



ETB Excellence Awards 2025 Commemorative Brochure

Thursday 27th March 2025



#ETBWEEK

24-28 March 2025

EVENT

PROGRAMME

Thursday 27th
March 2025

Registration & hot food

Ministerial Address

Welcome: Ray Kennedy (MC)

Special Performance

- ETB Excellence Award for Care
- ETB Excellence Award for Respect
- ETB Excellence Award for Equality
- ETB Excellence Award for Community
- Gradam Sármhaitheasa sa Ghaeloideachas

Special Presentation

ETB ALL STARS Competition Results

Tea, coffee and cake served to tables
& group photos

ETB ALL STARS Performance

Award Ceremony Continues

- Excellence in Organisation, Support & Development Award
- Excellence in Youth Services Award
- Excellence in Education Award
- Excellence in Further Education & Training Award
- ETB Hero Award

ETB ALL STARS Performance

Event Concludes

The Cusack Suite,
Croke Park,
D03 P6K7



Introduction

#ETBWEEK2025 was a broader canvas than previous years with the addition of a ground-breaking Irish Language Event, Muintearas'25, the launch of a landmark book about ETBs and of course our ETB Excellence Awards which take place every two years.

We were delighted that Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD agreed to open proceedings, and proud former ETB learner RTE's Ray Kennedy, did a fantastic job again as our event MC. Singer- songwriter and former LOETB learner Tolu Makay wowed the crowd with a beautiful performance "My eyes are open" and then we were off!

The 2025 ETB Excellence awards winners, runners up and highly commended entries came thick and fast with a few tears, some laughter and lots of pride. We then paused to acknowledge our friend and colleague Dr Fiona Maloney, who passed earlier this year, and make a special presentation to her family.

The ETB Allstars competition yielded incredible ETB talent, and our guest Judge Tolu Makay presented pianist Abhishek Jino and singer Rachel Bergin with their prizes before we broke for some cáca milis and a chat. We were treated to an extraordinary performance of *Vivaldi's Summer* by 9 year old Abhishek Jino before we were off again with our highly commended, runners up and winner of our ETB Excellence Awards.

The last award of the day was the ETB Hero award which went to entrepreneur philanthropist and published author Sean Boyle, who, as Ray said "both symbolises and lives the values of our Sector".

ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle highlighted this in his closing words: *"These core values are not a given in today's world, indeed they are increasingly contested. ETB Week and these ETB Excellence Awards provide an opportunity for us to champion them: we're proud of our inclusive approach to education which reaches beyond the ordinary, and brings teaching and learning into communities, to people of all ages and abilities, including the most marginalised groups in society".*

Proud indeed.



ETB Excellence Awards 2025, Croke Park



Pictured at the ETB Excellence Awards is Director of Further & Higher Education ETBI Dr Joseph Collins, ETBI president Cllr. Roger Kennedy, Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research & Innovation James Lawless TD, ETBI General Secretary Paddy Lavelle and Donegal ETB Chief Executive Anne McHugh

Shine bright like a diamond: ETB Excellence Awards MC, former ETB learner and RTE presenter Ray Kennedy pictured with Colaiste Mhuire Johnstown, Kilkenny & Carlow ETB learner Rachel Bergin who won runner up in the All Stars competition and singer-songwriter and former LOETB learner Tolu Makay



The winner takes it all: The winner of each award at the ceremony took home a handcrafted piece by woodturner Kathleen Walsh. This bespoke piece was designed especially for the awards by Kathleen.

About the judging process for our awards:

The initial shortlisting was done by in-house ETBI subject matter experts who whittled the entries down to 5-10 per category. That shortlist was then shared with our judging panel, chaired by Paddy Lavelle, and comprising IPB's Jeannine Tanner, SOLAS' Maria Walshe and the Irish Examiner Education Correspondent Jessica Casey and supported by ETBI's Gwen Moore.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARDS



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE

WINNER

The 2025 award went to an individual who has shown extraordinary care via a journey of resilience, love, and unwavering commitment. This person has been nominated for the Excellence Award in recognition of her dedication to ensuring her 21 year old son, who has multi disabilities which include Autism, Dystaxia, and Sensory, where his brain does not coordinate with the right side, extreme high threshold for pain therefore could get a severe burn and would not feel pain, could pursue his passion for cooking by attending a full-time QQI Level 5 Culinary Course. To facilitate this she registered herself on the course with her son to support him daily.

Balancing the needs of one child with disabilities is already a significant challenge, but she has done so while also managing the complex needs of her three other children, all of whom have disabilities. Through sheer determination, she has fought for her son's right to education, advocating for his needs, securing necessary supports, and providing the encouragement and care he needs to thrive in his studies. From the moment she enrolled in the program, Catherine became a beacon of support for her son Noah, proving that disabilities are not barriers to success.

With her encouragement, patience, and belief in his abilities, Noah has not only thrived, but has gone on to win the gold medal in the National Chef Ireland CATEX competitions in the RDS on the 20th February 2025, with his mum there as health and safety support- Noah did all of the cooking. Noah made a ground-breaking achievement that serves as an inspiration for Learners and with disabilities nationwide.

Catherine's presence has profoundly influenced the management and staff, reshaping how they view inclusivity in education. The winner of the Excellence in Care award: Catherine Ruiz, Limerick & Clare ETB Hospitality campus.



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR CARE

RUNNER UP

The runner up in this category was a team who support learners on their learning journeys across a diverse range of settings which include: 11 Post Primary's, 12 CFE's, 8 Youth Reach Centres, 2 Training Centres, 4 Adult Ed Services, 7 Prisons Ed Services, 2 Hospital Schools, 1 Community National School, 1 Community Special School, Youth Services and specialist educational centres.

The judges were impressed by the positive impact on staff and learners this team have made through their Trauma Informed Practices, Youth Mental Health First Aid, Active Consent, Responding to Critical Incidents and Professional Learning Networks.

For their passion, dedication, and excellence in service and the profound difference they make in the lives of those they serve: Winstead Team of Psychologists in City of Dublin ETB.



Highly Commended

In this category, the judges highly commended Kerry ETB Student Forum's 'Information on Vaping Campaign'.



ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR RESPECT

WINNER

The winners of the Excellence Award for Respect 2025 were a team of students who worked, over the course of 2024, to develop and design an educational toolkit that seeks to promote the rights and dignity of refugee and asylum-seeking people and to combat racism.

The toolkit was produced to a very high standard in conjunction with their local County Council and includes lesson plans for primary, junior cycle and senior cycle students. The judges felt this project significantly increased awareness about the rights, dignity and plight of displaced people worldwide, increased empathy and understanding and empowered students with knowledge necessary to combat disinformation around this culturally sensitive topic. For proudly representing the ETB Core Value of respect : **We Are All Human, Larcy College, Cavan & Monaghan ETB.**

ACTIVE*
CONSENT



RUNNER UP

Our runner up in this category was an initiative led by a dedicated group of older women and an inspiring example of respect in action. This group came together to learn the intricate and creative craft of felting, a process that not only fostered new skills but also celebrated their individuality, dignity, and worth. For many of these women, this project represented the first time in years they had the opportunity to learn and create in a supportive, empowering environment. Their journey is a shining example of how respect can transform lives: **Memories of Charleville Castle Felting Project from Laois & Offaly ETB.**



Highly Commended

In this category, the judges highly commended Nadia Owczarek Sean O'Connor and Donal O'Mahony from Nagle Community college, Cork ETB for their creative and imaginative work on the **Christmas Radio Advertisement** highlighting Respect. Proceeds from which went to Cork Penny Dinners.

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR EQUALITY

The winner was a small team: a collaboration between a PE department and members of an ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder) Unit.



The community came up with the concept of "An Cuan Games": an opportunity for ASD students to participate in games, and provide an equal opportunity for students to represent their schools. It included 10-pin bowling, balloon volleyball, tag rugby, penalty kicks, hockey, chess and a specially adapted assault course.

An Cuan Games was an extremely complex concept that required months of planning involving teachers, SNAs, students and senior management. In excess of 80 students across 10 different schools partook in this momentous occasion supported by over 50 volunteers. The judges were impressed by the scale and depth of this project as well as its potential to be scaled up to a regional or even national event.

An Cuan Games, Kildare & Wicklow ETB: Sean McSharry, Owen Fogarty and Joe Price.



RUNNER UP

The runner up in this category is a training centre team who have developed a Level 5 Specific Purpose Certificate in Workplace Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. The programme aims to equip learners with the knowledge and practical skills for navigating Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) in the workplace.

The judges were impressed by the rigorous and collaborative process and the meticulous steps taken to ensure the programme's quality and relevance, demonstrating their commitment to fostering inclusive workplaces through education and training.

ETBs are proud of their commitment to EDI. Runners up Workplace Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Programme Team from Ballina Training Centre, Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB.



Highly Commended

In this category the judges highly commended an individual who is an Additional Educational Needs Co-ordinator and who works closely with the senior leadership team to champion equality of access for every student. Under his guidance, this college has introduced a third Autism Class, a multisensory room, and several resource areas—enabling learners with diverse needs and strengths to flourish. Through his dedication and the AEN Team, this college has established a close-knit, inclusive environment where equality is championed at every level. Grounded in empathy and respect, this approach allows all learners—especially those with additional needs—to thrive academically and socially. Well done **Ciaran Stone, Greenhills Community College, Dublin & DunLaoghaire ETB.**

ETB EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR COMMUNITY

WINNER

The winner of the ETB Excellence in Community Award 2025: a truly ground breaking example of community-building through music, demonstrating the power of collaboration, shared vision, and youth empowerment. By blending traditional and classical music, this initiative provided a platform for young musicians to explore Ireland's history and its journey toward reconciliation, using musical storytelling as a bridge to connect young people across cultural and political divides.



The judges were also impressed that the initiative has also left a legacy of participation, with young musicians continuing to collaborate beyond the project forming new ensembles and strengthening musical networks across borders and also provided musicians with a platform to progress to academic musical opportunities in Ireland and abroad.

For A Deep Ravine: Reflections on a Divided Ireland. Music Generation Cavan Monaghan – Cavan & Monaghan ETB.

RUNNER UP

The runner up in this category was a real team effort and example of partnership: it's a social prescribing programme designed to meet the needs of adults with the living experience of active addiction and or homelessness.

The project has worked with participants on a postage stamp garden based on rehabilitation and entered into Bloom in 2023, where they were awarded Highly Commended. They also have developed Social Therapeutic Art, Music & Writing Programmes.

This team work together to build confidence, learn new skills, planting and producing fresh produce.

Social Therapeutic Horticulture Programme Substance Misuse Service South Tipperary, Tipperary ETB



Highly Commended

The judges highly commended **Gairmscoil Chú Uladh - Community based initiatives sa Ghaeltacht Láir, Donegal ETB**. This is a Community based 6 to 7-week walking challenge each year, inviting the entire community to the school during Seachtain na Gaeilge and a Carol service at Christmas involving local primary schools. They foster a sense of community in a rural, disadvantaged area, providing opportunities for residents to engage in physical activity and showcase their arts, crafts and music and love of language.

ETB EXCELLENCE IN IRISH-MEDIUM EDUCATION AWARD / GRADAM SÁRMHAITHEASA SA GHAELOIDEACHAS

WINNER

The winners: two special young students who established an after-school club in Tallaght as part of a transition year initiative to increasing the visibility and use of the Irish language. They founded an after-school club in a local primary school where 40% of the school population was born outside of Ireland. The club's name is **'The Open Doors'**, a reflection of the work the girls had planned with the children. They acknowledged that refugees and immigrants of primary school age were struggling in Irish primary schools as they had no previous contact with the Irish language or culture.

These two young women took the opportunity to create a space for those who came to Ireland to integrate into the community in Tallaght and a sense of belonging in a playful and unrestricted way. The facilities and volunteers of the club were fully led and organised by the students.



For their exceptional contribution to Irish medium education, **Eibhlín Ní Bhroin agus Saoirse Nic Cárthaigh – founders / bunaitheoirí of the The Open Doors / Na Doirse Oscailte, Coláiste de hÍde, Dublin & Dunlaoghaire ETB.**

AN DARA HÁIT

Tá duais an dara háit rud beag neamhghnách - is scoil iomlán í agus níos neamhghnáiche fós, is scoil oileáin í - ach mheas na moltóirí gur chuir an scoil sin go mór leis an oideachas trí Ghaeilge inár n-earnáil. Trí shármhaitheas acadúil, rath i measc scoláirí nach í an Ghaeilge a gcéad teanga, an ról lárnach atá aici i bpobal na Gaeltachta agus a gceiliúradh ar an nGaeilge i ngach gné de shaol na scoile. Well done staff & students of **Coláiste Naomh Eoin, Inis Meáin, BOO an Gaillimhe agus Ros Commain.**



MOLTA GO HARD

Is mian leis na moltóirí ardmholadh a thabhairt **d'Annette Ní Thuathail, Coláiste Oiriall, BOO an Chabháin agus Mhuineacháin** as a dúthracht agus a ról deonach mar bhainisteoir, mar thraenálaí, mar mheantóir agus mar eagraí na foirne cispheile sa Choláiste agus as an gcaoi ar thacaigh sí leo éachtaí a bhaint amach go háitiúil, go réigiúnach agus go náisiúnta.

