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Dunboyne College football team has historic win

Dunboyne College's football team celebrate its win

BY GARETH HALL

Dunboyne College of Further Education won their first match in the Irish College & Universities Football League on Friday, 2 December 2016.

Playing Athlone IT in their home sports campus, the dense fog made playing conditions extremely tough on both

sides; however, Dunboyne College FC managed to overcome this adversity and finished the game with a 1-0 victory.

It was a tense match all the way through, even though Dunboyne FC created several opportunities within minutes of the match opening; Joshua Wanzio hit the crossbar and Cian Hutchinson kicked a shot

that went inches wide of the post.

Having missed two key chances, Dunboyne College FC kept their nerve and continued to keep Athlone IT under pressure. Their perseverance paid off when Lar Gannon finished a cross from Gavin Galfe, which put the away side in the lead.

Dunboyne conceded a

goal early into the second half, which resulted in a dramatic final quarter for the young outfit. Nevertheless, thanks to sturdy and at sometimes brave defending by the Meath side's back four, the away fans had eventually a result to celebrate.

This was a historic victory for the newly formed team and manager Tomas Tiernan

was swarmed by his players and fans at the final whistle.

Dunboyne CFE is the first further education college to participate in this league, and are considered the underdog of the competition for several reasons, not least because this team was only formed in late September 2016.



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DCFETRIBUNE INFORMATION

Editor:
Jean Harrington

Design and Layout:
Jean Harrington

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Martone Press

CONTACT

Dunboyne College of Further Education, Dunboyne Business Park, Dunboyne, Co. Meath

Ph: 01 802 6577

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of the DCFE Tribune!

This issue is a collection of stories, events and news from the first semester of 2016/2017.

Students from across all disciplines have had a busy semester, participating in co-curricular activities such as a trip to the Gaeltacht in Connemara, a visit to Kings Inn's library, soccer matches and an excursion to Hell's Kitchen!

The students and teachers have initiated fundraisers throughout the year, which contributed to the vibrant and altruistic atmosphere that prevails throughout

the college: *Wedding Dress Wednesday* was part of the 'Dare to Care' fundraising campaign that Today FM ran in September to raise money for the Irish Cancer Society while the Christmas Shoebox Appeal has been raising money for the homeless for a number of years.

College Awareness Week was a great success with Dunboyne CFE graduates coming in as guest speakers to talk about the options that doing a further education course offered them. One of these graduates, Emer Ní Cheallaigh, was interviewed and offers current students advice on page 11.

The Nursing and Healthcare department received a contribution to the team this year in the guise of Mrs Jones — you can see her on page 8!

Students from Music Performance and Sound Engineering will perform in the Grasshopper Inn in Clonee on Friday, 20th January. They regularly put on shows and look after all aspects of the sound production as part of their course. Tickets to the gig are only €5 and all money raised goes to charity.

Page 9 details what happens in the Art Studio in Dunboyne College, as well as outlining the portfolio deadline dates for various art colleges.

WRITERS WANTED!

We are always looking for contributors. Fancy seeing your name in print? If so, contact Jean Harrington on jharrington.dbc@lmetb.ie with an idea for a story.

Please send in photographs and story ideas and you may find yourself in the next issue of the DCFE Tribune!

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Tennis at DCFE

A new tennis club started in Dunboyne College of Further Education under the guidance of teacher Maria McDonnell. They meet on Tuesdays at 4pm at Dunboyne Community Centre and new members are always welcome.



Students enjoying their weekly tennis sessions.



CO-CURRICULAR

Pre-Arts students use 'cúpla focail' in Galway Gaeltacht



Dinnéar in san brú. Bhí ar gach éinne cabhair leis an ullmhú agus glanadh suas.

LE JEAN HARRINGTON

Chuaigh na daltaí ó Na hEalaíona Réamh-ollscoil 1 agus 2 go dtí Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre i nGailgeamh chun Gaeilge a cleachtadh i mí Deireadh Fomhair 2016.

