

Welcome!



You are welcome to the thirteenth edition of our college newsletter, the DCFE Tribune, which brings you some

highlights of the college year 2022-2023 filled with so many wonderful experiences, trips and achievements.

Our recent launch of our 5-year strategic plan, the Christmas market, and the visit of the Maynooth University President were some of the highlights of this term. Special thanks to everyone that has contributed to this edition and to our editor, Orla O'Dea, who produces and edits this publication.

Dunboyne College is a college with a family atmosphere which gives students a wealth of learning, enabling, communicating, collaborating, and inspiring each day. It is a comfortable and supportive place to learn. We are proud of our staff, our students and their achievements. Dunboyne College, since 2003, has seen nearly ten thousand students pass through, gaining qualifications in a diverse range of areas, and progressing either to further studies at higher level, or going directly into the world of work. For

the third year running our student population has numbered over 1000, (in fact 1064), and so many of last June's graduates have received offers to third level or are in places of secure employment.

We are excited that our plans to be Ireland's first ever FET College of the Future are progressing well with Solas and the Department of Further and Higher Education and we hope to have the design team in place in the new year. This will mean PLC programmes. Traineeships, apprenticeships and Skills to Advance courses will all be under one roof in a purpose-built campus on a green field site which we hope to open in 2026. Our sixty courses now on offer will then expand into areas of construction, engineering, renewable energy and sustainable development once we have those workshops in place.

This year has seen record numbers progressing from our college to third level courses and directly to industry. Every year over 90% of the students who complete our programmes with a full award and apply to CAO get a third level offer.

Many of our students do not apply for third level as they do a pre-employment course with us and over 90% are in employment the following year. Many get a full-time job from their work experience and this year we were delighted to host our first Industry

Liaison Fair where students could meet with employers and secure both placements and employment. It points to the importance of the full curriculum and opportunities available to students.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter and share in the many activities and events of recent weeks. Please keep an eye on our website, www.dunboynecollege.ie, and our Instagram, Facebook and Twitter pages, which will keep you informed of events as they happen. We will be taking applications right through the year until next September, and we hope many students will continue to join in the experiences of Dunboyne College, some of which you will find recorded here.

If you are thinking of coming to us next year, feel free to call in at any stage for more information on our courses and activities. You can always phone us on, 01-8026577 or email dunboynecollege@lmetb.ie; we are always delighted to hear from you

Denis Leonard
Principal



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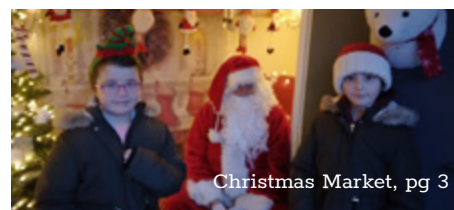
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DCFE launches 5-year Strategic Plan

The road map for the future growth and development of Dunbooyne College was outlined at the launch of the college's 5 Year Strategic Plan in November.

The publication of the plan represents the culmination of months of work by college staff who consulted with key stakeholders, staff, students, industry and community partners.

The key strategic priorities identified focus on Building Skills, Creating Pathways, supporting the Student Experience and developing Infrastructure development.

Outlining the focus of the plan Denis Leonard, DCFE Principal, said that it would allow the college to achieve its goals and realise its vision for DCFE as a FET College of the Future. "The next five years will be a time of major growth and expansion for the college. Our Vision is to be a dynamic centre of excellence providing opportunities in Further and Higher Education and industry. We will build and strengthen strategic partnerships between education, industry and community to meet the demands of an ever-changing environment while continuing to support our students to experience the full benefits of participating in further education and training. In the lifetime of this plan we envisage that our goal of a purpose-built campus will be realized, allowing us to deliver the full possibilities and potential of the FET College of the Future."

Introducing the strategic pillars under pinning the plan Emer Cloak, Deputy Principal, said that while Dunbooyne College now stands proudly and confidently at the forefront of Irish Further Education it's vital that we acknowledge that the college does not exist or function on its own. "We work in association with our partners, develop cooperative models and mutually beneficial relationships."

"This is the purpose of the college, to serve our students and our community, and add value to society."

The contribution of the Board of Management was acknowledged by Ms Cloak in her introduction to Nick Killian Chairperson of DCFE Board of Management and Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council. "Nick has been at the forefront of all of our endeavours for the development of the college. His unwavering work on behalf of the college has been invaluable."

Addressing the large attendance Cllr Killian stressed the need for speedy action on the development of the new college campus. He acknowledged the work of the staff and management of the college in the

development of the college over the past 20 years.

Martin O'Brien, Chief Executive of Louth and Meath Training Board (LMETB), congratulated the college on its vision and



DCFE Strategic Plan Committee pictured with Guest Speakers at the launch of the Strategic Plan

strategic focus. "Ireland's first Further Education and Training (FET) College of the Future in Dunbooyne will be a focal point for education and training provision and will contribute to the continued economic growth of the county. The new campus will cater for the further education needs of the growing population it serves for decades to come with room for expansion also. The vision we have for this greenfield site, is a college which could accommodate existing DCFE courses, apprenticeships, traineeships, and employer focused courses."

DCFE Liberal Arts teacher Johanna Dawe outlined the importance that the college will continue to place on the development of skills during the lifetime of the plan.

Kathleen Murphy, Assistant Principal in DCFE and co-chair of the Strategic Plan committee said that the committee aimed to create an actionable plan for work and career readiness by connecting students to industry professionals which not only harnesses a successful collaboration but also ensures future work opportunities for our graduates.

"The workplace is, as we all know, becoming ever more competitive, and it is crucial that more students are prepared to enter the workplace with skills that matter, and skills that are valued in the real world. Forging a relationship between employers in industry and students in Dunbooyne College has long been an integral part of our vision in DCFE."