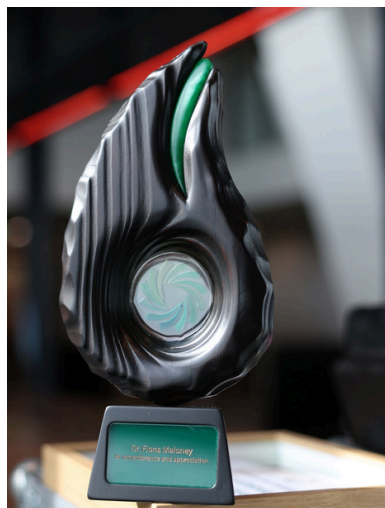
SPECIAL PRESENTATION - DR FIONA MALONEY

Our ETBI Colleague and friend Dr. Fiona Maloney passed away in February 2025 having battled Cancer in recent years.

Fiona's distinguished career started with Cavan VEC- now Cavan & Monaghan ETB, moved onto to SOLAS and then to ETBI as Director of Further Education & Training.

Fiona was appointed to head up the newly established National Tertiary Office under the auspices of DFHERIS, working with the FET and HE sector to develop groundbreaking tertiary degree programmes.

Professionally, Fiona always raised the bar of the possible, pushing the boundaries of what could be achieved in Further Education & Training and rarely accepted mediocrity or the status quo.



She was passionate and committed with an immense work ethic. It is rare for someone to possess academic and emotional intelligence in equal measures, but throw in 'street smarts' and you begin to get the picture of a unique individual. She was also a fiercely loyal friend and the best fun to be around.

We asked our awards designer, woodturner Kathleen Walsh to design something special for this presentation and it's perhaps kismet and thoroughly fitting that she chose to represent a flame as Fiona was definitely a woman with fire in her belly.

We were honoured that Fiona's husband Thomas and their children Chloe, Fia and Evan were with us to honour her memory.



ETB ALLSTARS TALENT COMPETITION

There was a phenomenal response to the ETB All Stars competition, and [here is just a flavour](#) of the applications we received. Special guest Tolu Makay helped us judge this competition.



WINNER



First prize went to an extraordinary young **Abhishek Jino, from Limerick School of Music, Limerick & Clare ETB.**

RUNNER UP



The runner up prize went to a very talented young woman who has been blazing a trail on Instagram with her beautiful voice as well as performing at ETB and school events.

Rachel Bergin from Colaiste Mhuire Johnstown, Kilkenny & Carlow ETB



Excellence in Organisation Support & Development Award

Submit.com

WINNER

The winner is an extraordinary individual who has transformed organisational efficiency in their ETB. This IT and mathematical genius has created and implemented multiple IT systems that have revolutionised Workflows, introduced dynamic timetabling, reduced administrative hours, streamlined day-to-day tasks, improved financial management and enhanced the overall educational experience for both staff and students.



What makes this individual more outstanding is his character. He is a leader who is both obliging and unassuming. Despite his impressive technical contributions, he is always willing to offer support to colleagues, willingly taking time to assist with challenges, whether technical or otherwise. His good humour, approachability and humility have earned him the admiration of both peers and students alike, creating an atmosphere of collaboration and mutual respect within the college and sharing his expertise with other Colleges.

Cianan Courtney Earley from Dunboyne College of Further Education, Louth & Meath ETB.

RUNNER UP

The runner up prize went to an individual who has made a significant difference to sustainability in their ETB College of FET. From smart travel to waste management, student orientation to promotional campaigns and initiatives, this person has taken a creative approach that encourages active participation and engagement from both staff and learners that to make a lasting positive impact on the environment and to make their college campus greener and more eco-conscious.



Audrey Fitzgerald College of Further Education and Training, Mulgrave Street Campus, Limerick & Clare ETB.

