alannah's experience in SCFE's Early Learning and Care program highlights the college's role in nurturing future educators. The program's supportive faculty and practical learning approach provided a solid foundation for Alannah's pursuit of a

With its focus on exploration, practical training, and student success, Sallynoggin College of Further Education is the ideal first step for motivated secondary school leavers and the perfect launchpad for their bright futures



Alannah and classmate Tori gathering nature materials in grounds of SCFE

degree in Early Childhood Education at TUD.

In Alannah's words "Studying in SCFE for two years was one of the best decisions of my life. When I chose Early Learning and Care I had no idea what it would entail and I'm so grateful for the opportunities and experiences it has led me too. The teachers on the course were always helpful and supportive. Now that I'm in TUD studying Early Childhood Education I know that it's exactly where I'm supposed to be".

Beyond Academics: Building Well-Rounded Individuals

SCFE goes beyond academics. The college fosters a sense of community and provides opportunities for per-

sonal growth. These experiences help students develop soft skills like teamwork, communication, and adaptability – essential qualities for success in any career path.

Why Choose SCFE?

- Wide range of industry-relevant courses at Certificate and Diploma levels.
- Experienced and supportive faculty dedicated to student success.
- Focus on practical skills and real-world experience through trips, guest speakers, and industry placements.
- Strong links with universities and higher education institutes facilitating smooth progression.
- Inclusive and supportive environment catering to students of all

SCFE goes beyond academics. The college fosters a sense of community and provides opportunities for personal growth

Through our close collaboration with employers and industry groups, SCFE continues to ensure that our courses are up to date, relevant and future-proofed



Ayoub Deboub at his Graduation from UCD

backgrounds and abilities.

With its focus on exploration, practical training, and student success, Sallynoggin College of Further Education is the ideal first step for motivated secondary school leavers and the perfect launchpad for their bright futures.

SCFE - Your Choice for a Broad Range of Career Opportunities

SCFE is a College of Further Education under the patronage of DDLETB. We provide courses to school leavers and mature students in a broad variety of areas from Childcare to Social Studies, Fashion, Art and Floristry, Hairdressing & Beauty, Travel and Tourism, Performing Arts and Musical Theatre and Fitness and Wellbeing.

Through our close collaboration with employers and industry groups, SCFE continues to ensure that our courses are up to date, relevant and future-proofed to give our students the edge in their chosen field.

To find out more about any of our courses, check out our website www.scfe.ie. Our Course Coordinators are available to answer specific questions about individual courses, and their contact details are listed on each course page. Apply online at www.scfe.ie or contact Reception@scfe.ie Tel: 01 285 2997.

We also invite you to visit our next Open Day on 15th January 2025.

For further information, visit the SCFE website: <https://www.scfe.ie/>

Feature

Low Artificial Intelligence adoption and slower uptake by local Irish companies

Artificial Intelligence will be a key technology in the coming years and Ireland's capabilities in the area will be guided by demand from employers for AI skills.

There are going to be winners and losers, opportunities and threats.

Griffith College's Michael-Philippe Bosonnet looks at where Ireland stands in AI adoption

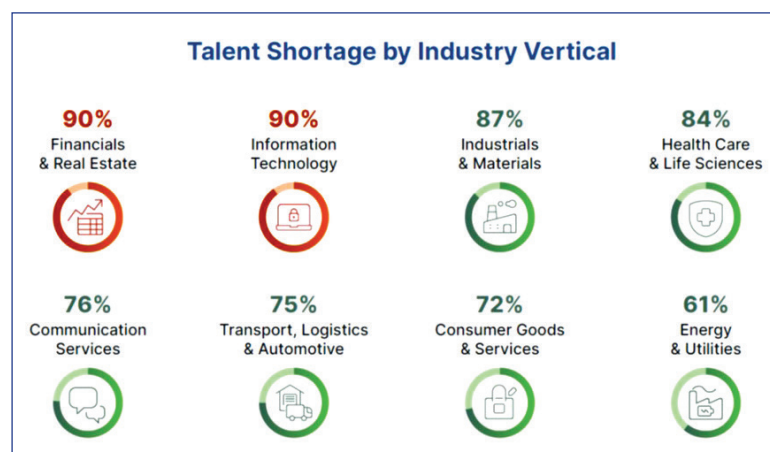
A RECENT Microsoft Report in collaboration with Trinity College highlights that nearly half (49 per cent) of Irish organisations are already utilising generative Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly in sectors such as technology and media.

However, the same report points to a need for addressing the skills gap, many indigenous firms lag behind multinationals in adoption, with sectors like agriculture and transport trailing further.

In our own experience in the Griffith Innovation Hub working with SMEs around Ireland, there is a very broad spectrum of AI knowledge from highly competent to fundamental know-how. This is across industries and sectors. The European Commission is on a Deep Tech mission, aiming to have 1 million citizens trained in AI using the Deep Tech Talent Initiative by 2025. Similarly, 2024 is the year of skills and there is no skill more in demand than AI.

Uncertainty and low adoption rates rule despite ubiquity of AI

A survey of 79,000 businesses by Peninsula Group



By
Michael-Philippe Bosonnet
Research and Development
Director with
Griffith College

quoted by RTÉ revealed that over 50 per cent of Irish, Australian, and Canadian employers are unsure of the impact of AI and as a result the percentage of use is low.

Only 10 per cent of Irish SMEs are using AI regularly. Security concerns dominate the reluctance to use AI. While many leaders recognise AI's potential for productivity and innovation, formal AI strategies remain limited, with few companies implementing an AI-first approach. The same report states one-third of employers believe AI has to potential to have a positive transformative effect on the business.

Innovation versus Regulation

There is optimism that Ireland, as a tech hub, can capitalise on AI to drive regional economic growth. Key barriers to adoption include a skills shortage, economic concerns, workforce resistance, and regulatory challenges.

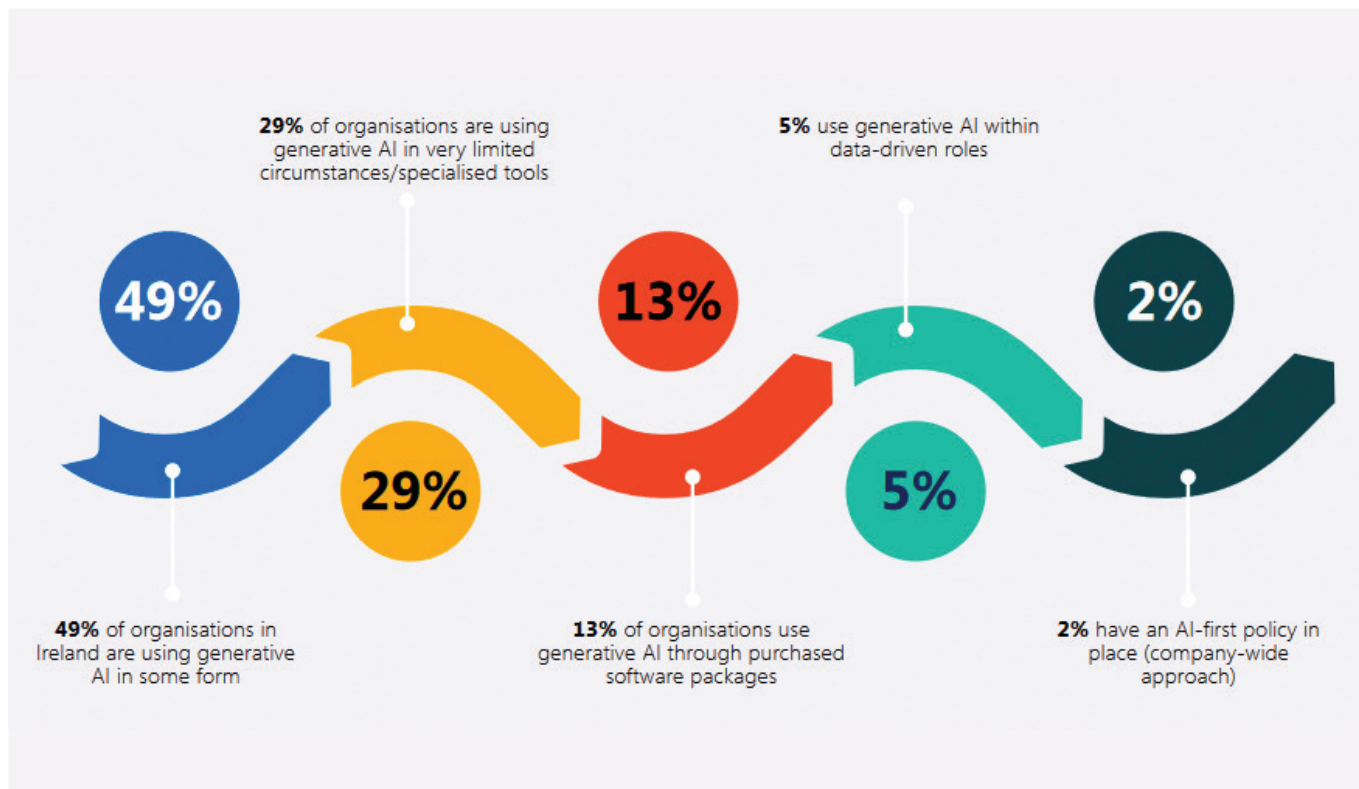
While some sectors have made progress, Irish SMEs, in particular, are hesitant to adopt AI. To combat security concerns government forums, such as The Enterprise Digital Advisory Forum supporting the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment DETE discuss the plan for establishing an AI regulatory sandbox to ensure compliance while fostering innovation.

