



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Department of Education's newsletter on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD).

Welcome to the fifth issue of the Department of Education's newsletter on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). We would like to thank all those who contributed, and we hope you enjoy it and find inspiration, ideas, and useful links and resources to help you play your part in sustainable development.

If you would like to share what you are doing about sustainable development, let us know (email ESD@education.gov.ie). You could win €500 for ESD in your school/college if we publish your story.

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1. A National Strategy for ESD to 2030

The Department of Education together with the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science recently held a public consultation to inform a new joint strategy on ESD to 2030. We received 90 written submissions from a wide range of stakeholders, and in excess of 150 people took our survey. We also engaged directly with stakeholders at a number of information sessions, forums and conferences.

The second National Strategy on ESD to 2030 will be aligned to UNESCO's Framework for ESD for 2030 which establishes these five areas of priority: Policy Alignment; Transforming Learning Environments; Capacity Building; Empowering and Mobilising Youth; Community Engagement.

We are now reviewing the responses to our consultation, and are holding bilateral meetings with a number of the key stakeholders. We have also commenced the drafting of the strategy itself and an implementation plan which will set out the actions we will take over the next three years. We aim to publish the new National Strategy and implementation plan on ESD to 2030 in the first quarter of 2022.

Further details will be available on [our website](#) in due course.



2. STE(A)M and ESD – by JCT

STE(A)M in Junior Cycle is an initiative which sees Junior Cycle for Teachers (JCT) partner with external CPD providers to provide elective CPD for post-primary teachers. This initiative specifically explores the potential within Junior Cycle specifications to engage students with societal issues including sustainable development. Some relevant themes explored in recent years include Biodiversity, Energy Conservation, Urbanisation, and Solution Generation.

Partners with JCT in this initiative include **ADAPT**, *an SFI Research Centre for AI-Driven Digital Content Technology*; **AMBER**, *an SFI centre for Advanced Materials for Bioengineering Research*; **Amgen Biotech Experience**; **APC Microbiome**, *an SFI Research Centre focussed on the microbiome*; **The British and Irish Association of Zoos and Aquaria (BIAZA)**; **Confirm**, *an SFI Research Centre for SMART manufacturing*; **CÚRAM**, *an SFI Research Centre for Biomedical Devices*; **Design and Craft Council of Ireland**; **Geological Survey Ireland**; **iCRAG**, *An SFI Research Centre in Applied Geosciences*; **The School of Pharmacy, UCC**; **The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)**; **The Rediscovery Centre** and **World Wise Global Schools**.

This elective CPD supports teachers to collaborate across subjects, and to explore the potential of the new

Junior Cycle subject and short course specifications to enable learners to investigate issues, to be creative in solving problems and to apply their learning in new and challenging situations.

As STE(A)M in Junior Cycle is now in its fifth year, Junior Cycle teachers across all subject areas can access outputs from the previous series [here](#). Teachers will find classroom resources and supports which might be useful when integrating ESD into the curriculum.

Teachers wishing to participate in the fifth series – STE(A)M in Action in School – can add their details to the [STE\(A\)M in Junior Cycle mailing list](#) to access information bulletins on this initiative and to avail of early bird registration opportunities for the online workshop series which will take place from January – March 2022.



3. Top Tips for a Whole-School Approach to Sustainability - Castleisland Community College

“At Castleisland Community College, we have developed a shared vision which is an important element within our whole-school approach to sustainability. We believe that all aspects of the school community can impact positively, we can all play our part and make a difference, in creating a healthier and more environmentally sustainable society.

The whole-school approach which we adopt here at Castleisland Community College involves all members of the school community, students, staff (not just teachers), parents and other community members. The aim is to get everyone in the school community involved, working collaboratively to create an awareness of and a culture of sustainability in the school.

This whole-school approach involves including sustainable development and climate action in all aspects of our school, including: school governance, teaching and learning, campus, and community partnerships.

We believe that a sustainable school prepares young people for a lifetime of sustainable living through its

teaching and day-to-day practices.

We have established the school itself as a laboratory and can thus reinforce what is taught about sustainability in the classroom. In doing so, students have more meaningful, relevant, and hands-on learning opportunities while at the same time developing critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills”.