The theme of skills development and building a relationship with employers was also addressed by Conor McNulty CEO of Marymount Nursing Home in Lucan, who has partnered with the college on work placements, scholarships and staff upskilling. "Our first port of call for employees is through colleges and Dunbooyne is at the top of that list. I've dealt with lot of colleges and I can't emphasise how impressed I was with what they had to offer in terms of staff, students and the facilities. They're so committed to the

students, I've seen the plans for their new building and I'm very excited for their future."

The focus on pathways into further and higher education was outlined by Derek Ball and Meabh Nimmo, Career Guidance Counsellors in DCFE.

More than 90 per cent of eligible students DCFE who applied to the CAO in 2021 received an offer for a level seven or eight college course, with 115 going on to Maynooth University, 126 progressing to a level seven at TU Dublin and 60 progressing to a level eight at TU Dublin. Other DCFE graduates attended other universities, technological universities, institutes of technology and colleges across the country and in the UK. The link between DCFE and Maynooth University was emphasised by Michael Kenny, a lecturer in the Adult and Community Education Department in the university.

The importance of the student experience is identified in the plan.

Orla O'Dea, a Journalism teacher in DCFE highlighted that it is at the heart of everything we do in Dunbooyne college. "It encompasses not just academic learning but aims to bring this learning to life." Current students in DCFE also reflected on their experience in the college with Hannah McNamara telling the invited guests that "listening to everyone talk about how they want to better the college even further for the students, makes me feel so honoured to be involved in DCFE". Her colleague Shannah Cole said she was overwhelmed by the tremendous work done behind the scenes at Dunbooyne College.

A copy of the Strategic Plan is available on the college website

www.dunboynecollege.ie



College News & Events

Dunboyne College Hosts Scholarships Programme Launch

On Thursday 6th October Dunboyne College launched the fourth year of its scholarships programme. The event acknowledged last year's sponsors and launched the new year of scholarships.

Twenty-one DCFE students were the happy recipients of scholarships in June sponsored by local businesses, and on the night received their certs and presented a token of appreciation to their sponsoring business.

The scholarships programme matches up a current Dunboyne College student with a company or organisation as that student's sponsor. The sponsor commits to, usually, reimbursing, at a minimum, the college fees to the student upon successful completion of the academic year. Basically, each student gets a cheque at graduation.

The fifteen companies involved are Alltec Ireland, Dunboyne; Lyons Financial Services, Dunboyne; Bluebird Care, Navan; Marymount Care Centre, Lucan, Headway Security, Dunboyne, Joseph Hickey and Sons Ltd., Dunboyne, EMR, Dunboyne, Kelly O'Reilly Accounting, Enfield; Coffee Perfection, Dunboyne; Shannonside Aviation, Dunboyne; Synoptix, Celbridge; Sidewalk Café, Dunboyne, Horse Racing Ireland, Tara Mines, Navan, Enterprise Freight, Dunboyne.

Horse Racing Ireland committed to a €3,000 bursary for two students in the Equine area and these were awarded at the end of the academic year to Shawna O'Halloran and Jules Dixon.

The programme offers so many advantages to students like the opportunity to have their fees reimbursed for the academic year; the opportunity to form a relationship with a company or organisation in their vocational area and this may also translate into an opportunity for work experience or an internship and/or a reference for their CV. For companies it is an opportunity to give a chance at education to a deserving student; to build relationships with prospective employees; to raise the profile of their business; and to become part of a community project with Dunboyne College.



DCFE Scholarship recipients pictured with their sponsoring companies

Fifteen companies took part in the programme last year offering twenty-two scholarships for which students competed to win. The successful students were: Shane McDonnell, Abbey Brannigan, Sophie Kelly, Caoimhe O'Moore, Kimberly Balingit (all from the Healthcare Department), Craig Kelly Dowling (Law), Brenda Mullins (Office Legal and Medical), Jack O'Sullivan (Software Development), Grainne MCDonagh (Office Accounting), Abbie Foley, Aodhan Tomkins, Oisín McCourt (all from Journalism), Peng Lu (Professional Cookery), Luc Garcia Louro, Caitlin Ryan (both from Animal Science), Oliwis Stasiuk (Airline), Ellen Connors (Beauty Therapy), Zilvinas Albrikas (Physiotherapy).

President of Maynooth visits DCFE

It was a pleasure to have Maynooth University President, Professor Eeva Leinonen, visit the Learning Hub to meet the team and talk about Student Supports at Dunboyne College. Professor Leinonen met community dog Ulreeka and heard about the academic, exam, social and sensory supports students are offered in the Learning Hub throughout the academic year.



Professor Eeva Leinonen, Maynooth University President, pictured with Martin O'Brien, CEO LMETB and Sadie Ward-McDermott, Director of FET LMETB, members of DCFE Management and Teams.

Professor Leinonen was also interested to hear about the exciting development for Pre-Teaching students this year in their partnership work with Maynooth University's Turn to Teaching Department, Department of Adult and Community Education, and Maynooth Access Programme.

Graduates Keep in Touch Through the Graduate Association

Hundreds of our graduates are members of our Dunboyne College Graduate Association,

where they stay engaged with the college long past graduation. They join the association because they have enjoyed their time in the college and want to give back in some way. They are heavily involved in the promotion of the college and like to stay informed about what's happening.

Each year the Graduate Association hosts an event. These have included: the launch of the Graduate Association Book in Dunboyne Castle Hotel; a one-woman play in the Solstice Theatre, Navan; and a free gig by renowned band the Hothouse Flowers in Dunboyne Castle Hotel. Some of our members have featured on TV and radio, and in newspapers.

This year's Graduate Association event will celebrate the college's 20th anniversary and promises to be extra special.

The graduate association is made up of former students (alumni) of the college and was first established in 2017. Since then, it has aimed to maintain a connection between the college and its graduates, to encourage co-operation, lifelong learning and professional and social growth. It is a chance for the college to stay connected with its graduates and its graduates to stay connected with the college.

Any graduates who would like to join the Graduate Association should email Irene Togher at itogher.dbc@lmetb.ie.