Ireland is considered a strong innovator in Europe according to the Regional Innovation Scoreboard. However, it is well reported that the EU faces innovation challenges due to the perception of curbing technology with regulation.

Skills Shortage and Workforce Challenges

Another major barrier to AI adoption in Ireland is the lack of available talent here. IBM's Institute for Business Value indicates that many companies face high costs and have a significant challenge to upskill their existing workforce.

The shortage of AI talent has contributed to the slower



Generative AI in Ireland 2024 - Adoption Rates and Trends: A Report by Microsoft Ireland and Trinity College Dublin.

pace of AI adoption in Ireland also. Without sufficient targeted reskilling and upskilling initiatives, Irish industries will continue to fall behind in AI integration.

Workforce Resistance and Organisational Concerns

ManpowerGroup Q4 outlook 2024 Ireland report AI implementation is increasing due to a greater demand for AI specialists, however, 90 per cent of businesses in the tech sector are having difficulty filling the roles.

Gender Disparities in AI Adoption

Women are particularly vulnerable to job displacement due to AI, especially in sectors like administration. The Irish Independent states that women are disproportionately vulnerable in roles that are at risk from negative AI impacts, such as customer service.

This gender disparity complicates the decision-making process for businesses as they consider the social implications of AI-driven automation.

However, the research from Peninsula Group shows that 40 per cent of employers believe their people are irreplaceable in the business.

Positive Outlook and Potential Growth

Overall, despite the challenges, there is optimism about AI's potential. 51 per cent of companies surveyed by ManpowerGroup Q3 AI Attitudes Survey expect AI to increase headcount, particularly in the Energy Sector, which will see much of the growth in employment in the next decade in Ireland.

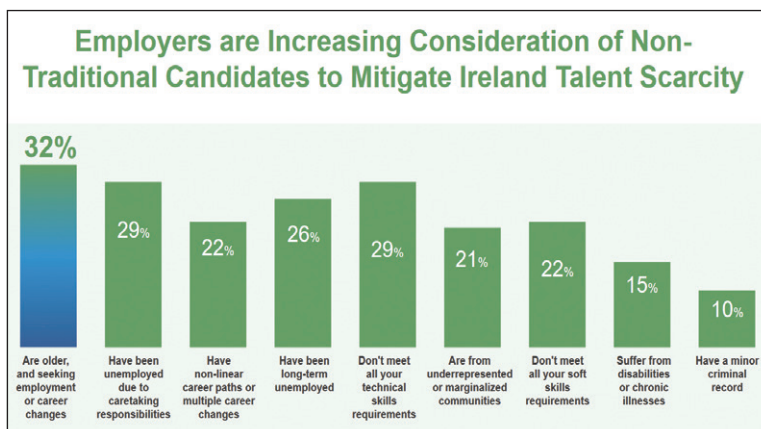
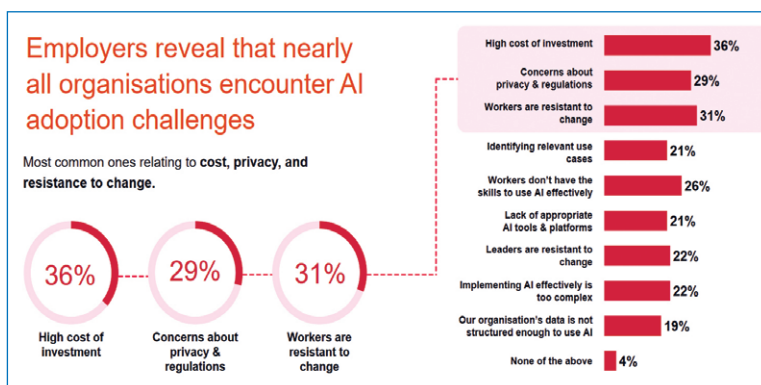


Figure 5. Manpower Group Talent Shortage Report 2024



ManpowerGroup AI Attitudes Survey Q3 2024 Ireland

References: | IBM's Institute for Business Value Report, The CEOs Guide to Generative AI | <https://www.ibm.com/thought-leadership/institute-business-value/en-us/report/ceo-generative-ai/tech-spend>
 | ManpowerGroup Q3 Outlook Ireland 2024 | <https://www.manpowergroup.ie/blog/2024/06/majority-of-irish-employers-think-ai-will-result-in-more-jobs-not-less?source=google.com>
 | ManpowerGroup Q4 2024 Ireland Outlook | <https://www.manpower.ie/article/ireland-q4-employment-outlook-report-just-released?filter=3&filteredBy=term> | Peninsula Group as Quoted in RTÉ, 5 country AI survey
 | <https://employersure.com.au/media-releases/employersure-ai-business-survey> | The Irish Independent, Nearly a Third of jobs negatively exposed to AI <https://www.independent.ie/business/irish/nearly-a-third-of-jobs-negatively-exposed-to-ai-while-women-and-younger-workers-face-biggest-risk-department-of-finance-report-finds/a1560208605.html>
 | Generative AI in Ireland -2024 Trends and Insights, Microsoft <https://pulse.microsoft.com/en-ie/work-productivity-en-ie/na/fa1-generative-ai-adoption-rates-are-on-the-rise-in-workplaces-according-to-our-latest-report-supported-by-trinity-college-dublin/> | Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment Digital Advisory Forum February 2024 <https://enterprise.gov.ie/en/publications/publication-files/enterprise-digital-advisory-forum-29-february-2024.pdf>



A career in getting things moving

ORGANISING, co-ordinating, managing, and moving goods is what logistics and supply chains are all about. They involve planning, implementing, and controlling the movement of products and information.

Logistics and supply chains are integral to every industry in the world and operate around the clock facilitating international and domestic trade in all sectors of the economy.

The industry offers a wide variety of career paths, including operational roles e.g.: picking orders in a warehouse or driving heavy goods vehicles, and management and supervisory roles primarily based in the office that involve developing and implementing logistics plans, analyses and optimisation of logistics

frameworks.

In addition to competitive salaries, logistics and supply chain careers offer opportunities for advancement, and career growth as well as opportunities for international travel.

Critical thinking and problem-solving skills are vital for anyone looking to pursue a career in this vibrant and fast-paced industry.

Earn as you learn

The 'Earn as you learn' Logistics Associate Apprenticeship (LAA) offers career and education options for school leavers and mature students who prefer paid, on-the-job training while studying for a qualification over a full-time college course.

There are 120 companies registered with the programme that offer

"There are 120 companies registered with the programme that offer placements throughout Ireland... and 375 apprentices have been enrolled since the program was launched in 2018"

placements throughout Ireland, representing manufacturing, warehousing, distribution, shipping, and freight forwarding sectors and 375 apprentices have been enrolled since the program was launched in 2018.

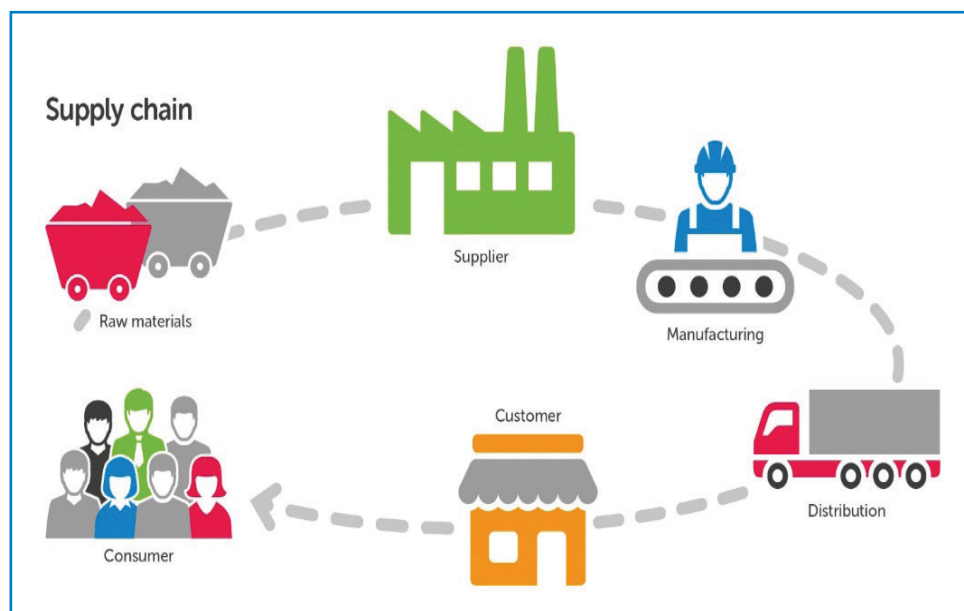
How does the logistics apprenticeship work?

The LAA is a two-year programme providing academic education and practical on-the-job training across the logistics industries. Apprentices enter a contract of 2 years duration, where they will work on a full-time basis with an employer while being paid a salary and spend one day a week with (MTU) Munster Technological University Cork Campus or TU Dublin City campus for their academic studies.

Successful completion of the apprenticeship will lead to a QQI Level 6 Award on the NFQ - Higher Certificate in Logistics.

From that point, there are many routes of progression into Level 7 and even Level 8-degree courses which is one of many key strengths of this programme. Throughout the apprenticeship journey, apprentices acquire the knowledge, skills, and competencies to carry out the core tasks and responsibilities within the logistics sector and upon completion of the program are fully equipped to progress into professional employment.