Castleisland’s Top Tips for Schools in Developing a Whole-School Approach to Sustainability.

1. Give staff the scope to develop sustainability in their own subject area, it is important that sustainability is not seen as the remit of the Geography or the CSPE teachers, it is vital that sustainability is integrated right across the curriculum in a holistic manner rather than just teaching it in one or two subjects such as CSPE, or Geography. Allow teachers to be creative, this is where the cross-curricular approach comes in, a project might commence in geography class but require skills from the woodwork class, art class, home economics class etc.
 2. Invite input from the whole school community. The Green Schools/Sustainability Team is made up of teachers, caretaker, cleaning staff and students thereby distributing the workload. Provide opportunities and encourage parents and community to actively engage to address local sustainability issues. Ensure that students are all involved in sharing decisions in order to become confident, connected, actively involved, lifelong learners.
 3. Provide the necessary resources, be it resources in terms of time, materials, professional development or other. Teachers should be given the necessary resources to complete projects.
 4. Add sustainability as an agenda item for all meetings, this includes board meetings, staff meetings, management meetings etc. This year we have included sustainability as an agenda item for all subject department meetings, thereby encouraging regular planning, reflection, and evaluation of our practices.
 5. Talk about sustainability at assemblies and other such gatherings. Make sustainability a priority, put it on your list of school development planning priorities at the start of the year. Sustainability is
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a whole-school approach, one that extends beyond the curriculum and addresses the entire planning and management of the school facility.

6. Management need to stay involved. Identify a staff member in the school who is passionate about this area to lead it, but it's important that management supports the staff member and allows that person the opportunity to upskill in sustainability. Provide students and staff with concrete opportunities to contribute to sustainable living, while demonstrating good practices to other school stakeholders.

7. Showcase the work that has been done on sustainability. The school's work on sustainability should be evident as soon as you set foot on the school grounds both outdoors and indoors. Create a place where students and their community can see and appreciate the results of all the efforts at reducing the impact on the environment. Make sure when you walk in the door of the school that you are immediately aware that it is a sustainable school.



Co-funded by the European Union's
Rights, Equality and Citizenship
Programme (2014 – 2020)

4. Childs Rights Schools - UNICEF

Is your school rights respecting?

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) sets out the rights to which all children are entitled. The Irish Government agreed to ensure children enjoy their rights. Schools have a special role to play in fulfilling this promise and UNICEF can support them.

In a Child Rights School:

- Children and adults learn about the CRC
- Children participate in decisions that affect them
- Children enjoy their rights

Everybody should be informed about child rights (Article 42). UNICEF invites all school staff (i.e SNAs, caretakers, boards of management, administration, school leadership, and teachers) to participate in CPD to learn about child rights. One can choose from a summer course, short online module(s), live webinars, or in-person workshops during Croke Park hours.

All children have the right to express their views on matters that affect them, and adults should listen and take children seriously (Article 12). Active student councils are essential in helping children to enjoy this right at school.

UNICEF provides flexible guidance for staff and student councils to encourage the whole school community to get involved and become more rights respecting. It takes three years to become a Child Rights School. There are no fees to participate in the programme.

Log onto [unicef.ie/crs](https://www.unicef.ie/crs) or email lydia@unicef.ie to find out more.

This programme is currently running in primary schools only. If you are an early years educator or post-primary teacher, check out the resources available at <https://www.unicef.ie/child-rights-education/>

Creative
Climate Action



Clár Éire Ildánach
Creative Ireland
Programme
2017–2022



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



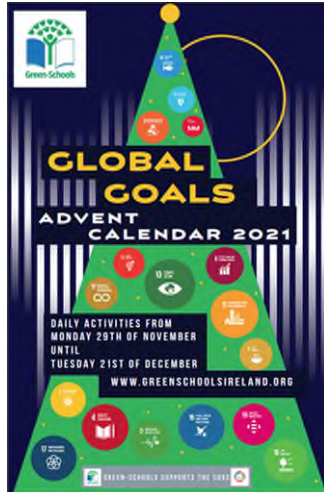
Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

5. Creative Climate Action

In 2021, Minister Catherine Martin alongside Minister Eamon Ryan launched the *Creative Climate Action Fund* on behalf of the Creative Ireland Programme, based in the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.