FreshFest

The first Student Fest was held in October. Designed as a fun day filled with lots of activities and good food the event took place in St Peter's GAA Club. The college would like to thank the GAA for providing such a large venue. Principal Denis Leonard, congratulated Susan Clarke and her Student Experience team on providing such a wonderful opportunity for mentors and their student groups.

"It is an ideal way to meet other students and build the relationships and really kick off the year with us in DCFE." Susan Clarke said that the event shows students just how much everyone in the college wants them to have a meaningful college experience. "There was a great buzz and atmosphere throughout with great music provided by our own Music and Sound students, delicious food, and fun activities. It reminded us just how much more there is to college life!"



Dunboyne College hosts its second Christmas Market!

The Events committee worked in the background for many weeks to make this a very special occasion for the students, staff and their families. But most importantly it was a chance for DCFE to give back to the local community.



On Saturday 3rd December, we were able to host 27 stall holders who show cased a wide variety of arts, crafts baked goods and preserves just in time for Christmas.

Elf school for the children of the community was provided by Gemma Finn, Aoife O' Dywer along with the Pre-Teach and Childcare students. Gingerbread people were distributed to all graduates of Elf School compliments of Gillian and her Culinary students.

A very big thank you to the student union members who rolled up their sleeves for the setup, operation and clean-up of the event.

Santa arrived in style and with thanks to our local Supervalu store was able to give each child a selection box to take home. Good music provided by our music and sound Dept and Navan Silver band coupled with hot food and drinks made this a very special occasion!

Careers and Guidance

The Guidance Department of Meabh Nimmo and Derek Ball have been busy visiting schools delivering information talks and attending career fairs in our extensive catchment area.

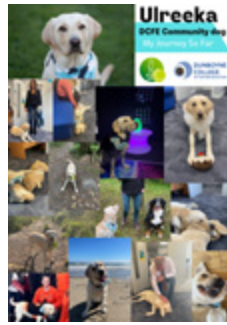


Industry Liaison and Student Placement Jobs Fair

The first ever Industry Liaison and Student Placement Jobs Fair in the college took place in November with over 45 employers meeting students across all courses.

This event attracted employers who were interested in taking students on placement or who had part-time jobs available. Students submitted their application forms/ CVs direct to the employers present on the day.

The successful event has resulted in many securing work placements. Employers commented on the extent of the courses available in the college and many have indicated that they would be willing to accept additional applications. Students interested in following up with any of the employers should contact the employers directly or speak to their Work Experience Teacher.



Ulreeka, the DCFE Community dog

Ulreeka, the DCFE Community dog joined us in late August 2022 and has been the most wonderful addition to the college supporting students in their college

endeavours. She brightens up everyone's day. She supports the students in one-to-one sessions, in the learning hub and in the classroom. The college as a whole has truly benefited from this wonderful partnership.

Green Campus

Young Reporter for the Environment Competition Winner

Congratulations to Daniel Rogers from Journalism, Digital Media and PR class of 2021-22 who placed in The Young Reporter for the Environment Competition 2022. Winning a 150 Euro One for All voucher, a goodie bag and exposure on The Young Reporter for the Environment website, Danny commented on how much he enjoyed his time in DCFE and the 'endless opportunities' studying there has given him.

His article on farming and the environment can be read on their exposure website

<https://yreibreland.exposure.co/farmers-and-climate-action>

brings an element of fun and activity into the workplace. New students gained the opportunity to bond and work together as part of a team, while promoting the importance of reducing carbon emissions by walking wherever possible. It will be the first of many environmental awareness raising campaigns for DCFE this coming academic year!

Winter Herbs

Winter herbs arrived for our new herb garden. Chives, thyme, mint, parsley and sage for Culinary students to use in the kitchen!



The Green Campus Committee would like to welcome this year's student members on board: Raphael Pascual, Rebecca O'Reilly, Rose Farrelly, Cian Duffy, Clodagh Gaddren, Stef McDonald Gibson, Ci Yang Tai, Jamie Carroll. We look forward to working together over the coming year towards improving biodiversity on campus here in Dunboyne College.

Sustainable Gift Guide 2022

Wondering what gifts to give to relatives for Birthdays etc.? Look no further, this year the Green Campus committee would like to offer some suggestions that not only will keep your loved ones happy but will work with instead of against our environment! Consider giving the gift of time. Babysitting and a night out for any parents you know! A night at the theatre, a restaurant voucher or concert tickets will never disappoint!

Shop local and buy Irish where possible.

Honeybee candles or Bamboo kitchen utensils. A lovely small gift is a "bee bomb". The Little Green shop has lovely gifts. Also, some sustainable gifts ideas are things like annual memberships to Dublin Zoo or membership with Irish Wildlife Trust or Birdwatch Ireland. Online Irish retailers offer many different sustainable products from skincare to homeware. Consider natural soap, reusable coffee mugs, lunch wrappers or lunch bags that are coated in beeswax - they can be used a million times!

Remember to choose eco-friendly, non-toxic brands when choosing body care or hair care

Walktober

Dunboyne College staff and students participated in this year's Walktober as part of the annual Smarter Travel Workplaces and Campus Step Challenge. Organised by Emma Flynn on our Green Campus Committee, teams were created to log weekly steps, challenging all involved to walk more, especially in terms of commuting and step away from the desk as much as possible!



This was simultaneously an opportunity to work towards a greener environment, promote fitness and wellbeing and enjoy a little healthy competition along

the way. With weekly prizes offering an incentive to go the extra mile, this initiative



products as gifts.

How about a voucher for your loved ones' favourite vintage shop? Vintage shops such as Nine Crows, Dublin Vintage Factory, and Tola Vintage offer gift vouchers. Online Irish vintage shop The Harlequin also sells gift vouchers. If you want to hand pick a specific item that you know that they will love, it also might be worthwhile searching through the app Depop, where you can find preloved clothing.

Charitable gifts are a way to really effect meaningful change. Why not adopt a seal with sealrescueireland.org? Plant trees with Wolfgangforest.ie. You could also donate a gift of a hot meal to the elderly with mealsonwheelsnetwork.ie or Alone charity.