Ghlac siad páirt i gníomhaíochtaí cosúil le bac-chúrsa, gorge-walking agus treodóireacht, go léir trí mheán na Gaeilge.

Cuireann Petersburg a lán gníomhachtaí éagsúla ar súil, ach an rud is tabhachtach a d'fhoghlaim na daltaí san turas ná faoi obair le chéile. Bhí orthu cabhrú leis na béilí go léir in san bhrú, agus faoi dheireadh an turas bhí siad sona sásta gach rud a dhéanamh gan aon gearán.

Tá níos mó eolas le fáil faoi Petersburg ar www.petersburg.ie.



Na daltaí ó Coláiste Dún Boinne ag baint spraoi sa Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre.



The winning team for the obstacle course consisted of (from left): Jean Harrington (Irish teacher), Daniel Duggan, Matthew Cheasty, Emily Desmond and Dolores Meschi.



Animal Care students visit Tayto Park

BY ANNELESE DURANT

The QQI level 5 animal care students went to Tayto Park on 20th October 2016 as part of their Animal Welfare module. The zoo was closed to the public that day so the students had the park all to themselves.

Although there was no rollercoaster open, the zoo keepers had a full day planned for students.

On arrival they were met by zookeeper Jose Dekker and an education officer who brought them on a tour of the zoo to observe the variety of animal species kept there and the enclosure designs. Species at the zoo include Fishing Cats, Amur Leopard, Corsac Fox, Amur Tiger, Ring-

tailed Coati, Ocelot, Raccoon, Eurasian Lynx and Squirrel Monkeys. As part of the animal welfare module, students are required to design an enclosure for a species of their choice while taking into consideration the behavioural needs of the animal, the biological needs of the animal, keeper safety and zoo visitor safety. This was a great opportunity for them to learn about enclosure design first hand.

Students used workbooks to collect information about the enclosures they saw and about the animal species within them. They were then given a one hour

talk and presentation on the history of zoos and enclosure design after which they had time to explore the zoo. The day ended with a bird of prey presentation by the bird of prey keeper. The keeper spoke to the students about husbandry techniques for keeping large birds of prey and how to design an appropriate enclosure for them. The students even got the opportunity to meet a Chilean Blue Buzzard up close.

Overall the day was a success and a great experience for the students. They even got a free bag of Tayto to bring home!



Animal Care students meet a Chilean Blue Buzzard up close.



Students learn about animal enclosures and receive a talk and presentation on the history of zoos and enclosure design.



Legal Eagles at Kings Inn and Criminal Law Courts



Graduate and Barrister-at-law Kasey Kelly-Quinn arranged a private tour with Dean Eimear Brown for the students; there are normally no public tours of this building.

BY IRENE TOGHER

On 15 November 2016 the Law class enjoyed an informative visit to the Criminal Law Courts and Kings Inns.

Kings Inns is a historical building dating back to the time of King Henry VIII; where barristers

have trained since then; top legal minds in the country make up the alumni.

The visit inspired students, who learned about the history and traditions of the college.



Out & About

BY TESS GAFFNEY

Pre-University Arts 1 & 2 had a busy first semester visiting the Hell Fire Club and the Battle of the Boyne.

An Archaeology Project is being carried out on the megalithic tombs of Mountpelier Hill, County Dublin at the Hell Fire Club and in October the students had a unique opportunity to access the excavation and experience an archaeological dig first hand.

In November they visited the Battle of the Boyne as part of their Local History module.



Re-living history at the Battle of the Boyne.



A re-enactment takes place at the Battle of the Boyne.



Above: students enjoy Hell Fire Club and (right) an artefact is uncovered.



Pre-Arts students observing the excavation.

Music Performance and Sound Engineering students are 'Acoustic Shadows'

BY SUSAN CLARKE

The students from the Sound Engineering and Music Performance courses are doing a gig to raise money for charity in January.