The first of its kind in Ireland, this fund sought collaborative creative, cultural and artistic projects that could engage the public on climate action and empower citizens to make meaningful behavioural changes.

Showcasing coastal light installations, pollinator walking routes, renewable energy-generating artworks, unique collaborations and much more, a total of 15 projects were selected to receive funding to collaborate with communities across the country up the end of 2022. The diverse projects will cover themes such as Biodiversity, Shopping & Recycling, Energy, Coastal Resilience, Food & Local Climate and Environment. Read more about these projects at: <https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/blog/creative-climate-action-fund-projects/>



6. Green Schools

Global Goals Advent Calendar #GSAdventGoals

To take action and get involved this December, you can take part in Green Schools new Christmas campaign – the Global Goals Advent Calendar! Each day a resource that focuses on a different Global Goal will be released! Learn about the Global Goal, then have students make a pledge on how they will support that goal and add the loop to their paper chain. Encourage students to bring home their finished chain on the last day of school and hang it on their Christmas tree!

You can download the lesson plan and chains [here](#) and keep an eye on the Green Schools social media and website each day for activities and resources. You can learn more about the Global Goals [here](#).

Clean Air Week 2021

Green-Schools recently celebrated the third annual Clean Air Week. The campaign ran from 15 - 19 November which coincided with the European Commission's third EU Clean Air Forum. The EU Clean Air Forum is an initiative which centres around the development and implementation of effective European, national and local air policies, projects and programmes. The aim of our Clean Air Week campaign was to raise awareness of air pollution and to take action to reduce air pollution around the school. You can find more information and air quality-resources [here](#).

Resources

Green-Schools has some great [resources](#) to help introduce the topic of climate and related issues in the classroom for both [primary](#) and [post-primary schools](#) along resources around wellbeing and outdoor learning [outdoor learning](#).

Green Schools want to thank all the hundreds of teachers who joined them online for their recent teacher training seminars and to all of you who have signed up for the various online workshops and resources. They also want to thank all the schools who got involved in Climate Action Week in October during which a fantastic 494 events were held and over 11,000 climate pledges were made! Be sure to sign up to the

Green-Schools newsletter on www.greenschoolsireland.org to find out about all the upcoming initiatives for 2022.

Contact Green Schools for further information: info@greenschoolsireland.org



7. European Commission – Film4Energy Competition

The European Commission has launched the 'Film4Energy Challenge' competition which invites schools across the European Union (EU) to create short videos about the importance of energy efficiency and the benefits of saving energy for their school, community or city.

Students aged from 12 to 15 from all EU countries are invited to create a video about how they can save energy in their daily lives, teaching their relatives, friends, neighbours, and the whole world about the benefits of energy efficiency, and encouraging the use of energy-efficient alternatives for heating, cooling, transport, and other daily activities.

The competition runs from **1 October 2021 to 15 February 2022** and winning schools will see their videos shared across Europe on the European Commission's official social media channels with the best entry being awarded with an 'energy day' organised at their school.

Further information and details on how to enter can be found here: https://ec.europa.eu/energy/topics/energy-strategy/energy-youth/video-competition-on-energy-efficiency_en.



8. Sustainable School Buildings – Pathfinder programme

Minister for Education Norma Foley TD and Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications Eamon Ryan TD welcomed the completion of an energy retrofit project for St. Anne's Community College, Clarisford, Killaloe, Co. Clare on the 6 October 2021.

The school, under the auspices of Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB), provides post-primary education to more than 500 students.

Under the Department of Education's and SEAI Pathfinder 2020 programme, the 1980s school building has undergone a substantial upgrade which consisted of improvements to the school building's envelope and fabric including wall insulation, attic insulation, new roofs, windows and doors, air-tightening and thermal-bridging works, upgrading of the heating system and controls, new LED lighting and controls and the installation of photovoltaic panels for renewable energy generation on site.

The Building Energy Rating (BER) was improved from a D to a B band rating, which will have a lasting positive impact on the school's energy consumption and power bills.

Over €60m is being invested in schools over the next three years to make them more energy efficient, reducing their energy use, saving money, and helping to reduce emissions.

As part of the 2020 Pathfinder programme, six schools were chosen in rural and urban areas to undergo extensive fabric upgrades to improve the energy performance of the building.

Each school was assessed comprehensively to ensure that the measures were suitable for that school and would deliver value to both the school and the pilot. Design teams were appointed to each project, with medium to deep energy efficiency works delivered over the summer. The upgrades at a value of €10m targeted energy efficiency improvements and included upgrades to doors and windows, insulation, lighting and heating upgrades as well as renewable technology.

The Pathfinder programme is paving the way for, and informing, a much larger national schools' programme for the energy retrofit of schools built prior to 2008 as included in the National Development Plan. It is facilitating research on a range of typical retrofit options, which will have been tried and tested. It is providing valuable

development information for a solution driven delivery strategy which will be founded on a solid evidence base that has proven the robustness and scalability of renewable solutions within the schools' sector.

Now in its fifth year, the pilot programme has retrofitted 39 schools across Ireland to date. This year sees six schools undergoing deep retrofit to a BER rating of B with renewable heating systems. Each school underwent a comprehensive assessment to ensure that the measures were suitable for that school, and would deliver value to both the school and learnings for the national retrofit programme.

The Schools Energy Retrofit Pathfinder programme is funded by the Department of Education and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. The programme is administered by the Planning and Building Unit in the Department of Education and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland with delivery partner Limerick Clare ETB.

Lárionad Náisiúnta um Threoir san Oideachas



National Centre for Guidance in Education

9. Career Guidance for the Green Economy - NCGE National Forum on Guidance (24 November 2021)

The Irish National Forum on Guidance provides a communication and cooperation facility for those involved nationally and internationally in the provision of guidance and the development and support of guidance practitioners and services. Participants include organisations and individuals providing and supporting guidance delivery in both the education and the public employment sector. Each Forum is intended to inspire participants in their practice or in their work developing guidance related policies, and provide a greater understanding of the overarching societal function guidance performs.

The NCGE National Forum on Guidance of November 2021 concluded a series of Fora discussions on the role of **Guidance for Sustainability**. As part of proceedings the Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, addressed the topic of **'Career Opportunities in the Green and Zero Carbon Economy'**. In his address the Minister outlined the substantial number and diverse nature of new career opportunities this significantly expanding sector affords. Ensuring that more learners, parents and jobseekers are aware of the great benefits of these career paths will facilitate their uptake.

Tony Dalton, Director of Further Education and Training Services, Laois/Offaly ETB, and Catherine Gavigan, Guidance Coordinator of Offaly Adult Guidance Service, outlined work undertaken in that region

of Ireland in relation to the “Green Economy” and the role of guidance in supporting learners and individuals to consider courses and jobs in this sector.

Subsequent presentations and discussions led by NCGE Director, Jennifer McKenzie, focused on the initial development of NCGE good practice guidelines for “Green Guidance”. The overarching aim being the incorporation of such guidelines into any future National Guidance Strategy; ensuring that sustainable and green guidance principals underpin the future development and delivery of national guidance practice.

You can access the video recording, presentations (and more) from the November 2021 Forum [here](#).



10. Guzzler’s Party – new SEAI publication for children

SEAI’s new children’s storybook is encouraging children to save energy and take climate action.

On 9 November, the [Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland](#) (SEAI) launched a new children’s book to help children learn to save energy and take climate action, called ‘Guzzler’s Party’. This lively and educational book is aimed at children from junior infants to second class but it is also suitable for pre-school age children. The book follows Alina, an energy savvy schoolgirl, as she teaches Guzzler, the energy monster, all about saving energy and taking climate action, as they prepare to throw an energy party.

[Ruth Buggie](#), Programme Manager, at SEAI said, *“with all of the discussion around COP26 and climate actions required over the coming decades, it is timely that the SEAI are releasing an illustrated storybook which helps distil this critical message for our younger audiences.”*

“This book is a fun and informative resource to learn about saving energy. The book gives children lots of actions that they can take in their everyday lives and introduces important concepts such as what is energy and renewable energy, in a simple and understandable way. We hope that readers will enjoy Alina and Guzzler’s adventures and feel empowered to take their own actions.”

To celebrate the launch of the book, the SEAI also hosted a virtual reading of the book featuring actress Ali Hardiman and an illustration workshop with the book’s illustrator Alan Nolan. These workshops are available on YouTube.

For more information about Guzzler’s Party, see [Guzzler’s party book | SEAI](#)



11. Did You Know?

Solar energy is the most abundant energy resource on earth: 173,000 terawatts of solar energy strike the Earth every hour. That’s more than 10,000 times the world’s total energy use!

One million tonnes of food waste is produced in Ireland annually. That’s enough food waste to fill Croke Park two and a half times! Just imagine that.

Of the 8,300 animal breeds known, 8 per cent are extinct, and 22 per cent are currently at risk of extinction.



12. Junk Kouture 2022 Competition for post-primary schools

The 2021 – 2022 Junk Kouture Programme is now open to all post-primary students aged 13 – 18.

The Junk Kouture Resource Hub is a dedicated support service for educators and creators participating in the competition for youth creative expression and sustainability. The aim is to primarily support educators in facilitating Junk Kouture in their school through the provision of learning resources.

A CPD programme has been designed to introduce Junk Kouture to new teachers and schools. It will provide an overview of the Junk Kouture experience, what is involved, and how teachers can register their school for the programme.

To sign up as a school to the programme and get access to the Resource Hub, check out the Junk Kouture website: <https://junkkouture.com/sign-up-page/>

Designs can be submitted between **20 January - 3 February 2022.**



13. Sustainable Fashion at Lucan Community College

“We have taken a course in Sustainable Fashion as part of our Transition Year programme at Lucan Community College. We learned about the impact of fast fashion around the world, from its beginnings in third world countries where it is made at very low cost to the company but where workers may have poor conditions like long hours and little pay. We also learned about how it often ends up in the developing world where due to its poor quality it may end up in landfill destroying the environment.

There has been a huge increase in this type of market, particularly aimed at our age group. Big companies target young people to encourage us to buy their cheap garments and then dispose of them when the next trend arrives. They make huge profits but ultimately the industry has a negative impact on the world.

Instead of conspiring with this practice, we have actively tried to challenge it in our own way. We see fashion as an empowering art form, a great way to express our style and individuality. We believe that by making small changes to the way we do things, and by raising awareness within our school and community that we can make a difference.

We visited charity shops to see what treasures we could find. We upcycled the clothes using a variety of techniques, and we even had a clothes swap at our school. We know that we don't have to waste our money and we don't have to fit in to current trends. Fashion is about making a statement about yourself and we are proud to state that we do not support fast fashion”.



14. Irish Universities Project – Campus Living Labs Project

The Irish Universities Association (IUA) in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recently launched Campus Living Labs, a project aimed at reducing waste and increasing recycling on IUA University Campuses. This two-year initiative, will design and deliver behavioural and infrastructural interventions targeting consumption and waste management habits of campus populations.

With more than 162,000 students across eight campuses, Irish Universities are unique ecosystems with

populations like small towns and villages, making them ideal testbeds or living labs for trialling waste and recycling interventions. The project aims to foster sectoral collaboration between universities and exchange best practice on how to reduce waste and improve recycling in line with national targets and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Project outcomes will allow the EPA to gather evidence and provide shared learnings that can be applied in the future to other third level campus populations, or other types of campuses such as hospitals, airports, shopping centres or small towns.

To find out more about the project, see the website: <https://www.iua.ie/campuslivinglabs/>



15. Green Procurement Guidance

The Environmental Protection Agency recently published its' **2021 Green Public Procurement: Guidance for the Public Sector** document which is now available to download at: <https://www.epa.ie/publications/circular-economy/resources/green-public-procurement-guidance.php>

This guidance and accompanying criteria support the inclusion of sustainable and green practices into public sector procurement procedures. They are aimed primarily at public sector procurers in central and local government, state agencies and other public bodies such as universities, hospitals and schools. They are also relevant for the utility sector procurers, and will be of interest to private companies whether they are responding to tenders or applying green criteria in their own procurement.

These documents provide step-by-step instructions and criteria for implementing green public procurement, and should be the go-to guide across the public sector when procuring goods, works and services.



16. CSO - update on SDG Reports

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) has published the latest in the series of Ireland's UN SDG (Sustainable Development Goals) Indicator reports on SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities. CSO Reports on SDGs 1 to 10 are available here: <https://www.cso.ie/en/statistics/unsustainabledevelopmentgoals/>



17. Food Forest – Climate Education Program

Supporting the Education Sector in the fight against Climate Change.

Edible Landscape Project (ELP), a social enterprise based in Westport Co Mayo, has devised a novel Climate Education Program for Irish primary schools, to encourage more schoolchildren to grow and consume food in an environmentally sustainable, climate smart way. This solution focused Climate Education Program was developed by teachers, for teachers, and in November 2021 was launched in local primary schools in Co. Mayo.

How does it work?

Participating primary school teachers receive a pack from ELP containing a set of Lesson Plans which are directly linked to the curriculum. The resources provided are intended to teach students how our food choices can have both a positive and negative impact on climate change. ELP understands that climate change has become a worrying and growing issue recently. Some children are very concerned or anxious, and the programme that has been compiled is intended to be a positive, solutions-based approach to the issue.

Five topics are covered and lesson plans for each topic are provided to teachers. All lessons are centred around a 2m x 2m Food Forest, which can be planted in the school garden and referred to constantly throughout the classes.

In this programme, and indeed in the Food Forest itself, ELP are encouraging a systems-thinking approach. This simply means that everything works together and for each other. The Food Forest educates children about the interconnectedness of our food systems and how, when we lose this connectedness, we negatively affect climate change.

The Food Forest will not require too much work as the idea is that the plants themselves largely support each other. The Edible Landscape Project will check in annually with each school to advise on further planting.

A phased rollout of the ELP's Climate Education Program will take place in primary schools in Mayo from January 2022, and then nationwide from 2023. To register a school's interest in taking part in the programme, contact ELP on: info@ediblelandscape.ie

www.ediblelandscape.ie

www.facebook.com/ediblelandscapeproject

www.twitter.com/ediblescapes



18. Global Citizenship Education Strategy - Irish Aid/Department of Foreign Affairs

The Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), through the Irish Aid programme, has launched a new Global Citizenship Education Strategy 2021-2025. This strategy aims to help build a broader understanding of global citizenship in Ireland, encouraging the public to engage with, learn about and act on global justice issues such as hunger, climate change, peace, global inequality, etc. The DFA/Irish Aid will work with educators and learners in the formal and non-formal education sectors to do this. The new strategy is available [here](#).

As part of rolling out the new strategy, the DFA/Irish Aid plans to strengthen its engagement with the primary school sector, and is pleased to announce a new Strategic Partnership for Global Citizenship Education with the primary school sector with a Consortium made up of Trócaire, the Irish National Teachers' Organisation, the Irish Primary Principals' Network and Dublin City University. There will be a 20-month pilot which will include delivery of CPD for teachers as well as research and needs analysis to see how this new programme can best serve the primary school sector in the delivery of GCE to teachers and students.

The DFA has also launched the 2022 Global Citizenship Education Grants Call for Proposals. This is open to Irish-based organisations and applications can be for projects with a duration of one, two and three years. Details of the application process can be found [here](#).

Data Protection

We hope you enjoyed this edition of the ESD newsletter. Please feel free to share and circulate it amongst your colleagues, friends and family.

You can subscribe to future editions of the Department of Education's ESD Newsletter by clicking [here](#) or by emailing newsletters@education.gov.ie

Your e-mail address will be held securely by the Department and will only be used for the purpose of issuing the ESD newsletter.

If you would like to suggest ideas or make a contribution to forthcoming editions of the newsletter, please email esd@education.ie.

Approximate dates for the publication of the quarterly ezine in 2022 are as below; reminders for contributions are issued to subscribers a fortnight in advance:

First week of March

Third week of May

Second week of September

Second week of December

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