

Newsletter



**Let's talk
about literacy**

**New online Literacy
Awareness module**

International Literacy Day - 8 September

For **International Literacy Day** (8 September), we are launching our new online Literacy Awareness course, **Let's talk about literacy**.

This 45 minute course is for people who are working with the public. It will help people to become literacy aware and respond sensitively to unmet literacy needs.

You can **scan the QR** code to access this course or visit:

www.adultliteracyforlife.ie/aware/



Library hosts launch of International Literacy Day

Minister Patrick O'Donovan marked **International Literacy Day 2024** at Limerick City Library on Friday 6 September. Minister O'Donovan met with Maurice Sammon, a Literacy Ambassador and learner with Waterford and Wexford ETB, who shared his experience of returning to learning.

Maurice features on the new online course **Let's talk about literacy**, which the Minister launched at the event.

Yvonne McKenna, Director of Adult Literacy for Life in SOLAS said: "It is really important that organisations – public, private and community and voluntary – deliver services in a literacy friendly way.

We are delighted to be launching a literacy awareness online course which will help all of us who have direct contact with the public in our work or volunteering, to respond better to unmet literacy needs.

I want to particularly thank the participants in the course – Catherine, Maurice, Sarah, Denis and Matt – for sharing their life and work experiences, from which we can all learn."



Minister O'Donovan also announced funding of €430,000 for two new innovative and ground breaking literacy initiatives under the government's Adult Literacy for All Strategy. The initiatives announced by the Minister will receive funding of:

- €300,000 for Media Literacy
- €130,000 for Family Literacy

Cavan and Monaghan

Continuous Professional Development for Adult Education tutors

Ceinwen Fergus, Regional Literacy Coordinator for Cavan and Monaghan, and three Adult Literacy tutors gave a presentation on a resource hub padlet for Cavan Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB) tutors.

The presentation was part of a workshop that took place in the Creighton Hotel, Clones on the 30th May.

Presenters explained how they created a shared Padlet to provide easy access to literacy resources and tutor documentation across their whole team.

Padlets give tutors a one-stop-shop for their resources, rather than having to search for resources themselves.

Feedback from those who took part was great: "Thank you to Ceinwen for initiating the Resource Hub. The Hub will prove to be an extremely valuable resource for tutors and teachers."

You can create your own Padlet at www.padlet.com.



To find out more, contact Ceinwen Fergus:
ceinwenfergus@cmetb.ie
087 068 7841

Cavan and Monaghan

Tech-Know/Literacy Changing Lives

Ceinwen Fergus and Karen McCague presented the Tech-Know project at the Literacy Changing Lives conference on the 17th June.

Tech-Know digital hubs provided one-to-one digital guidance for people who visit Monaghan Library branches.

Learners booked a one-hour slot with a CMETB tutor. Tutors helped people with issues related to downloading apps, internet shopping, and using Google translate.

This presentation showed how this Collaboration and Innovation Fund project ran, and how the organisations worked together to bring the project to life.

A librarian said the digital hubs were “the best thing we’ve run in ages”.



Cavan and Monaghan

Employer and Training Expo

Ceinwen Fergus ran an exhibition at an Employer and Training Expo in Monaghan Institute on the 30th May. Roughly 40 companies attended the event, along with a range of Cavan Monaghan ETB services.

The exhibit showcased the role of literacy services and the ALL strategy to the public and local companies.

The public met Education and Training Board (ETB) staff and asked about training or employment options. Ceinwen also visited company stalls and highlighted Skills For Work and Literacy courses.

To find out more, contact Ceinwen Fergus:
ceinwenfergus@cmetb.ie
087 068 7841

Donegal

Literacy Ambassador Training

Seven adult literacy students completed literacy ambassador training in Letterkenny on the 27th May.

Regional Literacy Coordinator Adele McElhinney and the ALL Office organized the training session.

Facilitator William Coreless helped everyone tell their story. He also showed ambassadors how to encourage others to take the next step in their learning journey.



To find out more, contact Adele McElhinney:
adelemcelhinney@donegaletb.ie
086 084 9284

Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Skills Academy

On the 24th June, seven learners graduated from the Digital Skills Academy in Down Syndrome Ireland's headquarters in Dublin.

The Skills Academy is an innovative pilot project that provides pre-employment training for people with intellectual disabilities.

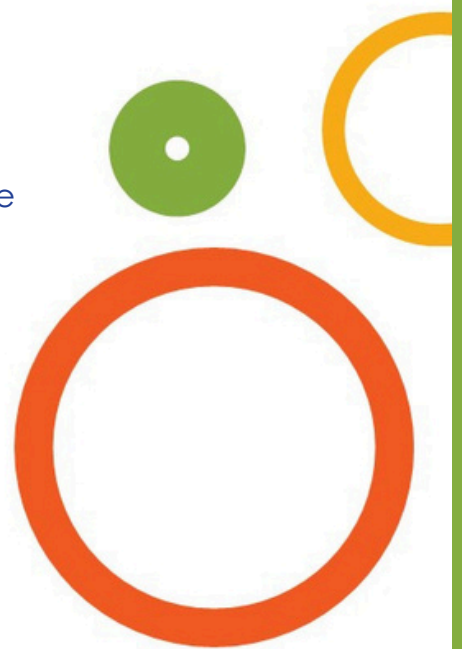
The Academy aims to help learners access education, meaningful employment, and to be active participants in their communities.