Remember to choose recycled paper to wrap presents, either brown recycled paper or festive themed recycled paper.



The Green Campus Committee

Learning in Action

Dunboyne College Pre-Teaching's exciting new collaboration with Turn to Teaching at Maynooth University

An exciting development in the Pre-Teaching Course this year has been the new collaboration with staff and students of Maynooth University. Adopting an action research approach, this partnership is focused on supporting the teaching aspirations of these students.



As part of this pilot initiative, the student group attend classes in Maynooth University's School of Education every Tuesday. When in Maynooth University, the students participate in various teaching related workshops and activities that are focused on developing and supporting their teaching aspirations. These workshops are facilitated by a cross institutional team comprised of teaching staff from Dunboyne College of Further Education, Turn to Teaching, Department of Adult and Community Education, and Maynooth Access Programme.

It is also envisaged that this partnership will help inform the development of future further education pathways into higher education and initial teacher education.

At the end of this semester, the students put into practice all they have explored and learned about group dynamics, identity, diversity and teacher identity in the Maynooth University workshops by facilitating College Awareness Workshops with the Transition Year students of St. Peter's College, Dunboyne, and look forward to further teaching opportunities as they arise in Semester 2.

Hairdressing Students open the Salon to staff and students



A wonderful opportunity was offered to staff and students of DCFE thanks to the Hairdressing students opening the salon for 2 days to avail of certain services.

This allowed the students to be more creative and have better knowledge when working with live models. This helps builds their

confidence as well as giving them more of an idea of what to expect in a Hair Salon. The atmosphere in the salon was friendly and professional, a win-win for all involved!

Guest Speaker for Psychology and Criminology students

Sgt Paul Gill and his college Garda Gavin Durkin from the NE Drugs Unit gave a presentation to Psychology and Criminology students on drugs and organised crime in the northeast of Ireland. Paul outlined the role of the Garda Drugs Unit and discussed the impact of drug crime on families, communities, and society. He provided an overview of the effects of drug debt intimidation and outlined how the Garda drug related intimidation programme responds to the needs of drug users and family members who are experiencing drug related intimidation. Paul opened the floor to questions and responded honestly and openly to the many questions asked. Feedback from students about the talk was very positive, with comments like "inspiring", "attention grabbing" and "informative".

Image Matters Talk

Frances Jones of Image Matters spoke to our Business, Office Admin, MediaFilm and Journalism students last week in relation to communication and presentation skills. Here she is showing our students the importance of a good handshake!



Retail Selling Skills Demo

Bernadette Tomkins and Sharon McTiernan were the stars of the show where they brought all the relevant props for the role play in the (make-believe) pharmacy setting dealing with customers for their Retail Selling Skills Demo. Both Sharon and Bernadette wish to pursue jobs as Pharmacy Assistants directly after the one-year QQI course here in Dunboyne College. They are thoroughly enjoying it and feel that it's been "The perfect stepping-stone having been out of the workplace for a few years now.

Dynamics of Group work and interpersonal behaviour.

Pre teaching classes 1 and 2 in their Interpersonal Group Behaviour module. Here we see learning in action with groupwork: behaviour, roles, management and group forming.



CSI Talk

Presentation by Garda Aidan Halon of the Louth Divisional Crime Scene Investigation



Unit. Garda Hanlon talked about the role of the Crime Scene Unit to Psychology and Criminology students and the procedure they follow when called to a crime scene. It was a fully interactive presentation

where Garda Hanlon got student Aaron Smyth to try on the CSI suit. He demonstrated how to take fingerprints and DNA samples also. Students thoroughly enjoyed the talk and got an opportunity to ask Garda Hanlon questions about CSI investigations at the conclusion of the talk.

Short Courses Week

In October, over 400 students took part in the Short Course week for various practical courses in the college. Students took part in training for manual handling, first aid and patient handling and more, which they can use for their work placements and job seeking.

Science Week

Science week in Dunboyne College began on Monday 14th Nov 2022 with a guest speaker, Dr. Loretta Breslin from Forensic Science Ireland.

Throughout the week, students experimented with acids and bases in the Science laboratory, standardising an unknown concentration of HCl using an acid-base titration technique. Daily Scientific facts and quiz questions kept the students minds occupied. Everyone had a chance to try some experiments at home from producing 'naked eggs' to 'layering of liquids', with different densities. The week concluded with a Science competition with Oluwatomilola Biala from Science 6 claiming the first prize and John Madeja from Science 6 claiming the second prize.

Preparations are already being put in place for Science week 2023.



Forensic Science Ireland

On Monday 14th November 2022 in recognition of Science Week, Dr. Loretta Breslin from Forensic Science Ireland gave a presentation to Science, Criminology and Psychology students on the role of FSI. Dr. Breslin explained how Forensic Science Ireland is an associated office of the Department of Justice and outlined how the people working at FSI are trained scientists and analysts who work to deliver to best international standards, independent expert opinion, advice, training and research to support the Irish Criminal Justice system.



Dr. Loretta Breslin pictured with DCFE Staff members Dr Fiona Hoey and Patrice Byrne



Nuala McKeever pictured with DCFE students

Confidence building Workshop

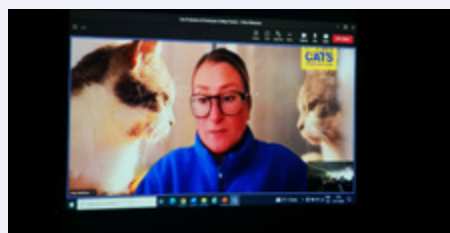
As part of the short courses week, the playwright, author, comedian and broadcaster, Nuala McKeever, delivered a workshop on building confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Students across various courses were emerged in the interactive workshop where Nuala, a household name in Northern Ireland, brought her expertise and skill to students to help them understand where confidence comes from, and learn simple ways to improve their self-confidence and increase their self-esteem. As always, Nuala brought her own brand of comedy when dealing with serious issues and students thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Dr. Breslin gave a detailed account on how forensic science has been used to help solve crimes in Ireland and provided a number of examples of the wonderful work carried out by FSI. Students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.