As part of the programme apprentices complete a work-based project in year 2, which will help them to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills, and which will also





directly benefit the employing organisations. In addition to project work, the apprentices complete a variety of industry modules developed by the LAA consortium throughout program, which are then assessed to achieve certification.

For those seeking a career in this field, an apprenticeship is undoubtedly an attractive option. The apprentice gets an overview of the profession, gains practical work experience, and acquires the necessary qualifications while earning a salary.

What are the Apprenticeship entry requirements?

- H7/O6 or above in five leaving certificate (or equivalent) subjects. A minimum of grade O6 must be obtained in English. A minimum of grade O6 or a B2 or above in Foundation level must be obtained in mathematics
- Holders of a QQI Level 5 or Level 6 (or equivalent) in cognate areas
- Applicants may also be eligible to become apprentices via Recognition of Prior Learning

Interested in applying for the apprenticeship?

The next apprenticeship intake will take place in September 2024, and employers are already beginning their recruitment drives.

The first step toward becoming an apprentice is to register your interest at www.laa.ie or to contact us by email: info@laa.ie

Upon registering, you will receive an information pack containing tips on finding job placement and a list of registered companies as well as email notifications of apprenticeship position openings

More information can be found at www.laa.ie

Testimonials from Logistics Apprentices:

Sarah Ryan

Logistic Apprentice, Hamilton Shipping

My interest in logistics attracted me to the Logistics Associate Apprenticeship.

The best part of the apprenticeship is working with industry experts who provide mentoring throughout the programme.

As part of my role, I am responsible for Imports and exports in both air and sea freight, and I'm gaining vast experience as I learn more about these aspects of freight forwarding.

The Logistics Associate Apprenticeship is a great way to earn while you learn, gain work experience, and get to experience life at a college at the same time. Anyone considering a career in logistics should consider this apprenticeship.

Shane Buckley

Logistics & Supply Chain Apprentice. DPD Ireland

I decided to Join the Logistics Associate Apprenticeship as I wanted to further my career in the logistics world, and I thought that the apprenticeship would be the best way to do it.

The apprenticeship is a great way to learn and obtain an Industry qualification while earning a salary at the same time.

Anyone who wants to advance a career in logistics should consider this programme and I highly recommend it.

Kevin Casey

Logistics Apprentice, DSV

As a Working professional, I decided that the Apprenticeship would be the best way for me to broaden my knowledge, enhance my skills, and earn a qualification in logistics that will benefit both my career development and my employer.

Throughout my apprenticeship journey, my employer has been very supportive and encouraging. Being able to attend college one day a week during working hours, and being reimbursed for my annual college registration fees by my employer, has given me a sense of great value as an employee.

The programme provides apprentices the opportunity to develop their skills, learn about the industry, and put what they have learned in college into practice in their workplace.

I highly recommend the Logistics Associate Apprenticeship programme to both future candidates and logistics companies.



LOGISTICS ASSOCIATE APPRENTICESHIP



The Logistics Associate Apprenticeship is a Level 6 Higher Certificate in Logistics and is the first of the industry-led programmes to be delivered by Technological University Dublin and Munster Technological University.

BENEFIT OF RECRUITING APPRENTICES FOR EMPLOYERS

- Suitably skilled recruits
- Upskilling existing workforce
- Attracting new people to the freight distribution and logistics sector
- Develop internal agencies
- Build loyalty and reduce staff turnover
- Help with succession planning
- The programme is built around work-related experience and work specific projects

BENEFITS FOR APPRENTICES

- Level 6 Award 'Higher Certificate in Logistics'
- Internationally Recognised Qualification
- 'Earn as you Learn'
- Personal Development
- Excellent Career Opportunities
- Getting Third Level Education
- Gaining valuable 'on the job experience'

i

MINIMUM ENTRY REQUIREMENTS ARE A GRADE H7/O6 OR ABOVE IN FIVE LEAVING CERTIFICATE (OR EQUIVALENT) SUBJECTS.

ELIGIBILITY VIA RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING (RPL)

THE COORDINATING TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROVIDERS FOR THIS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMME ARE TU DUBLIN AND MTU.

THE LEAD PROPOSER IS FREIGHT TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION IRELAND (FTAI).










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info@laa.ie
www.laa.ie

Transport Operations and Commercial Driving Apprenticeship



THERE has been an increase in apprenticeship programmes across every sector in recent years, and with the launch of the Transport Operations & Commercial Driving apprenticeship, the transport sector is no different.

Industry heads hope that this training programme will go some way towards changing the perception of commercial driving as a profession, through creating awareness in schools by informing parents and career guidance counsellors of the varied driving roles within the freight distribution sector which offer rewarding and challenging career opportunities.

A huge difference

The programme started in September 2022 with 21 apprentices and Aidan Flynn, Chairperson of the Transport Operations & Commercial Driving Apprenticeship, says it will make a 'huge difference to the industry'.

"This new apprenticeship will serve to be the catalyst to attract young people and vitally more women into our industry to support business growth," he said. "The academic qualification offers validity and value to the profession of driving and it will

"The Transport Operations and Commercial Driving apprenticeship is unique in that it is a fully funded academic qualification as well as covering the costs of HGV driving lessons and driving tests"

support career progression opportunities within the workforce.

"In addition, while the average size haulage business has just over five trucks, this programme can support succession planning, with sons or daughters gaining a business qualification whilst attaining their driving licence and supporting the legacy of their family business.

"Also, having more education and training options in our sector, supported by the collaborative focus of the logistics and supply chain skills forum, will support Irelands ambitions to be leaders in supply chain and logistics."

Great opportunity

Along with benefitting the industry as a whole, this new apprenticeship, which is delivered by ATU Sligo, is also a great opportunity for both participants and employers and since its launch, it has attracted a great deal of interest.

"An apprenticeship is a way for both young people and adult learners to earn while they learn," said Flynn. "The Transport Operations & Commercial Driving Apprenticeship is designed to deliver upon the industry need to attract more entrants to the profession of commercial driving, sow the seed for lifelong learning and support career progression opportunities for the apprentice through the attainment of a Level 6 Higher Certificate in Transport Services and Commercial Driving.

"For an employer, hiring apprentices helps businesses to grow their own talent by developing a motivated, skilled and qualified workforce

– and we have been inundated with enquiries from employers and potential apprentices so we hope that we will see increased numbers starting the apprenticeship year on year."

"To avail of this 'earn as you learn' apprenticeship the apprentice must be in full time employment and the employer must be approved by 'SOLAS' as fit to train apprentices. There are many employers looking to recruit apprentices which is supported by an apprenticeship employer grant of €2,000 per apprentice per year."

Commercial drivers' role

With over 40,000 Irish registered Heavy Goods Vehicles, greater than 3.5 tonnes, on the roads in Ireland, Flynn hopes that this new programme will also raise awareness of the important role commercial drivers play in today's society as they keep supply chains, across all sectors, open and flowing smoothly.

To this end, the new apprenticeship programme, which covers both practical work experience and online learning, is open to both the haulage and own account sector and covers a 'significant variety of roles' including working as a tipper driver for a construction company, delivering fuel to homes, national and international haulage, retail distribution, working in the waste management sector or even the entertainment industry.

"One of the main objectives of any apprenticeship programme is to support a sustainable and skilled workforce for employers and to support career progression opportunities for the apprentices," he said. "In addition, apprenticeships sow the seed for lifelong learning which further supports and enhances the employer's workspace and the employees' ambitions."

According to Flynn, the transport



The official launch of the apprenticeship attended by Simon Harris and Hildegarde Naughton



Induction Day for the first cohort of apprentices at ATU Sligo

and logistics sector has been less successful than others in recruiting younger workers over the years due to many factors 'including a perception that it is made up of predominantly low skilled jobs required to work long hours'.

This, along with a lack of diversity within the profession, is another reason why this new programme is essential.

More women needed

"According to Road Safety Authority data, there are over 200,000 Heavy Goods Vehicle licences issued in Ireland and only 2% are issued to women in both C & CE category - this must change," he said.

"Another concern is that over 60% of HGV full licences holders are over the age of 50 - so the importance of training and education in shaping the image of driving as a profession and attracting younger people into the profession cannot be understated.

"The Earn as you Learn apprenticeship offers great benefits to apprentices and employers alike. College isn't for everyone, and these new apprenticeships offer young people the opportunities to get employment with the added benefit of earning a qualification on the national framework of qualifications at the same time.

"The Transport Operations and Commercial Driving apprenticeship is unique in that it is a fully funded academic qualification as well as covering the costs of HGV driving lessons and driving tests. So, the apprentices will qualify with a higher certificate in Transport Operations and Commercial Driving as well as a Full C & CE Category Driving licence and DRIVER CPC qualifications.

For more information visit www.cdap.ie, email info@cdap.ie or call 018447516



The Transport Operations & Commercial Driving Apprenticeship provides the academic qualification and practical training and work experience that supports a vibrant and exciting career in the freight distribution and logistics sector. Apprentices will also receive expert driving lessons and training in advance of completing their C/CE driving test and attaining the Driver CPC qualification.

The academic award for this apprenticeship is a Higher Certificate (NFQ level 6) in Business in Transport Services and is the first qualification on the national framework of qualifications (NFQ) linked to the profession of commercial driving!

Benefits for Apprentices

- ✓ QQI Level 6 Award 'Higher Certificate in Transport Operations & Commercial Driving'.
- ✓ Internationally recognised qualification.
- ✓ Earn as you Learn.
- ✓ Two year employment contract leading to permanent position.
- ✓ Gaining valuable on the job experience and workplace skills.
- ✓ Excellent Career Opportunities in the vibrant sector.

Benefits of recruiting apprentices for Employers

- ✓ Attracts new entrants into the business.
- ✓ Increases pool of qualified people within the business.
- ✓ Help with succession planning.
- ✓ The programme is built around work related experience and work specific projects.
- ✓ Apprenticeship State Grant for employers of apprentices €4,000 funding.

Minimum Entry Requirements

- Hold a Full 'B' Driver Licence.
- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Meet medical requirements for driving.
- Minimum entry requirements are a grade H7/O6 or above in five Leaving Certificate (or equivalent) subjects.
 - A minimum of grade O6 must be obtained in English.
 - A minimum of grade O6 or a B2 or above in Foundation level must be obtained in Mathematics.
- Holders of a QQI Level 5 or Level 6 (or equivalent) in cognate areas (eg business, logistics and distribution, supply chain management, etc.) can apply for entry onto year 1 of the programme.
- A mature candidate, over the age of 23, who does not hold qualifications as set out above, but who:
 - Has a minimum of two years' experience working as a commercial driver.
 - Is recommended by their employer.
 - Demonstrates the correct attitudes, behaviours and literacy skills.

The Coordinating training and education provider for this apprenticeship programme is Atlantic Technological University Sligo (ATU Sligo)
The lead proposer is the Freight Transport Association Ireland (FTAI)

Twitter: @commdriver1 www.cdap.ie

Tel: 01 8447516

A secure platform to manage school admissions

MIT are a trusted partner of schools and colleges in Ireland for over 15 years and are part of the Department of Education Framework to provide all schools and colleges in Ireland with an Online Payments Platform.

As an Education Technology company, MIT Education Solutions have been working with schools and colleges in Ireland for over 15 years.

We are a trusted partner to over 200+ Education institutes, providing them with best-of-breed business & technology solutions specifically designed for the Education sector. Our flagship product, eNROL™ the MIT Online Enrolment & Admissions Management Platform, has been in use by schools and colleges in Ireland for 15 years and is the market leader in this sector.

Our product portfolio includes:

- Education Technology Consulting
- Admissions Management
- Student Management
- Payment Solutions
- Learning Management Platform for College Staff members
- Cyber Security Services for Education

MIT are part of the Department of Education Procurement Framework to provide all schools in Ireland with a Payments Platform. This was a European tender and MIT were awarded the tender based on the features, functionality, and importantly, the security of the platform.

Our Payments Platform has passed all of the stringent EU procurement tests to ensure a college using our platform is compliant with all Irish and International laws pertaining to

Online Payments data protection and security, which ensures and guarantees the reputation of your College.

The system has been audited and vetted to the highest standards for security and functionality, so you know your data is safe and secure.

eNROL™ – Admissions Management for Second Level Schools

Since the introduction of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018, school management have been looking to MIT to provide them with a secure, robust, reliable, and efficient Online Enrolment and Admissions Management Platform.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy.

The Education Act 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to admit a student. Therefore, it is important for schools to record and retain an audit trail of all applications and the criteria under which places are offered.

The MIT Admissions platform, designed in partnership with Second Level schools, adheres to the strict requirements of the Act, and ensures your school or college remains compliant, while providing an easy-to-use applications process and online form for parents and guardians.

"The MIT Admissions system has made a huge difference to how we manage our college. It's a very user friendly and highly time-effective tool for any School.

"I would especially like to thank the MIT support team for always being so supportive and for always listening to our feedback."

*Administration Team,
Adamstown Community College*

Online Application

Parents can apply online using a computer, laptop, or smart phone based on your schools unique admissions criteria and according to your admissions policy. They can upload the requisite documentation and make payment (where required) all via a responsive modern User Interface.

Communications Management

The comprehensive communications module allows the school to communicate electronically with parents via email, SMS, and in-system, while providing you with a robust audit trail and reporting system. Parents will receive electronic notifications to keep them updated during the entire process and will be able to respond directly to Accept (or refuse) their place.

Offer Management

All applications are automatically filtered against the specific school admissions criteria such as catchment area, siblings in the school, or feeder schools attended for instance, making it easy for your admissions team to be able to sort and make offers based on the key selection criteria.

Over-Subscription

Where a school is oversubscribed and receives more applications than

places, the MIT Admissions platform allows you to manage your offers and waiting lists efficiently.

All applications received before the closing date are identified and each application is date & time stamped for reporting purposes. In the event of a tie in the selection process, the system contains a secure, industry-standard random list generator where a school wishes to run a lottery-based system.

Online Payments

Because MIT are on the Department Framework Agreement to provide all schools with secure payment solutions, our integrated Payments Platform allows parents to make online payments securely during the admissions process, where required.

Reporting & Audit Trail

The eNROL™ Platform provides you with a full audit trail and reporting module to record all communications and decisions, making it a simple task to generate reports in the event of any queries. The system saves a school weeks of manual work, and ensures your school is compliant with all parts of the Education Act, including prepara-

tion for any Section 29 Appeals.

Integration with MIS

Our systems integrate with the major Student Information Systems (SIS) in Irish schools and all applications data can be easily imported from the MIT system into your school management database negating the requirement to re-input the data.

Training & Support Services

MIT provide a 'turnkey' solution where we work with you at all stages to ensure you get the most from your systems. From initial consultation to deployment, staff training, and ongoing operational support our qualified team are here to assist you all the way.

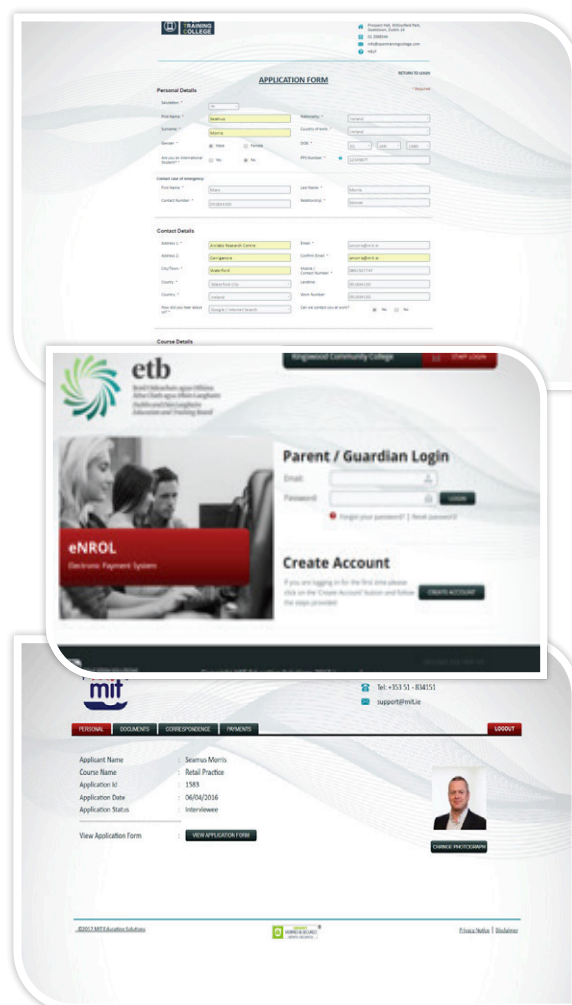
Contact Details

If you would like to learn more about the MIT eNROL™ Online Enrolment & Admissions Management Platform, please contact us directly via email on sales@mit.ie or by calling our offices on 051 834150 for a review of your specific requirements in relation to Admissions Management.

Contact: Seamus Morris

Tel: 086 1537747

Website: www.mit.ie



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We provide education technology solutions to help schools and colleges accelerate their digital transformation.

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Food Science
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📍 Colaiste Caoimhin, Mobhi Road, Dublin 9

🌐 www.whitehallcollege.com

APPLICATIONS:
www.whitehallcollege.com



Whitehall College

Education for All

SINCE Whitehall College was established in 1970, it has developed a reputation for its pro-active and innovative approach to provide excellent education and training opportunities.

Situated in Coláiste Caoimhín on St Mobhi Road it offers a fantastic range of courses designed to give students the skills necessary for progression to employment or progression to Higher Education.

Whitehall College has great links with local Universities where learners progress to various third level courses through the links scheme or through direct entry.

Reputation

Whitehall College of Further Education and Training has a long standing reputation in providing courses in Business, Information Technology, Social Care, Education and Training and ESOL.

We have also introduced two new

programmes in Pre-University Law and Ophthalmic Assistant which started in September 2024

A course in Whitehall College of Further Education is one of the most adaptable foundations for which you could ask. The investment you make in your future now can bring huge rewards in terms of career success and personal confidence.

We are constantly reviewing our programmes to update and improve while making sure that students gain thinking skills analytical frameworks, interpersonal and communication skills which will be advantageous to them in the future.

Supportive

We also ensure to provide students with a supportive and welcoming environment in which they will be encouraged to develop themselves personally and professionally.

We prepare students for a bright

Whitehall College has great links with local Universities where learners progress to various third level courses through the links scheme or through direct entry

and positive future in the world of work or further educational study.

Sales Apprenticeship

Whitehall College is delighted to announce that due to overwhelming interest and demand, we are running the Sales Apprenticeship programme for a third year in a row.

This is a 2-year programme in Sales and Marketing (Level 6 QQI) with blended mode of delivery – learners are 85% in the workplace and 15% workshops or online.

This programme is fully funded for apprentices with no fees and employers are eligible for a grant of 2k for any apprentice per year.

We are currently recruiting for our 3rd class group which commences in February 2025.

For more information and to learn more about our College go to www.whitehallcollege.com or email info@whitehallcfe.cdetsb.ie

National Sales Apprenticeship

Announcing the National Sales Apprenticeship Launch at Whitehall College of Further Education.

Apply Online! www.apprenticeship.ie



Innovative 2 - year Level 6 programme - Advanced Certificate in Sales

- Industry led programme
- 'On the job' training
- Fully funded - no fees for apprentices
- €2k Grant for employers

Register now if you are:

- An employer interested in taking on an apprentice
- Interested in a career in sales as an apprentice

For further information contact - info@whitehallcfe.cdetsb.ie or (01) 8376011

Registration Now Open
Course begins February 2025



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

**YOU CAN BE MORE, YOU CAN BE
QUALIFIED IN A TRADE OR SKILL, YOU
CAN BE A BETTER, STRONGER PERSON.**

[BE MORE]

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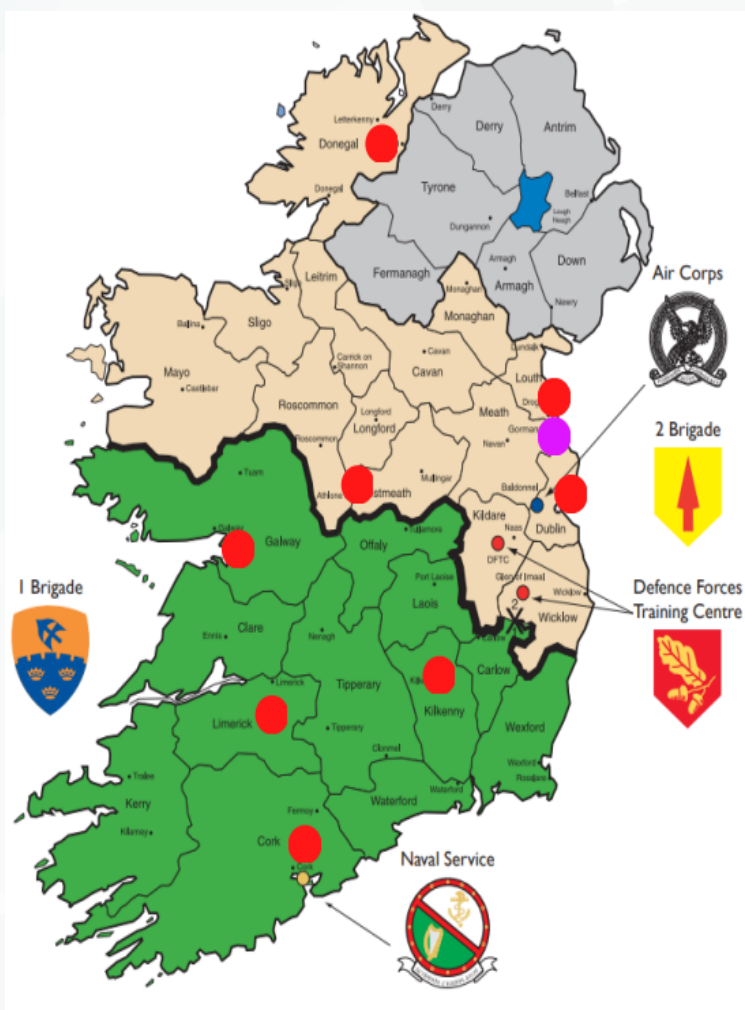
Óglaigh
na hÉireann
IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

Irish Defence Forces General Service

Breaking News...

There are new age requirements for General Service Recruitment into the
Irish Defence Forces for
Army Recruit | Naval Service Recruit | Air Corps Recruit

Applicants must not be less than 18 years of age and under 29 years of age at the time of application.
The Irish Defence Forces recruit Army, Air Corps, and Naval Service recruits all year round.



Where are our units located?

ARMY UNITS

1 Brigade

Galway
Limerick
Cork
Kilkenny

2 Brigade

Dublin
Louth
Meath
Westmeath
Donegal

DFTC

(Defence Forces Training Centre)
Kildare

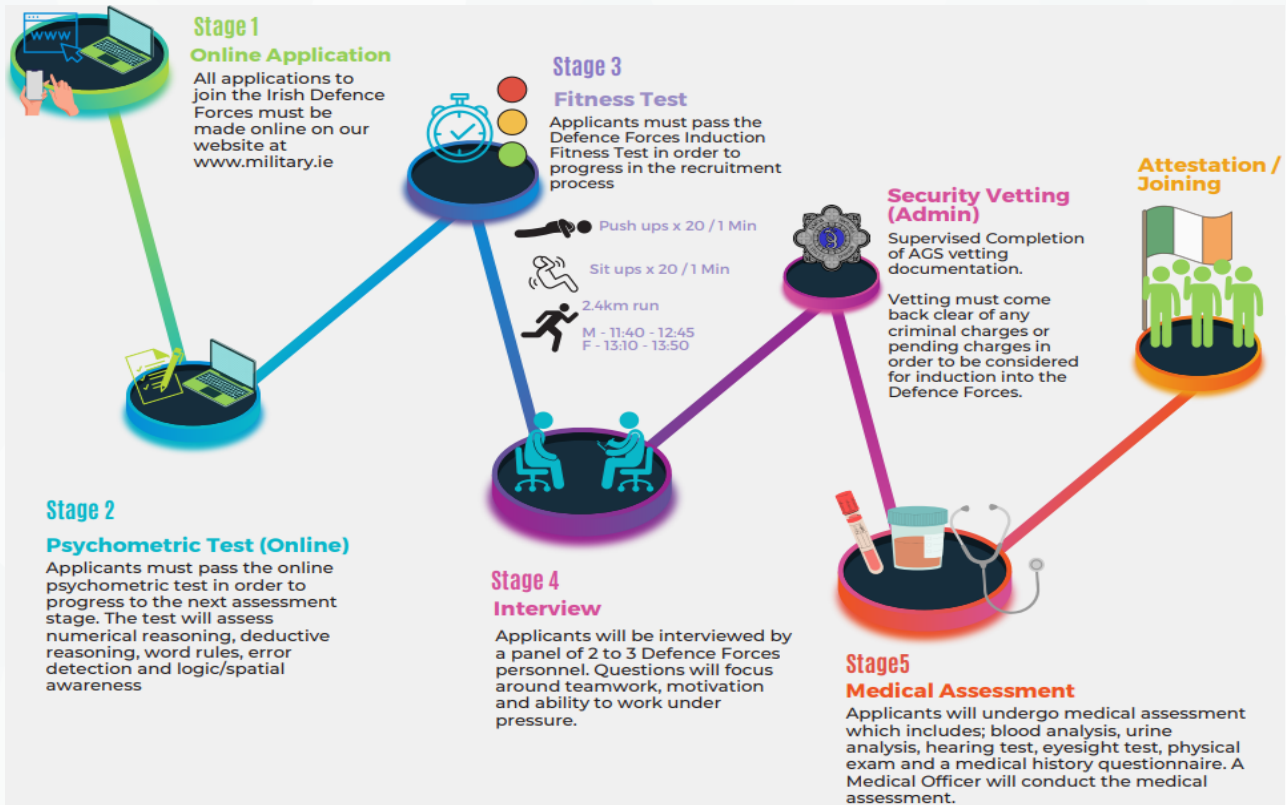
AIR CORPS UNITS

Dublin

NAVAL SERVICE UNITS

Cork

Application Process



Recruit Training Overview

THE Recruit Training syllabus is designed to produce physically fit, disciplined and motivated Two Star Privates, Naval Service Able Rates, and Air Corps Airwomen/ Airmen, with basic military skills. Recruit training is the foundation of all military training.

It is approximately 12 weeks in duration. On successful completion of Recruit Training, the trained Recruit will then take on a further 12 weeks of training in their respective service. This training will be specific to their chosen service. Recruit training is broken down into four phases:

1. Induction Period
2. Introductory Training Period
3. Tactical Training Period
4. Final Training Period

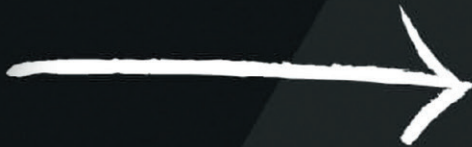




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DEFENCE FORCES RECRUITMENT INFO!

ARMY | NAVAL SERVICE | AIR CORPS



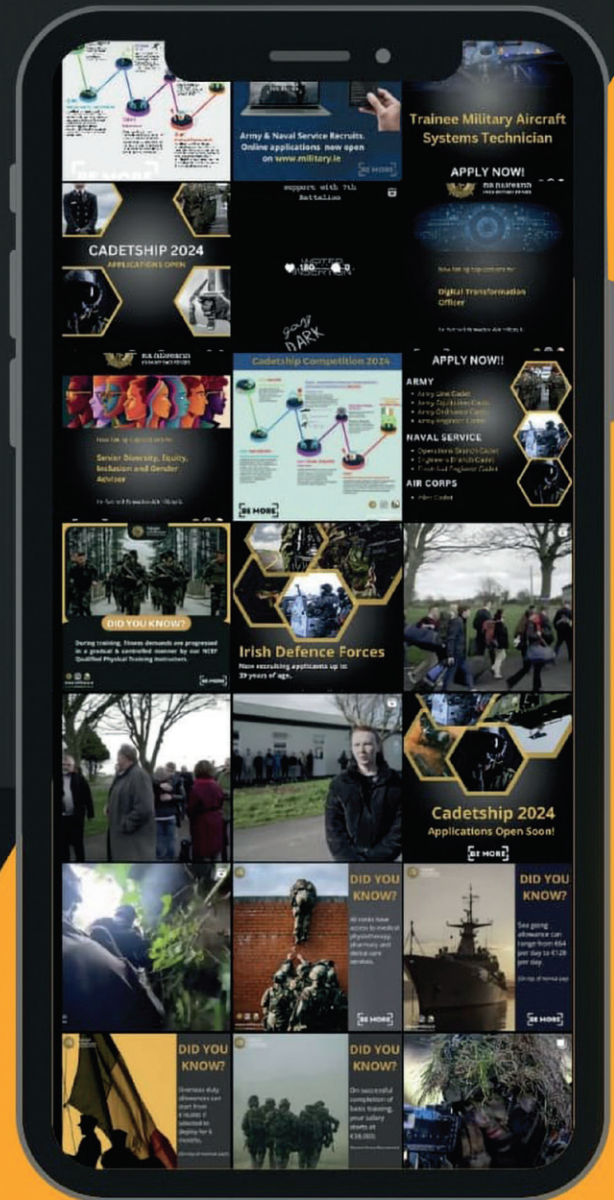
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UL graduate's scalp cooling device for chemotherapy patients wins Dyson award

A UNIVERSITY of Limerick graduate has won a top national design award for a device that can help chemotherapy patients who are at risk of hair loss.

Olivia Humphreys (24) from Pallasgreen, Co Limerick has won the award for 'Athena', a portable and accessible scalp-cooling device for cancer sufferers undergoing chemotherapy.

Olivia, who recently graduated with a degree in Product Design and Technology from UL's Faculty of Science and Engineering, developed the device as part of her final year project. The prize comes with an award of €5,800 from the James Dyson Foundation.

The UL graduate had witnessed how upsetting it is for patients who face losing their hair during chemotherapy when her mother was sadly affected by cancer in 2019. Spending time with her mother during her treatment inspired Olivia to reimagine the way scalp-cooling can be done.

Scalp cooling is intended to help prevent hair loss, known as chemotherapy-induced alopecia, for people undergoing chemotherapy.

It works by limiting blood flow to the scalp. This can reduce the amount of chemo treatment that reaches the head, in turn protecting hair follicles from the chemo drugs.

Olivia noticed the shortage of scalp-cooling machines in the hospital her mother was in, as well as how limited the existing solutions were. Current products require the patient to arrive 30 minutes early and stay for 90 minutes after treatment. Athena offers a solution through its cost-effectiveness and portability, without compromise on quality.

Powered by a thermoelectric battery, the device consists of a carry case and a cooling helmet which aims to provide a more accessible and efficient option for scalp cooling. It enables patients to manage the scalp-cooling process themselves and spend less time in the hospital on a chemotherapy infusion day.

Athena works by utilising low-cost thermoelectric semiconductors to cool a tank of water, which then circulates the cold water around the head with the smartly designed headpiece.

Young people are exposed to high levels of marketing for gambling

NEW research published by Maynooth University and Ulster University has found that young people who live on both sides of the border in Ireland are exposed to extremely high levels of gambling marketing when viewing some national and international sporting events.

The report also finds that traditional advertising is only a small part of the marketing strategy around sporting events. Companies increasingly use social media video highlights to draw young people into gambling promotions.

The project examined the exposure of young people (aged 14-24) on the island of Ireland to gambling marketing content while consuming their favourite sports on television and social media, and the marketing strategies used by sports and gambling companies through these media channels to promote their services.

Young people, including children under 18 years, are accessing this content on television but increasingly, and repeatedly over time, via social media on their mobile phones. They are consuming and sharing sports highlights and sports information across a range of social media apps, and this includes gambling marketing content. This is in addition to gambling marketing on billboards and shops in towns, villages and cities throughout the country.

The research also found that gambling marketing saturation varies considerably across sports, channels and platforms. Gambling marketing was most prevalent in darts and horseracing television programmes, which was broadcast at all times of the day both on television and social media. Further, gambling marketing rarely employs female sports celebrities and does not target women's sports.

Trinity renames its main library after poet Eavan Boland

TRINITY College Dublin is renaming its main Library after the acclaimed poet Eavan Boland. This decision was made by the University Board after a period of research, analysis and public consultation.

The Eavan Boland Library will be the first building on Trinity's city centre campus to be named after a woman.

It had been decided in April 2023 that the continued use of George Berkeley's name

on its main Library was inconsistent with the University's core values of human dignity, freedom, inclusivity, and equality due to Berkeley's connection with slavery. Since then, it has been known as 'The Library.'

Eavan Boland was one of the foremost women in Irish literature, publishing many collections of poetry, a memoir *Object Lessons* (1995), as well as teaching and lecturing in Ireland and in the US.



Bridging Gaps and Building Futures

The Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme (TAIP)

LAUNCHED in 2023, the first ever Traveller Apprenticeship Incentivisation Programme (TAIP) marked a significant step in supporting Travellers to access Apprenticeships by offering a qualification pathway through work-based learning.

The Programme was established with funding from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science to address significant barriers facing Travellers in areas of education, training, and employment, and in view of systemic racism and discrimination.

Administered by the Irish Traveller

Movement, the national advocacy and membership platform of Travellers and representative organisations working to achieve greater equality for Travellers, the TAIP aims to increase Traveller participation in apprenticeships, offering financial incentives, and providing ongoing support to find employers.

It also aims to educate employers and training providers on making work and training Traveller informed in its approach, towards a more inclusive and supportive learning and work environment.

The long term educational inequities for Travellers is evident compared

The number of Travellers with a third-level qualification is increasing, but stands at only 4 per cent compared to 47 per cent overall.

to students overall. Pupils continuing from primary to post-primary education in Ireland in 2023/24 was 95 per cent, compared with an average of 82 per cent of Traveller children. And far fewer complete post-primary school compared with their student counterparts, at only 3 in 10 compared to 9 in 10 nationally.

The number of Travellers with a third-level qualification is increasing, but stands at only 4 per cent compared to 47 per cent overall. The history of provision of education to Travellers has been poor, and we are still seeing the resultant inequality of access, participation, and outcomes.



Canal House Ballinasloe Co Galway TAIP workshop delivered by Pat Stokes and Lee Anna Ward

Travellers are ten times more likely to experience discrimination than other white Irish people and in 2022 when the unemployment rate in Ireland was 8% it was 61% among Travellers.

Working with employers is the second aim of the programme, to promote inclusivity and diversity in the workforce, with a wide network of employers, and to redress stigma and discrimination Travellers encounter in recruitment, both direct and indirect.

Reducing barriers is foundational to the TAIP which provides grants of up to €3,000 to Travellers to start, or are already in a SOLAS-approved apprenticeship, or who participate in pre-apprenticeship, or Access to Apprenticeship training programmes. To enable employers, a grant of €2,000 is available for hiring Traveller apprentices.

Achievements to expand apprenticeship opportunities, and increase uptake and retention is evident already with over 70 grants awarded to Travellers taking up the scheme to date, and on a pathway to a brighter future. The aim of the TAIP programme, is to highlight challenges, barriers and redress stigma and discrimination Travellers face daily, directly and indirectly.

The grant was a great boost and



OTM Traveller Pre-Apprenticeship launch: SOLAS CEO Andrew Brownlee; Sandra McDonagh, Managing Director of Offaly Traveller Movement; Lorna Middleton, Local Training Initiative Coordinator, Offaly Traveller Movement; Cathaoirleach of Offaly County Council Cllr Tony McCormack; representatives from Laois & Offaly ETB, Irish Traveller Movement TAIP Team, Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, National Traveller Women's Forum, Pavee Point and Minceirs Whiden

shows my employer that I am serious about my apprenticeship and want to do well. It puts you on the right track. The grant is an investment in you. I was able to buy a computer and new tools. Applying for the grant was easy and not too complicated. (Feedback from a Traveller Apprentice)

TAIP is continually engaging with Public sector bodies, SOLAS, ETBI, educational institutions and employers to promote inclusivity, diversity and equity in the workforce. We are

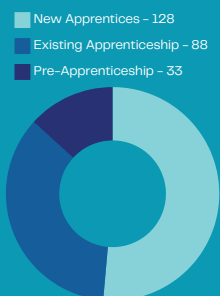
The aim of the TAIP programme, is to highlight challenges, barriers and redress stigma and discrimination Travellers face daily

very keen to develop partnerships and working relationships with all those who work to support Travellers, directly and indirectly, so please feel free to reach out to us.

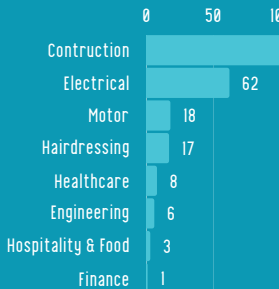
If you would like to speak with one of our team, please contact:
TAIP Manager Bridget Kelly
bridget.k@itmtrav.ie or
Outreach Officers: Lee Anna Ward
lee.anna@itmtrav.ie
and **Patrick Stokes**
apprenticeship@itmtrav.ie

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

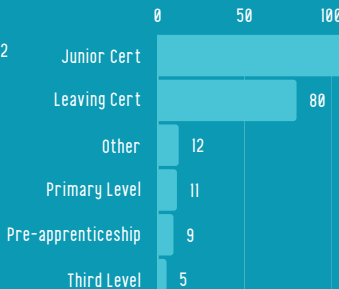
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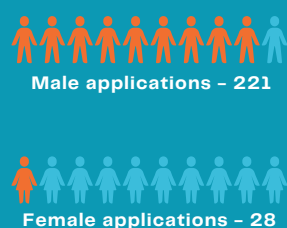
AREAS OF INTEREST



EDUCATIONAL LEVEL



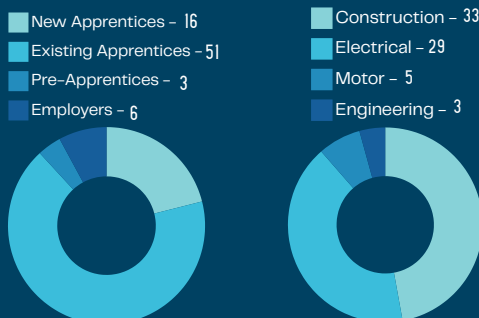
GENDER



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NUMBERS FUNDED TO DATE



Data accurate until July.



An Roinn Breisoideachais agus Ardoideachais,
Taighde, Nuálaíochta agus Eolaíochta
Department of Further and Higher Education,
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movement



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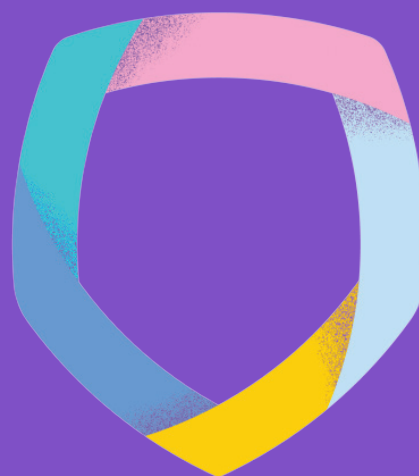
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25,750 home energy upgrades completed in first half of 2024

THE National Retrofit Plan sets out how the Government will deliver on the Climate Action Plan targets of retrofitting the equivalent of 500,000 homes to a BER of B2/ cost-optimal and installing 400,000 heat pumps in existing homes to replace older, less efficient heating systems by the end of 2030.

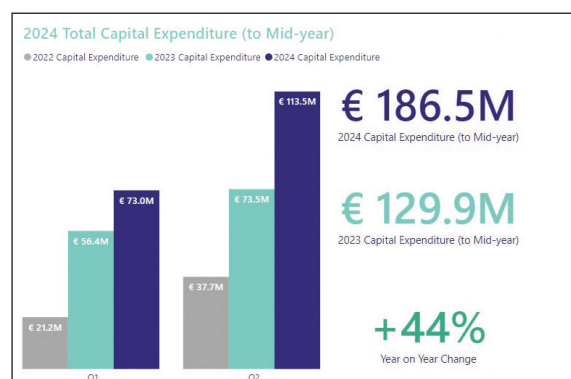
SEAI published details in the Quarterly Progress Report Mid-year, 2024 on the 25,750 home energy upgrades supported through Government funded grant schemes in the first half of 2024. Government expenditure across all schemes reached €186 million, up 44% year on year. Of the homes upgraded, 3,300 were energy-poor homes which benefitted from totally free energy upgrades.

The headline outcomes during Q2 2024, across all schemes administered by SEAI, were:

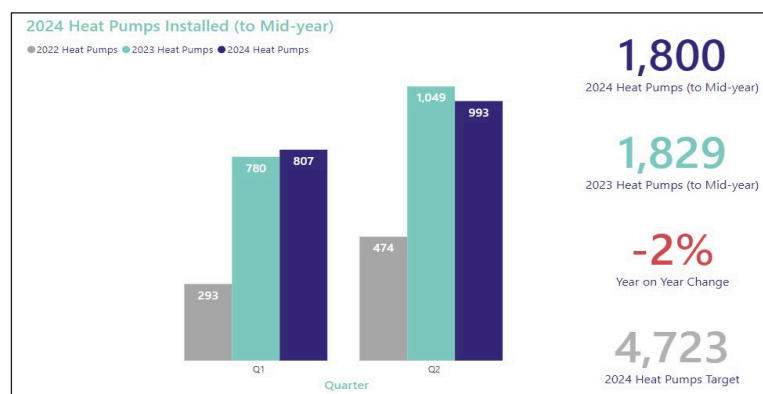
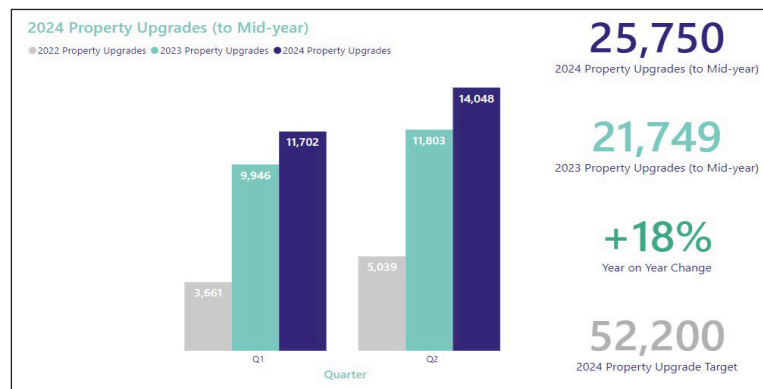
- 25,750 property upgrades were completed to mid-year, up 18% over the same period in 2023.
- Over 10,150 homes upgraded to a BER B2 or higher to mid-year, up 34% over the same period in 2023.
- Over 3,300 upgrades that were completed were for low-income households to mid-year, up 41% on the same period in 2023. The average cost per home under this particular scheme is €26,400.
- Over 31,500 applications were processed across all schemes to mid-year, which remains unchanged over the same period in 2023.
- Expenditure across all schemes to mid-year was €186 million, up 44% on the same period in 2023.

Impacts for Residential Upgrades Completed by Mid-year 2024

- 71.3 GWh energy savings
- 33.3 kt CO₂ savings
- 72.4 MW installed Solar PV capacity.



Programme	Avg. Pre BER	Avg. Post BER
Better Energy Homes	-	C1
Solar PV	-	B2
Warmer Homes Scheme	E1	C3
One Stop Shop	D2	A3
Community Energy Grants	D2	A2



One Stop Shop works cost and BER analysis

The median rolling 12-month cost of works and the BER improvement for all homes upgraded through the One Stop Shop scheme is presented in the two tables below, for private homes and for homes belonging to Approved Housing Bodies. Many of the private homes have a poorer starting BER than the national average.

Private Homes

Dwelling Type	Median Works Cost	Median Grant	Median Cost to Homeowner	Avg. Pre BER	Avg. Post BER
Apartment	€ 26,713	€ 8,500	€ 18,213	D1	A3
Mid Terrace	€ 54,213	€ 19,050	€ 34,676	E1	A2
Semi-Detached /End Terrace	€ 59,883	€ 21,300	€ 38,635	E1	A2
Detached	€ 66,040	€ 23,500	€ 42,185	D2	A2
	€ 62,725	€ 22,500	€ 39,943	E1	A2

Homes belonging to Approved Housing Bodies

Dwelling Type	Median Works Cost	Median Grant	Median Cost to AHB	Avg. Pre BER	Avg. Post BER
Apartment	€ 29,039	€ 12,200	€ 16,240	D1	B1
Mid Terrace	€ 33,137	€ 17,100	€ 16,182	C2	A3
Semi-Detached /End Terrace	€ 33,222	€ 17,800	€ 14,839	C3	A3
Detached	€ 37,929	€ 21,049	€ 18,521	D1	A3
	€ 32,922	€ 17,800	€ 15,352	C3	A3



A collage of images showcasing Flynn Park activities: a woman archery, a person in a paintball mask, a blue double-decker bus labeled 'CAFE', a group of children, a person in a life vest on a raft, a person on a zipline, and a person in a paintball mask. The text 'FLYNN PARK' is prominently displayed in large, stylized letters.

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University of Limerick researcher part of international team that finds loneliness ‘predicts future risk of dementia’

A GROUNDBREAKING new study involving researchers at University of Limerick has found that loneliness can predict a future risk of dementia.

The new international study involving more than 600,000 people worldwide finds that loneliness appears to predict future dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, vascular dementia, and cognitive impairment.

The research, which has just been published in the world leading journal *Nature Mental Health*, sheds new light on the future health impact of loneliness.

The study, which comprised of more than 608,561 people around the world who were followed over time, reviewed all existing literature and included new longitudinal data spanning several continents.

The results suggest that increased levels of loneliness appear to lead to an increased risk of future dementia.

The research team found that feeling lonely increases risk for dementia by 31% and increases risk for cognitive impairment by 15%.

This is the most comprehensive study indicating loneliness is linked to future risk of dementia to date and the research impact is considerable, as Dr Páraic S Ó Súilleabháin, an Associate Professor of Psychology at UL’s Department of Psychology, who contributed to the study, explained.

“These are very important findings and indicate that loneliness is a critically important risk factor in the future development of dementia,” said the UL researcher.

“It provides a solid basis for future inter-



Dr Páraic S Ó Súilleabháin, an Associate Professor of Psychology at UL's Department of Psychology, who contributed to the study

vention work and adds to other research we have conducted examining the effect of loneliness on future health. This is a groundbreaking piece of research that will have significant impact.”

Dr Ó Súilleabháin, who is Director of the Personality, Individual Differences and Biobehavioural Health Laboratory and member of the Health Research Institute at UL, explained: “Our laboratory has found that loneliness is critical to future health in a variety of different ways, including our longevity - i.e. how long we live. This huge and incredibly thorough study now adds a huge piece of the puzzle why this is the case.

“That is, loneliness is critically important for cognitive health, in that, loneliness leads to the future development of, dementia, vascular dementia, Alzheimer’s disease, and more general cognitive impairment. This is a very important piece of research which will have far reaching consequences.”

New Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation at University of Galway

A NEW research institute brings together more than 200 researchers and academics at the University of Galway to pioneer the understanding of disease, and solutions for healthcare.

The Institute’s strategic combination of expertise will facilitate sustained, research-led development at the university, further positioning the Greater Galway region as the centre of Ireland’s global medtech hub and a significant contributor to economic growth and regional development.

The university says that the Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation will leverage the university’s expertise in biomedical science and engineering and combine it with their research strength in the field of medicine.

It will operate in close collaboration with the University’s Institute for Clinical Trials, which was launched in 2023, as well as CÚRAM, the Research Ireland-Taighde Éireann funded centre for medical devices, and BioInnovate, the fellowship programme under the Enterprise Ireland Innovators’ Initiative.

New ambition

Professor Peter McHugh, Interim President of University of Galway, said: “Excellence in research has been the bedrock of teaching and learning at University of Galway since its foundation in the 1840s. The establishment of the Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation, alongside the recently established Institute for Clinical Trials marks a new level of ambition in our strategic approach to research.

Professor McHugh said that he hoped the Institute would “create the environment to enable the translation of fundamental scientific research into potentially life-changing treatments and interventions that directly benefit society - fulfilling our mission to be here for public good.”

The Institute for Health Discovery and Innovation is led by Interim Director Professor Ted Vaughan. Its work will encompass the breadth of biomedical science and engineering research, including fundamental science and discovery.

The new university research capacity will enhance the harnessing of scientific breakthroughs for the benefit of clinical trials and healthcare, by accelerating the provision of potentially disruptive and cutting-edge therapies.

Largest ever gathering of delegates at All-Ireland Mammal Symposium (AIMS2024) in ATU

“THE All-Ireland Mammal Symposium, hosted by Atlantic Technological University (ATU) in Galway city, recorded the biggest ever gathering of people for a conference on mammals in Ireland,” says Dr Allan McDevitt, lecturer and researcher in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment, ATU Galway-Mayo.

Presentations ranged from academia, government (Republic and NI) and consultancies covering research to management and policy. Presentations from Early Career researchers (postgraduates in particular) made up the largest proportion of presentations. Over 200 delegates attended and over 60 papers were presented.

“Many wild mammals in Ireland are facing

increasing conservation pressures, with concerns around the long-term future of several native species such as the red squirrel for example, says Dr McDevitt.

“In contrast, certain other mammal species bring different pressures such as those which require some form of management or control. These include invasive species, for example American mink predating on birds, species which may spread disease to livestock, for example badgers, or cause damage to forestry (deer). With many of these issues requiring complex solutions, gathering together scientists and practitioners from across the spectrum continues to be of the upmost importance.”

More info at atu.ie.

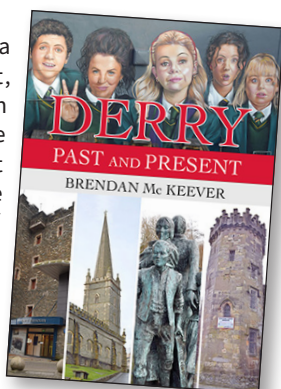
Derry – Past and Present

By Brendan McKeever

DERRY Past and Present combines a range of colourful images of wall art, historic murals and local landmarks with concise explanatory text to tell the captivating story of Derry from earliest times to the modern day. It features the vivid images created by the wealth of local artistic talent to interpret and convey the city's tumultuous, often troubled, past in a unique visual way – captured on the streets for all to see and reflect upon.

Derry author Brendan McKeever celebrates this visual legacy and helps explain its significance for the local community and its wider global impact. From Saint Columba to John Hume, the Undertones to the Derry Girls, Derry Past and Present has something to offer any interested resident or visitor who wants to discover more about this fascinating city.

Guildhall Press • Around €8



A History of Ireland in Ten Body Parts

By Ian Miller

SKULLS, heads, hands, height, legs, sex organs, blood, brains, stomachs, ears and corpses – discover Irish history through the prism of the body. From the brutal beheading of the 25-year-old, red-headed Clonycavan Man some 2,000 years ago, and the rich vein of information that has been preserved in his 'bog body', to the ancient skulls stolen from islands off Ireland's west coast believed to be those of giants – here medical historian Dr Ian Miller brings readers on a uniquely entertaining journey through Irish history.

Encounter the famous scribes who preserved our knowledge of ancient Ireland by hand. Discover the fears of excessive tea drinking that were once such a great cause for concern on this isle. Meet the doctors who revolutionised Irish medicine in the 19th century – along with the gruesome bodysnatching that accompanied it.

Gill • Around €27 hardback



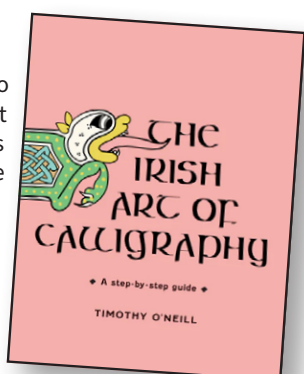
The Irish art of calligraphy: a step-by-step guide

By Timothy O'Neill

AN essential guide for anyone who has ever wanted to try their hand at calligraphy. Delve into Ireland's artistic past and, with guidance from a master calligrapher, learn how to write your own letters in a matter of hours.

Timothy O'Neill, artist and historian, is the author of The Irish Hand a study of the Irish manuscript tradition. He is also an accomplished modern calligrapher. He has been commissioned to create major works throughout his career and, along the way, has passed on the art of calligraphy to students of all ages.

Royal Irish Academy • Around €18



Murmurations

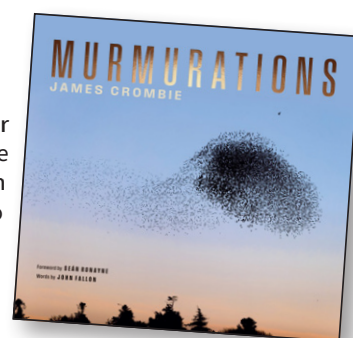
By James Crombie

IN the dusk hours of a November evening in 2020, James Crombie set out for the shore of Lough Ennell, Co. Westmeath with no goal except to find a brief reprieve from the chaos of modern life.

What Crombie found on the shore that evening – an undulating murmuration of starlings, dancing above the surface of the water – would change his life forever.

Desperate to capture the beauty of the murmurations, and to better understand this phenomenon and the surroundings of the lake itself, Crombie began a four year journey, travelling to lake shore for over 100 days per year. A combination of narrative and photography, this is a book about one man's quest to capture the beauty of a natural phenomenon.

Lilliput Press • Around €25



Joe Canning - My Story

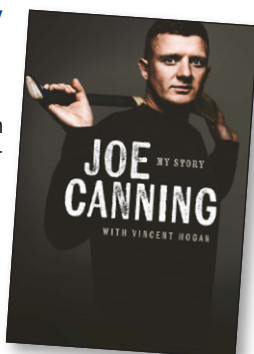
By Joe Canning

JOE Canning is a five-time All-Star hurler. In 2017 he won a senior All-Ireland medal for Galway, defeating Waterford to bring the Liam McCarthy Cup back across the Shannon for the first time in 29 years and earning the Hurler of the Year award.

Joe won back-to-back minor All Irelands and an under-21 in 2007, the same year that he won a Fitzgibbon medal with Limerick IT. He also had a hugely successful club career with Portumna, winning four All-Irelands.

He retired in July 2021 and now works in hospitality, enjoying his passion for golf in his spare time. He lives in Limerick with his wife Meg and daughter Josie. Joe continues to play for his club, Portumna, and he is a selector for Galway's U-20s.

Gill • Around €25 hardback



Haunted Ireland- An atlas of ghost stories from every county

By Kieran Fanning

Illustrated by Mark Hill

JOIN master storyteller Kieran Fanning on a visit to every county in Ireland through 32 spooky stories. From well-known hauntings like The Ghost of Loftus Hall and The White Lady of Kinsale, to lesser-known sightings like The Black Pig of Kiltrustan and Father Hegarty's Phantom Horse, there's a story to discover wherever you are!

This beautifully presented gift book features a map of all the story locations so you can carry out your very own ghost tour – or stay safely at home poring over the stunning illustrations by Dublin artist, Mark Hill.

Gill • Around €25 hardback



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CRITICAL Volunteers are made up of doctors, paramedics, and ordinary people who join our Community First Responder teams to become extraordinary assets for their local communities. They all bring hope when someone needs urgent medical care.

Your local Community First Responder could be a Granny, football trainer, postwoman or barman. They are locals who want to be there for their neighbours, friends, and loved ones when they need help most.

CRITICAL provide the vital medical equipment so that volunteers can respond to emergencies like cardiac arrest, stroke, road traffic collisions, falls, farming or workplace accidents, and other traumas.

As part of our mission to save lives, we also provide training to communities and groups in basic life support, to help individuals feel empowered and ready to act, giving the people in their communities the best chance of a positive outcome.

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