Down syndrome Ireland created sets that replicate real life working environments at their office in Ballymount. There is a shop, an office, a restaurant, a hotel room, a small factory, and more to come!

Tutors use these sets to practice various work skills while integrating literacy, QQI accreditation, and career guidance. They focus on practical activities rather than abstract concepts or theories.

Learners enjoyed a varied course load, which included field trips, workplaces tours, and talks from guest speakers.

70% are now employed and the remaining 30% are pursuing further education and training.



To find out more, contact Nuala Nedjati:
nualanedjati@ddletbaes.ie
086 047 2363

Galway and Roscommon Literacy and Dyslexia Conference

Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board is preparing a Literacy and Dyslexia conference on the 5th September in the Clayton Hotel, Galway.

Donald Ewing, Head of Education and Policy at Dyslexia Ireland, will be the keynote speaker at the event.

Speakers in the morning will give an overview of dyslexia and how to address it. In the afternoon, speakers will focus on how tutors can help people with dyslexia.



To find out more, contact Bernadette Smith:
bernadette.smith@gretb.ie
087 763 6260

Louth and Meath

Teagasc BEEF 2024 Open Day

Louth and Meath Education and Training Board took part in the Teagasc Beef Open Day on the 26th June 2024. This event was held for beef farmers across the country.

The Open Day was an invaluable opportunity to showcase courses and degree programs.

Regional Literacy Coordinator Niamh McShane discussed digital literacy needs among older farmers who need to complete online forms and documents and refer people for support from their local literacy services.

Helping farmers transition from paper to digital forms will play a big part in the ALL Strategy going forward.

“What you are offering is exactly what I need”, said one farmer at the Open Day



To find out more, contact Niamh McShane:
nmcshane@lmetb.ie
086 201 1988

Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim

Collaboration and Innovation Fund Projects

Five applications from the Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim region were successful in this year's Collaboration and Innovation Fund. This fund supports projects that aim to improve literacy levels and to create a more literacy-friendly Ireland.

Mayo County Library and Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board (MSLETB) will deliver digital literacy training on a one-to-one basis in library branches throughout the county.

Mayo North East Leader Partnership and MSLETB will run a peer-led training course in Ballina, where social housing residents will develop their own responses to address unmet literacy, numeracy, and digital needs in their community

Diversity Sligo and **County Sligo Leader Partnership** will teach migrants how to make maps and guides about Sligo. These maps will help new arrivals identify key services that will help them settle into their new lives and communities.

Leitrim County Library and MSLETB will help address health literacy needs among men who attend Men's Sheds in County Leitrim. Tutors and health professionals like doctors, pharmacists, and dieticians will give talks that highlight the importance of taking care of our health.

Ballyhaunis Family Resource Centre, Scoil Íosa, and Ballyhaunis Community School will work with parents to meet the needs of marginalized communities that don't have well developed language and literacy skills.

To find out more, contact Thomas Howley:
thomashowley@msletb.ie
085 748 2365



Tipperary

Age Friendly Expo

Age Friendly Tipperary is an annual event hosted by the Tipperary Age Friendly programme and the Older People's Council.

The event took place in the Technological University of the Shannon's Thurles Campus on the 24th June.

Age Friendly Tipperary provides information to older people about various services available throughout the county.

Scan to view Expo
photo album



Tipperary Education and Training Board (TETB) worked closely with their Community Education and the Adult Literacy Service to promote literacy courses at the event.

This was an excellent opportunity to connect with the older population in County Tipperary.

"The hosting of the EXPO is a key annual event of Tipperary Age Friendly, it is an opportunity for engagement, social connections, showcasing supports and services in the county and building membership of Tipperary Age Friendly" -- Fiona Crotty, Tipperary Age Friendly Programme Manager



To find out more, contact Ester Mackey:
emackey@tipperaryetb.ie
087 062 6937

Tipperary

Celebrating Learner Writing

This event celebrated the publication of traveller poet Helen Hutchinson's first poetry collection, 'From the Dirt Lane back to the Open Roads', on the 25th June.

The launch took place in the Abbey Court Hotel in Nenagh. Staff from Tipperary Traveller Project, Pavee Point, the North Tipperary Development Company (NTDC), and TETB attended the event.

Traveller activist, Dr Rosaleen McDonagh, officially launched Helen's poetry collection: 'From the Dirt Lane back to the Open Roads'.

A long-time activist and proud Traveller woman, Helen developed her voice to become a writer for her community

Helen's poetry offers insights into Traveller history and culture, as well as the pain they experienced through assimilation.

This poetry collection is a significant achievement for Helen, for Traveller culture, and for Tipperary ETB. 'The poetry is a gift to our community and young people'-- Dr Rosaleen McDonagh



To find out more, contact Ester Mackey:
emackey@tipperaryetb.ie
087 062 6937

Tipperary Annual Quality Day

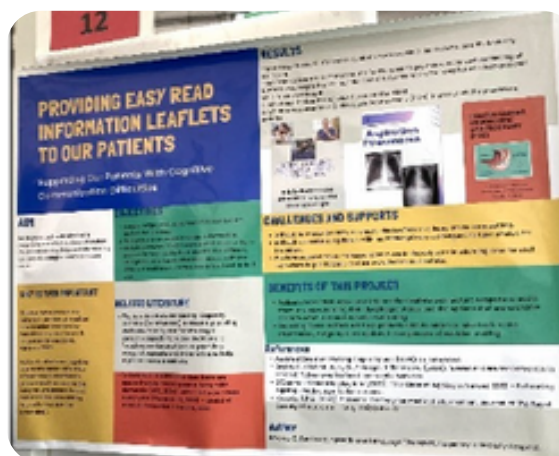
Tipperary University Hospital hosted their Annual Quality Day in Clonmel on 22 May 2024.

This event highlighted the hospital's commitment to patient services.

A wide variety of presentations showcased improved patient services, such as information leaflets written in Plain English.



To find out more, contact Ester Mackey:
emackey@tipperaryetb.ie
087 062 6937



Waterford and Wexford

Adult Reading Club

Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) and Wexford library service are piloting an adult reading club in Wexford Town between May and August 2024.


This pilot is helping adults whose native language is not English to develop their reading skills in a friendly environment.

Wexford Reading Group
Find The Joy in Reading
For Adults who want to build their reading confidence.

Wexford Library
Thursday Mornings 11am
8 Meetings
13th June - 8th August

• Read Short Stories
• Meet New People

To Book or For More Information call
053-9196760 or
email: wexfordlibrary@wexfordcoco.ie



Waterford and Wexford

Digital Literacy Video Production

WWETB and a videographer worked together to produce eight Digital Literacy elearning videos for people with unmet literacy needs.

Videos included learning opportunities on:

- WhatsApp
- QR Codes
- Apps
- Email
- Google search

To find out more, contact Edel Finan:
edelfinan@wwetb.ie
086 084 5354



Waterford and Wexford Digital Skills Workshop

WWETB organized a digital skills workshop for adults over 50 in the Gorey School of Art.

The program spanned four weeks, with learners focusing on digital skills like smartphone photography, cloud storage, and social media usage.

Workshops enhanced the digital skills of adult learners through a combination of practical activities, artistic expression, and social interaction.

A combination of art and technology provided a stimulating and enjoyable learning environment, fostering creativity and digital literacy.

“Can we do another 4 weeks?”- a learner



To find out more, contact Edel Finan:
edelfinan@wwetb.ie
086 084 5354

Waterford and Wexford Literacy Awareness Training

Edel Finan delivered two Literacy Awareness Training workshops to

- library staff representing each of the five libraries in Co Wexford, and
- two different groups of 20 staff members from Intreo's office in Wexford Town.



To find out more, contact
Edel Finan:
edelfinan@wwetb.ie
086 084 5354



Tullamore Show

Regional Literacy Coordinators Tamara Latham, Bernadette Smith, and Helen Walsh attended the Tullamore Show on the 10th August in Offaly.

The Tullamore Show is Ireland's largest one-day livestock and agricultural exhibit. Thousands of people from all across the country visit the show every year.

This event was a great opportunity to showcase the Adult Literacy for Life strategy.

It allowed our Regional Literacy Coordinators to talk about literacy to those attending from across Ireland, to members of the farming community, community services, and many others.

Many adults have now been referred to services within their local communities.



Contact your Regional Literacy Coordinator or our National Office for questions, literacy awareness, support and referrals:



Region	Regional Literacy Coordinator	Email and phone
Cavan and Monaghan	Ceinwen Fergus	ceinwenfergus@cmetsb.ie 087 068 7841
Cork	Sinead Maloney	sinead.maloney@corketsb.ie 086 084 3030
City of Dublin	Andrew Connolly	andrew.connolly@aes.cdetsb.ie 086 601 8180
Donegal	Adele McElhinney	adelemcelhinney@donegaletsb.ie 086 084 9284
Dublin and Dun Laoghaire	Nuala Nedjati	nualanedjati@ddletbaes.ie 086 047 2363
Galway and Roscommon	Bernadette Smith	bernadette.smith@gretb.ie 087 763 6260
Kerry	Paula Tiller	paula.tiller@kerryetsb.ie 087 337 2139
Kildare and Wicklow	Deirdre Gallagher	deirdregallagher@kwetsb.ie 087 188 4355
Kilkenny and Carlow	Helen Walsh	helenm.walsh@kilkennycarlowetsb.ie 087 767 5547
Laois and Offaly	Tamara Latham	tlatham@loetsb.ie 085 856 0160
Limerick and Clare	Tom Kent	tom.kent@lclsetsb.ie 087 056 4369
Longford and Westmeath	Anne-Maria Egan	aegan@lwetsb.ie 085 857 0991
Louth and Meath	Niamh McShane	nmcshane@lmetb.ie 086 201 1988
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