Individually they are technicians, singers, DJs and instrumentalists but together they are *Acoustic Shadows*.

The students have been rehearsing and putting together an exciting set for the show and are looking forward to

showcasing their talents. Dunboyne College offers students the opportunity to develop their musical abilities, musical awareness and is the perfect chance to showcase talents in gigs/concerts and graduation ceremonies.

This year DCFE is privileged to have a vast array of talented and successful technicians and musicians enrolled in both these courses.



Students rehearse for their upcoming gig.

ACOUSTIC SHADOWS

Tickets: €5
(Sold in DCFE library)

Date: Friday 20th Jan 2017

Time: doors 7 pm till late
(over 18s, ID required)

Venue: The Grasshopper, Clonee, D.15
(restricted seating)

BUY TICKETS NOW!!!

WITH SPECIAL GUEST, MC, SUPPORTING ACTS & DJ ENTERTAINMENT

In aid of Fr. Peter McVerry Trust & NCBI

Dunboyne College students asked to 'Mind Yourself'

BY JEAN HARRINGTON

Irish people often say to others 'mind yourself'; however, many of us neglect to do this. When faced with the challenges of busy lives – family demands, college, work, and friends – we are all guilty of sometimes neglecting our own wellbeing, particularly our mental health. Suicide rates are up, and people are advised to reach out and talk to people if they are suffering with their mental health. Dunboyne College of Further Education decided to take a proactive role in supporting students' mental health, and in making them aware of the support systems that are available both within the college and in the wider community.

Career Guidance Counsellor Danielle Kerins, along with other teachers, organised a week-long series of events themed around self-care and holistic development. 'There is a lot of pressure on young people, and we wanted to remind our students that there is a support network here in the college, as well as amongst their own peer group. Part of our job here in DCFE is to encourage students to be self-directed learners; to take responsibility

for managing their time, their resources, submitting assignments, as well as making friends and connecting socially,' Kerins said.

The week had five different themes under the 'Mind Yourself' banner. The theme of 'Mind your Space' addressed discrimination, bullying and harassment and information sessions were held with different groups on the nine grounds for discrimination. These sessions covered topics such as bullying and harassment in the workplace and guest speakers included representatives from Youth Connect, an initiative aimed at raising awareness on issues associated with the working world.

On Tuesday, Dr Anita Byrne spoke to students about sexual health and consent, busting common myths on conception, STIs and sexual wellbeing.

On the mental health theme, Counsellor Anne Marie Solan delivered wellness and meditation workshops, while Career Development Consultant Rose Tully spoke to students about boundaries and self-care as a mature learner, acknowledging the diversity of DCFE's student body and their varied needs. Jigsaw Meath and Teenline were



Career Guidance Counsellor, Danielle Kerins (left) with Dunboyne College of Further Education students and Damien Coyle from Jigsaw (on right).

on campus to offer advice on their early intervention services.

To raise awareness of the benefits of physical activity, teachers and students went on a brisk 'Blow the Cobwebs Off' walk around the local area, while the 'Golden Tiger Academy', based in Dunboyne Business Park, offered self-defence classes.

Emily McKeown, the Professional Cookery teacher, prepared overnight oats and muesli for students to highlight the importance of good nutrition and eating well, while Niamh McGuinness from Coolmine Treatment Centre delivered a presentation on drug and alcohol use, abuse and treatment.

The week culminated

on Friday with 'Celebrate Yourself Day'. Under the guidance of Music and Sound Engineering teachers, students were invited to participate in an Open Mic session in the canteen where they sang, rhymed, rapped and celebrated their own unique light.



Teenline was on hand to talk to students.



Ken Byrne from the Golden Tiger Academy in Dunboyne Business Park with students from Dunboyne College.

Meet Mrs Jones!

BY KATHLEEN MURPHY

The nursing/healthcare department is delighted to welcome Mrs Jones to their team. Mrs Jones has been an invaluable resource for practical classes and skills demonstrations.