Cats Protection UK

Cats Protection UK gave a talk about feline behaviour and welfare today to animal care and animal science students using near pod.



This is a novel way of presenting a guest speaker from outside of Ireland. Cats Protection UK is the UK's leading cat welfare charity. They work in animal welfare and cat rehoming.

The students learnt about how and why cats behave the way they do, how to improve cat welfare and about to meet a cat's needs when designing a home for cats.

Fundraising Events

Jersey Day

DCFE ran its annual jersey day on Friday October 14th in aid of GOAL. Goal supports countries in crisis and this year offered humanitarian aid to both Ukraine and East Africa. Over €200 was raised by DCFE students and staff who displayed a wide range of sporting jerseys on the day.

Halloween

Trick'r'Treat for Temple Street was a huge success this year in Dunboyne College. €267 was raised for Temple Street by students and staff. Lots of fantastic & spooky costumes were on display and the best costume awards went to tutors Richard Kelly & Shane Woods. Richard was dressed as a scarecrow and Shane as Beetle Juice. A huge thank you to everyone for their support.



Class Trips

Rose Cottage Organic Farm

Our Professional Cookery and Food Science Students had the privilege to visit Rose Cottage Organic farm in Kinnegad this Monday. On such a beautiful sunny morning we learned about the hard work and dedication involved in producing fresh, chemical free organic produce in season.



We were also educated on the health and nutritional benefits in eating the vegetable. We saw how Rosie rears her chicks for egg production in such a humane environment and learned about the health benefits of eating organic eggs that roam freely in wide open spaces. Our next trip is to a dairy farm where we will learn about raw milk production and we hope to bring back milk to make yoghurt, so watch out!

National Print Museum

Graphic Design/CDM students recently enjoyed a great day at the National Print Museum in Haddington Road.

They also went to the Exhibition 'In Our Gaze' looking at changes in Irish Society in the Gallery of Photography in Temple Bar.



Film and Media Photography students also visited this exhibition recently and found it to be very engaging and informative.

Swords Ambulance Station

On Thursday 10th November the Pre-Paramedic Fire and Ambulance students were delighted to be able to visit HSE NAS (National Ambulance Service) Swords Ambulance station in North County Dublin. This station is one of the newest stations in the country and responds to calls along the East Coast of Ireland, but mainly in North County Dublin. It was purpose built and has been used as a template for the design and

plan of more recently built stations.

The students were given a guided tour of the station by Lead Advance Paramedic – Frank Rafferty.

The students were able to explore the station and discover the significance of each area of the station. Frank was able to demonstrate how calls from the public are responded to by the HSE NAS Ambulance crews. He demonstrated the use of the Handheld Tetra radios and how they are used by the Paramedic crews.

The students were guided through the Drugs/Medications that the Ambulance Service carries in their Ambulances, and Frank explained when each of these medications might be used.

We were then able to inspect and explore a brand new 2022 working Emergency Ambulance. The students were shown how to use the on-board stretcher, tail lift and Blue Lights system.

Frank took the students through the equipment used in the ambulance and the significance of each item. Frank then



answered a large number of questions from the students.

A big thank you to Frank and the

National Ambulance Service for facilitating this essential trip for our Pre-Paramedic Fire and Ambulance students.”

Maynooth Fire Station

On Thursday 17th November the Pre-Paramedic Fire and Ambulance Students were welcomed to Maynooth Fire Station by Dave and Claire, both Fire Fighters stationed in Maynooth. This was great opportunity for our students to explore a working Fire Station. Maynooth Fire Station responds to calls in the county of Kildare. They have a roster of 10 staff who are Retained Fire Fighters.

The students were given a demonstration of how a call is received at the station and how the crews react to the call received. This is a very dynamic system which requires timed responses. Dave gave the students a tour of the station, the vehicles and the staff quarters. We were delighted to have a Q&A session with Dave and Claire (a recent recruit to Maynooth Station). Dave and Claire were very generous in answering all the questions from our curious students.

The students had a great trip, and it gave them a better understanding of the Fire Service and what working in the Fire Service entails.

Big thank you to all at Maynooth Fire Station, particularly Dave and Claire. Thanks again to Robbie Morris (Station Officer) for facilitating this very worthwhile trip.

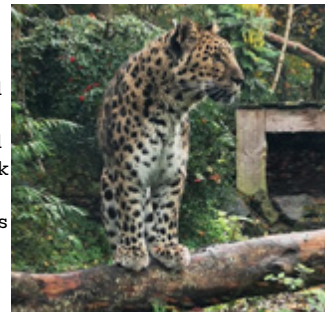
If you're Irish come into the Parlour!



Students from various courses in Dunboyne College, had a whistlestop tour, through their ancestry and discovered the travels of the Irish across the globe, when they attended the Epic Museum in Dublin. They not only explored the museum, with its vast array of information documenting stories of Irish emigrants, but also learned how many Irish immigrants became leaders in their fields, which spanned science, politics, literature, and art. They also discovered what it means to be Irish in the eyes of the world. Stories abounded of how the Irish became supplanted among other nations, and the day was a unique opportunity to step into history and find out who we are and the long road we have travelled as immigrants. The interactive exhibitions and galleries were not the only source of information for our students, who also had the opportunity to talk too, and explore, their Irish roots by taking part in a workshop delivered by Epics resident genealogists at the Irish Family History Centre. A great day was had by all and demonstrated to our many students the rich history and heritage that has helped to shape Ireland (both north and south) into the unique country it is today.

Tayto Park

Animal care and animal science level 5 and advanced animal science level 6 went to Tayto Park zoo in November. The Level 5 students learnt about how to design an enclosure for a wild captive species and Level 6 completed data collection for research project they are doing which investigates the use of environmental enrichment in captive animal enclosures.



They got a tour of the zoo and got to meet all the animals there.

Croke Park



DCFE Sport Management, Sport Science and Physiotherapy students visited Croke Park for a tour of the grounds and Museum. The students learned about the History of GAA and experienced the GAA grounds and stadium. A great day was had by all.

Irish Wheelchair Association Sports Complex

On Monday 28th November the Pre-Paramedic class took part in a trip to the Irish Wheelchair Association (IWA) Sports Complex in Clontarf. IWA Sport is the National Governing Body in Ireland for Wheelchair Basketball, Wheelchair Rugby and Para Powerlifting.

David O'Connor of IWA met the group and gave a brief introduction to the IWA and particularly to the IWA Sport section and what they do.

David is very interested in allowing students experience being in a wheelchair for a short period of time, to allow them to gain an understanding of some of the hurdles/barriers that wheelchair users face.

The students (and teachers) took part in games of basketball, rugby and many more games while in a wheelchair. This was a very enlightening but hugely enjoyable few hours that will hopefully assist the students in understanding the barriers



facing wheelchair users as they progress on to careers in the Emergency Services. After this experience the students will also understand that wheelchair users are independent and very capable people who are competing at sports at all levels, both nationally and internationally. They do not allow their disability to restrict them in their sporting ambitions.

Big thank you to David and his colleagues for making DCFE Pre Paramedic students very welcome and taking time to answer the many questions put to them on the day!

Beauty Students at the RDS and Johnstown House

The Beauty students had 2 trips this semester. At the start of November all students attended the Professional Beauty trade show at The RDS on November 7th where they had the opportunity to purchase products/equipment and enjoy free live demonstrations and tutorials.



At the end of November by the kind invitation of the management and staff of The Johnstown House Estate Spa the students enjoyed a fully immersive experience in the state of the art spa facilities. This included the sauna, steam room, hydrotherapy pools etc

Dara Mullooly, Director of Spa at Johnstown Estate and her staff spoke to students about the work of therapists in the spa and career opportunities for therapists. It was a wonderful experience for our students and a beautiful day out, the students really enjoyed it. Sincere thanks to Dara and her team at Johnstown Estate.

Visit to Karlswood stables

On November 24th 2022, the Level 5 Horsemanship and Level 6 Equine Breeding classes of Dunboyne College were given the incredible opportunity to visit the impressive Karlswood equestrian stables which belongs to no other than Olympic medal winner Cian O'Connor.

On arrival at the stables, we were met by Ali our tour guide who showed us around and explained the reasoning behind the layout of the yard and how this layout was carefully created with the horses needs in mind.

While the grounds of Karlswood were laid out using a pragmatic mindset, clearly lot of thought went into its aesthetic, every nut and bolt had been given thorough consideration. The amenities including the salt room, the water treadmill and the indoor arena were of the highest standard, as was fitting in such a world class facility.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the opportunity to see a modern approach being introduced to the Irish equestrian world and look forward to the same standard being adopted throughout Ireland in the future.



Level 5 Horsemanship and Level 6 Equine Breeding pictured at Karlswood Stables

Student Union News

DCFE Student Union is chaired this year by students from the HCA and Law groups. Erin Ryan and Alannah Murray were elected by their fellow unions members as joint chairs of the group. Other roles such as secretary, PRO and events officers were also filled by elections from the 54 members within the union. The group are extremely excited to get started with lots of plans and promote the entire student voice on campus.

Are you interested in applying for a course at DCFE ? Meet with us:

**Open Evening, Wednesday
18th January 2023**

**Open Day, Thursday
30th March 2023**



Student Voice

Strokestown House and Famine Museum Review

By Kyle Butler

On Tuesday, November 8th, the Journalism and Media and Film Production groups went on a trip to Strokestown House and Famine Museum in Roscommon. The purpose of the trip was an upcoming assignment for the Creative Writing module, as part of it includes Travel Writing.

The tour was split into different sections of the house, each with its own history to be explored. Some of the rooms included in the tour were the hall, the kitchen, the dining room and many more. In each room that the students visited, they were told about the history surrounding it and were shown all the untouched artifacts and treasures that have been kept in immaculate condition over the years.

The Georgian Palladian House was owned by the Mahons for over 300 years before selling it in 1979. Each generation left a mark on the house and the tour explores every story left by each layer. Students were able to see what life was like for these people during the Famine and visit the galleried kitchen to see how the staff 'below the stairs' lived also.

After the tour concluded, both groups were able to go on a self-guided tour of the National Famine Museum and see hundreds of original documents, all while listening to an audio recording from each room explaining the history behind the documents and stories told. Following the famine museum tour, anyone who wanted to visit the walled gardens and take a walk around the 6 acres of woods, learning more about the history, was free to.

Overall, the trip was extremely enjoyable, and everyone had a wonderful time learning about the history surrounding the house and the famine museum. Strokestown Park (House and Museum) is a great place to visit. For me, I would recommend it to people interested in history and travel writing as they will get the most enjoyment out of it.

I would rate the trip 7/10 and would visit it again if I were near the area.

Epic Museum Review

By Shannah Cole

On Tuesday the 15th of November, the Journalism and Media and Film students travelled to Dublin City centre to visit the Epic Museum located in the CHQ building. (See Photo on Page 7, under Class Trips)



DCFE students at Strokestown House and Famine Museum

The Epic Museum explores the history of the Irish people in music, art, sport, fashion, science and more. Epic is Europe's leading tourist attraction 3 years running and we had the pleasure of seeing why.

On arrival, we were greeted by the team at Epic and brought into a room for our first activity of the day. We took part in an Irish family history workshop with an expert genealogist where she told us how to trace our family's ancestry. The genealogist gave us lots of tips and tricks to make our search easier to find out our family history. This was an extremely interesting experience for many of us who knew nothing about our family history.

Our second activity of the day followed shortly after the workshop. We got to explore the museum itself. The museum is a fully interactive experience. Firstly, we were given our passports which we stamped in every room we visited. We walked through many excellent exhibitions full of thought-provoking displays. The museum really educated us on how people have emigrated all around the world and what they have brought to the countries they have settled in. We walked through the museum at our own pace and took in all the fascinating informative displays. There were many displays throughout the museum all with a different theme. The themes varied from sport to music to art and even fashion. There were audio visuals which told stories of many emigrants which caught the attention of us all. To finish off there was a interactive screen where you had the chance to place your name onto a screen with everyone else's that had visited. This also allowed you to find out how many family members emigrated in the past and to where.

Overall, the trip was an excellent experience and definitely worth the visit. It was a 10/10 trip for me and many of my classmates. I look forward to visiting it again.

Interview with Paul Byrne, Head of Athletics at DCU

By Cillian Sheeran

Cillian: What do you believe can be done to raise more awareness and publicity towards athletics in Ireland to make more people to want to get involved?

Paul: I think the more people taking part in any sport the better, but the beauty of athletics is that its twenty different sports you have your sprints, jumps, throws, so the more accessible clubs, tracks and the more people that know where their local club is the better chance you have to get into the sport. We could follow on from other sports by going into schools and talking to kids in schools would increase participation in athletics in the longer term.

Cillian: Have you ran into, or have you witnessed any problems athletes have ran into due to the lack of funding and recognition for athletics or do you feel that it's not that extreme of a case?

Paul: No, I think that athletics is a sport that is quite well funded if you look at the breakdown of money between the different sports from Sports Ireland and the high performance strategy they have athletics ranks quite highly but I don't think reflects fairly on the athletes that might be receiving it. It's only the elite athletes that will be getting maybe forty thousand euro who are getting the medals at world championships, that helps them with training camps and to compete all that sort of stuff but athletes that are lower down the scale essentially get nothing really so ye there are a number of athletes that are quite good even athletes in the university that get no funding from Sport Ireland or Athletics Ireland and that can be a huge deterrent for a lot of people cause there have been many talented athletes up to school level that went into different sport like GAA, rugby or soccer.

Cillian: Why do you think broadcasters are opting to broadcast Gaelic Football and hurling over the athletics that our athletes are competing so highly in?



I think the more people taking part in any sport the better...the more people that know where their local club is the better chance you have to get into the sport.

Paul: I think it comes down to the local aspect, GAA have a very good sense of where they are from because they have the team but because athletics is an individual sport people find it harder to get behind athletics teams compared to the local GAA, soccer or rugby club because team sports will always draw in more supporters. Even the diamond league is highly individual. If its Karston Warholm or Ciara Mageean who are our biggest names, but I think if you went asking on the street, they probably wouldn't even know who Ciara Mageean is even though she is raising her profile year on year with her performances. I think that's just the nature of the sport its very individual we have multiple coaches and multiple athletes all over the country. We do have our mixed relay teams who have been getting to the Olympics and world championships finals over the last couple of years which has been great, and it has been inspiring a younger generation of 400m runners to taking up the event but I do feel RTE will always find it less attractive to put money into our sport as it is less attractive to sponsors compared to rugby, soccer and GAA.

Cillian: Are there any insights on why the new track is being built and what do you think it can do for the sport?

Paul: It's the national athletics stadium, it's the key stone of national athletics with the national championships being held there over the last how many years. If you're an athletics fan you want to be there on Saturday and Sunday watching the cream of the crop and I think of over the last couple of years the performances have been really top notch. The Morton games last year you had Cathal Doyle and Andrew Corcoran who is a scholarship athlete at DCU, gutting it out, it's this kind of head-to-head battles buy into and get behind going back to your last question billing it as a head-to-head or a duel and looking at it that way. Morton is always the key stone of the athletics calendar it hosts lots of school's competitions with a couple of thousand kids competing it's a great introduction to athletics and schools' competitions west and north Leisner school, school internationals. I feel the track was nearly gone by its sell by date it only has a certain life span the track was starting to come up in little pieces. Nothing is better than word of mouth, if an athlete runs a fast time on Morton on the new track, they will quickly flock to Morton to keep running there.

Cillian: How is DCU looking to push and promote the track?

Paul: No plans yet cause the track has been delayed due to weather but hopefully by spring time the track will be up and running and ye the more coverage the better I think people have driven pass the stadium on their way to work and school and not even known it was there so the more publicity and the more people that can use it from around Ireland the better because ye it is an magnificent stadium with a lot of history and I hope that in DCU over the next 40 to 50 years there will be a lot more history attached to it.

Cillian: If it was your final say on a campaign that is run once the track opens what would you like to do?

Paul: I think an open doors competition to anyone and everyone, multiple clubs coming together to do a multi match competition or some sort of a mile meet, something the public can get behind as well or even a 5k that ends on the track you could have an open track and field day where kids can come to the track with their families and try all the sports we have, I feel those kind of things would draw in nice publicity.



Interview with Dr. Eadaoin McKiernan from Systems Biology Ireland in University College Dublin to find out who SBI are and what do they do.

Shannah: What is your job title?

Eadaoin: I am the Centre Manager at Systems Biology Ireland.

Shannah: How long have you worked in your current position?

Eadaoin: I started in this position nearly 12 years ago working alongside Professor Walter Kolch, SBI Director.

Shannah: What job positions did you work in before this role?

Eadaoin: Prior to this I worked for the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) where I managed an EU MSCA COFUND project and a HEA PRTL infrastructure programme.

Shannah: Did you feel that these roles gave you the confidence and experience to take on your new role with SBI?

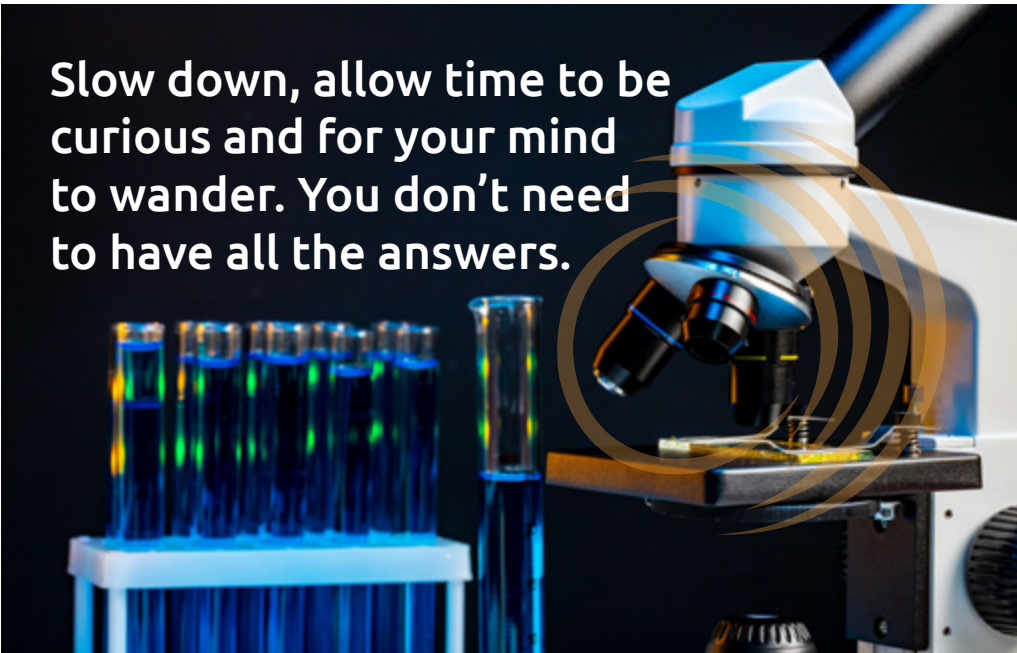
Eadaoin: I gained a lot of experience in managing programmes and projects while at RCSI and I learned a lot about building relationships. Taking on the role in UCD was quite challenging though as I had never been responsible for something of the scale of a Centre. In my first meeting with Professor Walter Kolch, he clearly articulated his vision for SBI and his hopes for what the Centre could achieve. Walter's enthusiasm and passion when speaking about the Centre was extremely encouraging. He has continued to provide guidance throughout my time at SBI which has helped me develop in the role and given me a great confidence boost along the way.

Shannah: You have mentioned Professor Kolch twice. Did you think of him as a great mentor in your role?

Eadaoin: Candidly speaking, Walter is one of the most altruistic people I know. He is motivated by a sincere desire to help others and see others succeed. Walter supported me while I found my feet. He made himself available, shared his knowledge, facilitated introductions, and talked through ideas and strategies with me. He got to grips with my experience, knowledge, and skills. He helped me identify areas where I needed to develop and then worked to create development opportunities for me. Yes, I would consider him a great mentor.

Shannah: Can you tell me about SBI?

Eadaoin: Systems Biology Ireland (SBI) at University College Dublin is ranked among the top centres in the world. We use mathematical and computational modelling approaches in combination with cutting edge experimental technologies to decipher biological communication networks. We adopt a holistic approach understanding



Slow down, allow time to be curious and for your mind to wander. You don't need to have all the answers.

that the networks that form the whole of a living organism are more than the sum of the parts.

Shannah: What is the function of Biological Communication networks?

Eadaoin: Biological Communication networks keep our bodies healthy but can cause disease when they fail. SBI works to understand the language of these networks in order to repair them and then applies this information to medicine.

Shannah: How is this applied to medicine?

Eadaoin: The increased understanding of these complex networks allows us to reconstruct, analyse, and simulate biological systems. We can design models that enable our researchers to discover new biomarkers for disease, stratify patients based on unique genetic profiles, and target drugs and other treatments. We are working towards personalised computer models so we can improve real life diagnostic and therapy options for people fighting cancer and other serious diseases.

Shannah: Are there many researchers interested in working in this field, and do you feel that researchers from different parts of the world have something different to offer?

Eadaoin: Yes, SBI is led by a talented multi-national group of investigators with leading expertise in computational modelling, bioinformatics and both experimental and network biology. Over the years, SBI has attracted over 230 researchers at various career stages from more than 30 nations. We are very proud of the cultural and gender diversity we strive for in both our staff and student roles. Every year we welcome new interns from around the world to learn about systems biology first hand.

Shannah: How is SBI funded?

Eadaoin: We are funded by national and international funding bodies, charities and the industry sector.

Shannah: How much funding have you received?

Eadaoin: SBI has received over 70 million euros in support of the work that we do.

Shannah: Do you collaborate with other organisations?

Eadaoin: We collaborate with other Universities, industry partners and charities focusing our efforts on cancer, policy making, nano medicine and inflammatory diseases.

Shannah: After compiling your research, do you publish it regularly?

Eadaoin: Knowledge sharing is important to us, we publish three to four research papers per month, many of which appear in high impact journals.

Shannah: Why is this of such importance?

Eadaoin: Our research helps to advance the field. It contributes to current thinking on global health challenges and helps pave the way for personalised health care.

Shannah: Did you always know that you wanted to work in the field of science?

Eadaoin: Well, I have always had an inquisitive nature. I like to figure out how things work. I enjoyed science and maths in secondary school and when it came to going to University I was drawn towards courses in those areas.

Shannah: What advice would you give a young researcher?

Eadaoin: I would say 'Slow down, allow time to be curious and for your mind to wander. You don't need to have all the answers'



Creative Corner

By Conor Yardley

INT. INTERVIEW ROOM - DAY
OVER THE SHOULDER SHOT

Two men sit at a table in a dimly lit room. A man sits across from the INTERROGATOR, slumped over, head held in his hand.

This is VINCE.

INTERROGATOR

State your name for the record

VINCE

Vincent Gottfried

INTERROGATOR

Do you know why you're here?

VINCE

For committing a murder

INTERROGATOR

Do you mind telling us about what lead up to it?

INT. OFFICE - DAY

SMASH CUT TO TWO DAYS

EARLIER. Vince waits in a hallway by the office door, counting his money, of which there isn't much. There is also a picture of his family in the wallet. