

## WELCOME TO The ETBI Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of Connections, the Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) Newsletter where we hope to share, and get your feedback on, the services ETBI provides to our 16 member ETBs.

There are over 32,000 staff working across [Ireland's Education and Training Boards](#) and we want to celebrate a collective sense of pride in the services ETBs, and their schools and centres provide to learners of all ages across the country. We want your feedback and suggestions and **the two best suggestions will each win a €250 all gifts voucher**. [See our survey on page 4.](#)

## Interview with Irish Independent Education Editor Katherine Donnelly



Click swirl to watch



On the eve of her retirement and as part of ETBI's "Future of Education and Training" short video series, Irish Independent Education Editor Katherine Donnelly reflects on the highs and lows of 20 years reporting on the Irish Education system.

In a wide-ranging interview with ETBI's General Secretary, Katherine discusses the legacy of COVID, the ETB brand, equality of opportunity in education, and liberating all students from the "obsession" with CAO to find their path. She talks about the challenges and opportunities facing ETBs including the potential of ETB Community National Schools and the future of FET: **"In the ideal world I think everyone should do an FE course for the year after they leave school"**, she tells Paddy Lavelle.

### In this Edition you will find:

Latest projects, *A Day in the Life* of an ETB Caretaker, upcoming events, prizes, and more!



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## John Loneragan talks Resilience and Human Connection



Writer and former governor of Mountjoy Jail John Loneragan's keynote and subsequent discussion with Two Norries podcaster James Leonard was one of the highlights of this year's ETBI Annual Conference held in Cork City Hall.

Other highpoints included Joanne O'Riordan's address on inclusion, vox pops with ETB learners and staff from around the country and some inspiring entertainment on the final night including the launch of the ETB Anthem.

[Read more](#)

## Provision Mapping to Deliver Excellence in Education



In a groundbreaking project spanning 140 ETB Community Colleges across the ETB Sector, provision mapping is set to deliver excellence in education across our post primary school network by supporting inclusive school improvement.

Led by ETBI and supported by a network of dedicated coordinators in each ETB, new provision mapping resources, workshops and networks will be established to empower school leaders to identify strengths and areas for development in education provision so they can plan and allocate resources to deliver better outcomes for all their students.

[Read more](#)

## ETB Community leads Ukrainian response



With almost 18,000 Ukrainian students currently enrolled in Irish schools, the ETB community has shown leadership in the effort to integrate students from Ukraine into the Irish education system where a 91% enrolment rate among Ukrainian children aged 5-18 is the most successful in Europe. From ETB coordination of the Regional Education and Language Teams (REALTs) to the very human response and supports offered locally by ETBs, we hear about one school's experience.

[Read more](#)



## ETB Schools ethos gathers pace

Since the landmark ETBI Patrons' Framework on Ethos was launched a year ago, this multi-denominational and equality-based approach to education has been blazing a trail with students and staff across all ETB schools and beyond. Led by ETBI and supported by a sector-wide network of committed ethos coordinators, initiatives have included a monthly podcast, training for 83 new ETB staff and over 200 student teachers as well as the introduction of learning networks and self-evaluation tools.

[Listen to Podcast Here](#)

## New National Assembly to give voice to FET Learners

A **Learner Voice National Assembly** is set to give more opportunities for Ireland's 200,000 ETB Further Education and Training Learners to have their voice heard. ETBI hopes to have the assembly up and running for the 2024-2025 academic year when learners will be invited and supported to have their say on everything from curriculum development to learner supports and the future direction of FET.

[Read more](#)



## ETB Week: 11th-15th March 2024

Following the huge success of [ETB day 2023](#) we're gearing up for "ETB Week 2024" designed to celebrate and promote the work of Ireland's Education and Training Boards and the services they provide to learners. All staff and students in ETBs, their schools, colleges and centres are encouraged to start thinking about how they might like celebrate ETB week 11-15 March. We hope to issue further exciting details of national events in early January!



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## A Day in the Life of...an ETB Caretaker



In each edition, we'll meet a member of staff from an ETB to learn about their role, and the person behind the title. Here we chat to former soldier and combat emergency technician John Wall who is now a Caretaker in Cavan & Monaghan ETB. We find out about his deep connection to the campus, which he calls his 'home from home' as well as importance of having good friends at work.

[Link to full story.](#)

## Upcoming Events:

- Principals & Deputy Principals Conference: 1 – 2 February 2024 (Portlaoise)
- ETBI FET Conference 2024: 21 – 22 February 2024 (Athlone)
- **ETB WEEK 2024: 11 -15 March 2024**
- HR Conference 20 - 21 March in (Athlone)
- Further details of these and other events will be posted [here](#)

## ETB Jobs:

<https://www.etbi.ie/etb-recruitment/>

## Podcasts:



*Enter!  
to Win!*

Answer our short survey to be in with a chance of winning a €250 all gifts voucher

CLICK HERE



Have a story for the newsletter? Email us at [media@etbi.ie](mailto:media@etbi.ie)