She requires a lot of care and attention due to her recent tracheostomy, colostomy and catheter insertion.

She is expected to make a full recovery under the constant care and dedication of the nursing and healthcare students!



The inimitable Mrs Jones.



Students also practise their skills on each other.



WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ARTINDUNBOYNECOLLEGEOFFURTHEREDUCATION

The Art Studio

BY BERNIE LEAHY

The Art students are producing an enormous array of work for the portfolio submissions. Sculpture, drawing and painting are among the most popular artwork, but there is plenty of stunning design work, animation and textiles amongst the packed portfolios here in the Art Studio. The submission dates are coming soon, so the pressure is on.

What happens in the Art Studio in Dunboyne CFE?

Each day we spend a few minutes exploring an artist of our choice, before we tackle the main project work. The artists we look at vary enormously, and we look at all cultures and all types of materials – painting, animation, fashion design, sculpture etc. A rendering is made of a close up of our chosen artist, and details of the artists are recorded in our A4 sketchbooks. We have to vary our materials, paint, pastels, mixed media – we sometimes stitch into our sketchbooks. Every day, we try to add new ideas and observational drawing. This is called Sketchbook Practice.

Experimentation is key so that we can develop our own ideas and techniques. Researching old and new techniques and materials keep us very busy. Some days we start off designing a costume or designing an interior, using paint and pens – but we can end up casting sculpture in plaster or making animated artworks. Overall we create about thirty project works throughout the year.

The portfolios will be sent off to the different colleges NCAD, IADT, DIT etc, and when we collect them a week later, it is time to re focus their content for the next submission, all the while ensuring we keep our daily sketchbook! Every day is different.

IMPORTANT DATES

As well as applying through the CAO, Art students need to submit portfolios to each college individually by their outlined deadline.

NCAD: 4.30pm, Friday 10th February 2017

IADT: Apply through CAO before 1st February. They contact you about portfolio submission.

DIT: Submit on either Monday 6th OR Tuesday 7th March, 2017. 9:30am to 4:30pm each day.

LIT: Apply through CAO before 1st February.



Some of the artwork produced by this year's students.



Great Progression stories at Dunboyne College

BY DENIS LEONARD

The 2016 Dunboyne College graduates reached great heights this year with 180 getting honours degree Level 8 offers and 175 receiving Level 7 ordinary degree offers.

Many received third level offers at both levels with a total of 242 achieving at least one offer. This means our students are in nearly every third level college in the country from Dublin to Dundalk, Athlone to Galway, Waterford to Tralee. Some of our local universities had the bulk of the offers with, for example, an amazing 58 students being offered a course at Maynooth University. Thirty nine students were offered First Arts in Maynooth, while three Social Science, four Media Studies, five science and five Business offers were also made.

Nearly all Maynooth offers were taken up.

There were also 20 offers to DCU, 11 to UCD and for DIT there were 23 offers at Level 8 and 41 offers at Levels 6 or 7. It was similar story for our local I.T. college in Blanchardstown where there were 24 offers at Level 8 and a whopping 43 offers at Level 7 with the bulk being in Creative Media, Sports Managements and Coaching, Social Care or Early Childhood Care and Education.

Distance proved no barrier as two Dunboyne College students took up two of the four offers to UCC to study Law and science, another went to Tralee for Health and Leisure, seven went to Athlone in areas like Sports Studies and Athletic and Rehabilitation Therapy. Of those who went into Dublin three are in Trinity doing Engineering, Science and Nursing while

eleven went to UCD to study Arts, Commerce, Veterinary Nursing and five into science. The law graduates went to many different colleges including DCU, Carlow, DBS, DIT and Maynooth (through Arts). Many students went to the UK this year to study nursing

OPEN NIGHT
19th January 2017
6.30pm to 8.30pm

while other graduates attained immediate employment in areas like childcare, sports, health care, business and professional cookery.