Highly Commended

The judges highly commended **Colin Rhatigan from Longford & Westmeath ETB Head Office** for rolling out smart meters across all LWETB schools and centres. His efforts have not only ensured the seamless implementation of this technology but have also played a key role in transforming the culture in LWETB around energy savings.

As a result of his work and dedication LWETB are surpassing the 2030 targets outlined in the climate target plan.

Excellence in Youth Services Award

WINNER

The winner was a real team initiative that the judges felt has learners at its centre and represents the excellence and inclusion that are our key values.

Imaha is a short film loosely based on Joseph Sheridan Le Fanu's (1814-1873) story with the original title "The child that went with the fairies".



It takes place eastward of the old city of Limerick, about ten Irish miles under the range of mountains known as the Slieveelins Hills. Adapted by multidisciplinary artist Evan Kennedy, scripted and directed by John Hogan, filmed and edited by Dominik Kosicki, original music composition by Andy Connolly and devised by Limerick Youth Theatre members. Imaha was a Limerick Youth Theatre initiative produced in summer 2024. It is a great example of the quality that can be achieved with the range of supports that UBU Your Place Your Space provide to young adults. The investment and commitment, both from the programme and Limerick Youth Theatre, has allowed young adults and a professional team of art practitioners to work together over the summer 2024 to create a unique short film. Imaha is a testament to what can be achieved when people work collectively, share the same creative passions in a safe, supported and resourced environment.

Limerick Youth Theatre, Limerick & Clare ETB.

RUNNER UP

The runner up in this category was a wonderful youth-led collaborative initiative. The Le Chéile gala concert, featuring 232 young musicians and singers from across Ireland, was broadcast on television during St Patrick's Weekend celebrations. The event brought together participants from Music Generation programmes/ETBs nationwide, offering an eclectic mix of traditional Irish music, song, and dance. The project paired young musicians with some of Ireland's most respected names in traditional music including Sharon Shannon, Beoga, Pauline Scanlon, and Niall McCabe and was produced by Music Development Officer Eric Cunningham.



The Le Chéile performance represents the first time a concert of this style and magnitude was filmed for national TV and showcases the work of Music Generation and Education and Training Boards in 5 regions across Ireland. For its ambition and boundless creativity, the runner up prize goes to **Music Generation Galway County/Galway & Roscommon ETB** - for its initiative **Le Chéile**.

Highly Commended

The judges would like to highly commended The Bey Project UBU Ballyhaunis Foróige, Youth Services Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB. The judges thought this was a lovely example of youth global cooperation: the creation and launch of an International Story Book by the teenagers of The Bey Project Foróige and Thamarai, India supported by the Youth Office in MSLETB. The process was simple yet deeply impactful: students in India started the first half of their stories, bringing them to a critical point and then their counterparts in Ballyhaunis brought them to a conclusion.

The International Story Book initiative made a significant positive impact by fostering cultural understanding, youth empowerment, and global collaboration.

Excellence in Education Award

WINNER

The winner of the ETB Excellence in Education Award was another collaborative project with strong student involvement. This project examined the forgotten lives of revolutionary women and the valuable duties they carried out during the Irish War of Independence & the Civil War.



Together with help from family members, local people, past pupils and the military archives, they pieced together vital new research. Above all, this project told "*herstory*", putting a face to the name and preserve their memory and achievements for future generations. This project extended beyond the gates of the school and engaged grandparents, the great-aunts, the local historian, family and friends. It has drawn the team into history and with that, their interest in the heritage and story of their community has evolved. An exhibition and book followed. A dedicated history teacher and her students are behind this and we commend them for their excellence in education.

The Revolutionary Women Of Mayo 1918-1923 Project, St. Joseph's Community College, Charlestown, Mayo Sligo & Leitrim ETB.

RUNNER UP

For the runner up in the award, the judges were very impressed by another strong collaborative team effort, but this one very much student-led. This college made their Sustainability week a living, dynamic topic for young people and were creative in integrating sustainability into the curriculum, ensuring that students understand its relevance not only to their education but to their daily lives and future.



This required the school to move beyond traditional lessons, incorporating hands-on projects, real-world discussions, and innovative initiatives that engage and inspire students in problem-solving and action. This Community College's Sustainability Week included Student-led teaching sessions for 1st Years, 6th Year student speeches and emphasis on student involvement and leadership in all aspects, reflecting the school's commitment to all students to contribute meaningfully regardless of their academic standing. This initiative serves as a model for integrating core values into educational practices, promoting a more sustainable and socially responsible future. **Abbey Community College's Sustainability Week, Kilkenny & Carlow ETB.**

Highly Commended

The judges highly commended the **Community of Practice- Excellence in Education in Tipperary ETB Schools North, Mid and South Regions** for their excellent professional learning and in-school supports to schools, enabling the capture of varied case studies and developing innovative approaches to improve teaching, learning and assessment.

Excellence in Further Education & Training



WINNER

Local Training Initiatives (LTIs) are community-based education and training programmes in Ireland, designed to support individuals who may face barriers to mainstream education or employment. The judges felt this Local Training Initiative demonstrated innovation through its learner-centered approach, creative educational strategies, and strong community partnerships and delivered results for its learners.



Offering a holistic Learning Experience: it integrates practical trades, academic development, personal growth, and mental health supports to create a well-rounded educational pathway. The partnership with local clubs provides mentoring opportunities, helping learners build interpersonal skills in a supportive environment. The expanding career pathways offered provide learners with expanded skill sets and career options. Work experience partnerships ensure that learners gain real-world industry exposure. This forward thinking Further Education & Training model, makes it a worthy recipient of this award.

For meeting the diverse needs of learners, helping them build confidence, develop career pathways, and create meaningful connections within their community creating a sense of belonging to the area in which they live in a time of youth social anxiety & isolation **Courtown Local Training Initiative, Waterford & Wexford ETB**

RUNNER UP

The runner-up for the Excellence in FET Award is a new initiative launched in 2024, designed to bridge the gap between employers and Further Education and Training (FET) services. The portal provides local employers with an easy-to-use platform, accessible through the ETB website, where they can post job openings, explore upskilling opportunities and connect with the ETB's



Employer Engagement Team to conduct skills analysis, which informs the development of tailored training programs within their companies. **Cavan & Monaghan ETB's Employer Portal Initiative**

Highly Commended

The judges would like to highly commend **The Bey Project UBU Ballyhaunis Foróige, Youth Services Mayo, Sligo & Leitrim ETB**. The judges thought this was a lovely example of youth global cooperation: the creation and launch of an International Story Book by the teenagers of The Bey Project Foróige and Thamarai, India supported by the Youth Office in MSLETB. The process was simple yet deeply impactful: students in India started the first half of their stories, bringing them to a critical point and then their counterparts in Ballyhaunis brought them to a conclusion. The International Story Book initiative made a significant positive impact by fostering cultural understanding, youth empowerment, and global collaboration.

ETB Hero Award

The ETB Hero award. ETBs made this judging extremely difficult as the calibre of entry was exceptional. How do you compare and judge the achievements of a student who is a full time carer with a teacher who goes above and beyond for their cherished students?

A parent who fights for the rights of their child with special needs with a child who raises thousands of euro for charity, even though they themselves are gravely ill? Do you go for academic excellence and high achievement? Humanity? Dedication? Someone who might change society?

What makes it even more challenging is there is no runner up in this category! But we made a slight exception and had a special presentation of flowers to two exceptional women, who, though they didn't win the hero award we felt truly deserved recognition. One a learner and the other, a teacher.

Grace Oladipo from Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB is an award-winning social entrepreneur, international speaker, and human rights advocate, her journey from Nigeria to Ireland is one of remarkable determination and purpose and we wanted to honour her academic, personal and political achievements.



Angela O'Connor from City of Dublin ETB is a much-loved teacher of 6 decades, the type of teacher who is the heart and soul of her school; she has spare socks if your feet get wet coming to school and spare Mother's Day gifts if you forget, not to mention utter dedication to her student's progress.



WINNER

A hero isn't defined by strength alone but by the courage to dream, the determination to achieve, and the kindness to uplift others. The ETB Hero Award for 2025 went to a student who is an entrepreneur, a philanthropist and a published author. Born with Down syndrome, Sean has never let a label define his potential.

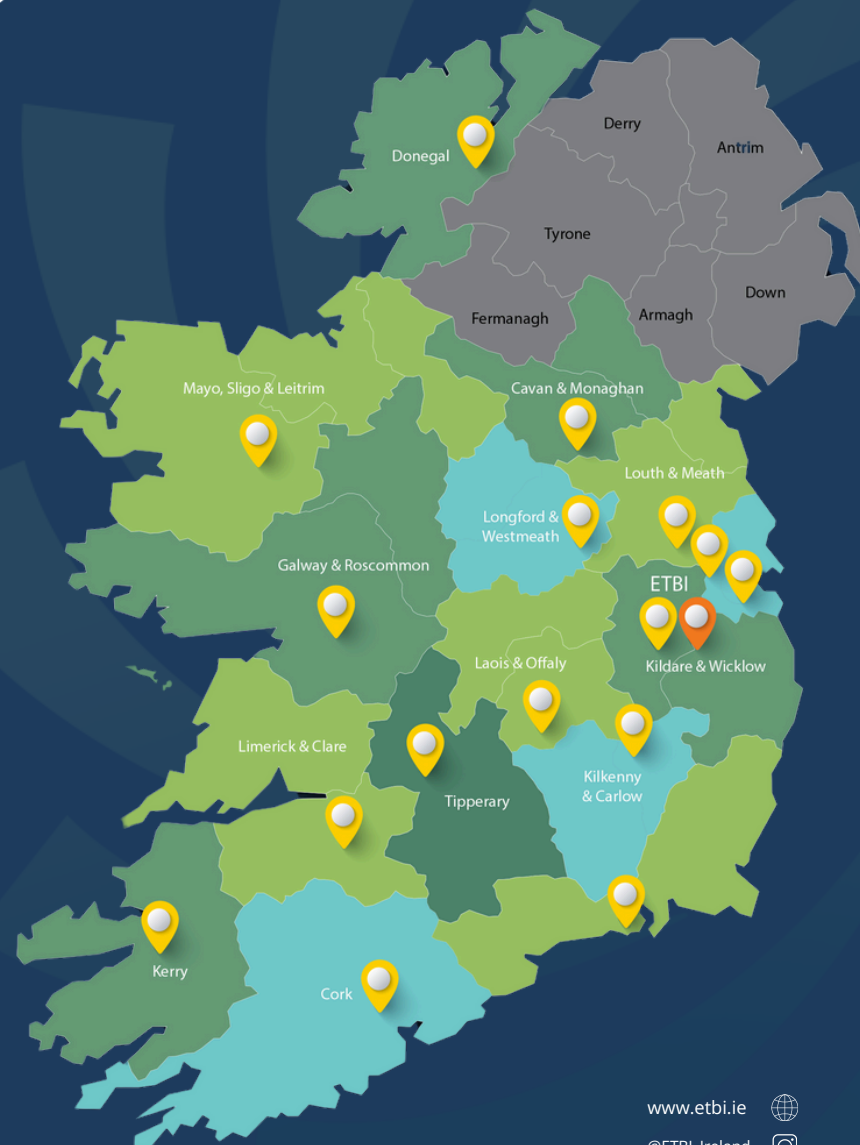
Sean's entrepreneurial journey began in 1st year when he created and sold wallets. This was his first experience of running a business, and he took to it with enthusiasm and a desire to learn. From pricing to customer service, Sean quickly grasped the basics, showing even then his strong work ethic and a genuine passion for making his ideas come to life.

In 2nd year, as the world faced the COVID-19 pandemic, Sean adapted brilliantly. With lockdowns and restrictions in place, Sean saw an opportunity to bring a bit of Irish cheer to people's homes. He designed care packages filled with Irish goods and a Christmas card, delivering a sense of connection when it was needed most. His ability to innovate during a challenging time showed both maturity and compassion. Sean's care packages brought smiles to many faces in our community and were a testament to his creativity.

In 3rd year, Sean combined business with community service by selling daffodil bulbs and taking it one step further by planting them around the school. This act not only promoted his business but also brightened up the school grounds for all to enjoy. Sean's project was a perfect reflection of his thoughtful and giving nature, showing that his entrepreneurial and caring spirit is deeply rooted in his desire to make a positive impact on the world around him. Last year in Transition Year, Sean embarked on his most ambitious project yet—writing a book on CPR, the proceeds of which went to charity.

Our ETB Hero for 2025 both symbolises and lives the values of our Sector. **Sean Boyle from Gairmscoil Mhic Diarmada, Arranmore, Donegal ETB.**





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