Dunboyne College of Further Education has now grown to over 600 students doing QQI level 5 and 6 courses at our campus in Dunboyne Business Park. As well as being the only

dedicated PLC further education college in County Meath and the surrounding areas, over 90% of the students who have achieved a full QQI award with Dunboyne College in recent years have received third level offers and countless others have proceeded directly to employment. The feedback on the courses from students has been excellent in terms of the new skills and confidence they felt they received to go on to future learning and to access job opportunities.

One year QQI Level 5 programmes like the majority run in Dunboyne are an ideal way to pursue a course in an area of interest and access a third level option. By having a day a week in

a work experience setting, it allows students to see if they are pursuing the correct option before embarking on a four-year degree course or entering a career.

The flexible options in Dunboyne allow students to sample various modules in September to make sure they are pursuing the correct course choice. Students often do far better at further education level as they are now studying in an area of their passion and aptitude like nursing, sports or cookery rather than in the Leaving cert where Irish, English, Maths etc. were compulsory.

As students also learn referencing, research and

self-directed learning they tend to stay for the duration of the third level course afterwards, unlike many who go straight from Leaving Cert who are often not very sure of their options. Dunboyne courses are increasing in popularity with this year over 1,830 students applying for 600 places.

This year the college introduces Equine Business, Airline Studies, Hairdressing, Pharmacy Assistant, Beauty Therapy, Office Administration, Retail Studies, Employability Skills, Computer Systems and Networks and Creative Media.

Dunboyne College continues to run its very successful original courses in Nursing, Social Studies, Art, Pre University Business and Pre University Arts programmes which have been added to over the years by students studying Childcare/Special Needs Assistant, Health Service Skills, Pre University Science, Food Science, Animal Care, Multimedia, Computer Information Systems, Sound Engineering, Sports Science, and Sports Management. The college continues to run its Professional Cookery course in conjunction with DIT and a whole range of Level 6 second year programmes are also available.

Dunboyne College Open Evening this year runs from 6.30pm until 8:30pm on Thursday, 19th January where students and parents can visit each faculty and get first-hand information on each course and view the facilities.

Late applications will be taken until late September depending on availability on the courses.

Graduate Voices

FACT FILE:

Author: Emer Ní Cheallaigh

DCFE Course: Pre-University Science (Laboratory Techniques)

Progressed to: Biological and Biomedical Science (Level 8) in Maynooth

Graduated from DCFE: 2016

Edited by: Danielle Kerins

What made you choose your course?

I chose this course by working backwards. I have known for a few years now that I want to be a vet so I used online resources and contacts to research what I had to do to get there. Just because the points for UCD are so high, I didn't give up and choose something else. I looked at post graduate options and studying abroad. I found out that the course I am doing is an excellent base degree to have for a medical degree so I looked at the structure of it in depth. It really caught my interest so I pursued it.

I made sure the college of further education would allow me to matriculate and was delighted to find out that it did. However, there were only three places so that motivated me to work for the exams.

Not everyone knows what they want to do so I suppose I am lucky that I had a good idea of where I wanted to go. If you are in this situation, I would advise a general course (general science, arts) so you have a range of topics and you can specialise as you progress and find your niche.

Because you are doing a science course now, it doesn't mean you know for definite you want to study science at third level and that should not be a worry. There are still

options! You can secure your place in college then defer it for a year to pursue other interests before returning to the course or if you find something you would prefer go for that and decline the place. A lot of people do this and I think it's great that deferral of a place is possible.

What is the application process like and do you have any tips for applicants this year?

Further Education students apply through the CAO. Apply early so you aren't worrying if you've missed deadlines or have to pay a late fee.

Then you have lots of time to put down your course choices so don't worry about this. Just make sure you spend time researching as you don't want to end up in a course that you hate. It is better to spend even 30 minutes a few times a week researching courses of interest than ending up in a course you don't like for three or four years!

TIPS: Apply early, research your courses (including matriculation) and network. Asking past or current students about a course is much more beneficial than reading entire course prospectuses.

What is your life like now you are in third level?

The academic year is



short but intense. We have a lot of time off but there is a huge volume of information thrown at us during term.

We have three to four assignments per week on average and they do require time and thought. It's much more intense and demanding than I expected but manageable once it's taken bit by bit.

The course has at least 22 contact hours per week. Monday to Wednesday are lectures while Thursday and Friday are labs. However different colleges and years vary.

Class Size: General science in first year has up to 200 in a lecture! Biomed has approximately 60. These class sizes will decrease once the years progress. Some subjects such as languages have only 10-12 per class.

Canteen: Restaurant, coffee shops, Subway, Londis, SU bar. These are very communal areas and some people even work on assignments there.

Social Life: Lots of events are held on campus especially if you

get involved in clubs and societies. There are lots of clubs and societies!

What is your travel/commute/living situation like?

I'm from Maynooth so I walk to college which is handy. It's a 25 minute walk. Some people travel each day by bus or train. Some drive or cycle. Students stay on campus and in Digs or student houses around Maynooth.

Do you think coming to Dunboyne College of Further Education helped prepare you for third level?

Most definitely. Especially at the start of the year when everyone was settling in I felt more comfortable with some of the material as it had been covered or touched upon here whereas it was completely new for other students.

If there is one thing I would recommend mastering this year it would be how to reference properly. In college, they don't tell you they want things to be referenced

or how to do it. They just expect it to be done correctly. Although it was tedious it was worth it to learn about referencing in Dunboyne CFE. I've seen people type out loads of URLs, authors, dates, years over and over again and be amazed and frustrated when they saw MS Word's referencing system.

In college you probably won't know some of your lecturers personally as they can change every 6 lectures. You may never see them again yet that have taught you a whole course in two to three weeks.

My year in DCFE helped me take responsibility for my own learning and do background reading during lectures. The lecturers in third level don't care if you have other modules. In saying all this they are helpful and approachable. There are year and course coordinators that you can talk to or ask questions and if they can't answer your query they will happily direct you to someone who can.



FUNDRAISING

Dunboyne College 'Dares to Care' for Cancer

BY JEAN HARRINGTON

Dunboyne College of Further Education got into the spirit of 'Wedding Dress Wednesday', which is part of Today FM's *Dare to Care* new fundraising campaign for the Irish Cancer Society. Staff and students of the college dressed up in their finest wedding attire, debs dresses and graduation suits to mark the day.

Jacquelyn Kerley, who organised the event for the college, said it would help the new influx of students bond with each other.

'I suggested Dunboyne

College get involved in 'Wedding Dress Wednesday' as it would be a fun way of raising money for the Irish Cancer Society. It also gets students out of their comfort zones and they really enjoy these days where they do something different.'

Reporter Juliette Gash from Today FM visited the college and did a package from there featuring many of the students. She was delighted with the response and level of involvement from the students and staff.

'It's great to see how *Dare to Care* and "Wedding Dress Wednesday" have been embraced by everyone. Staff at Today FM were delighted to see so many students get involved. It was wonderful to see lots of men dress up and engage. In many work places it was mainly the women who dressed up; the male students in Dunboyne College reversed that trend.'

A total of €798.94 was raised for the Irish Cancer Society during this event.



Students dress up for 'Wedding Wednesday'.



Teachers Jean Harrington (left) and Jacquelyn Kerley (right). Kerley organised 'Wedding Wednesday' and invited Today FM to Dunboyne CFE to cover the event.

Christmas crackers



Each year the Art Department organises a Shoebox Appeal for the Homeless by asking students and members of the community to

donate a shoebox of Christmas gifts. This year all donations went to the Inner City Homeless.

Meanwhile, students from Animal Care raised



€643.90 for Dogs Aid, ASH Animal Rescue and Irish Wildlife Trust by hosting a Christmas Jumper day.

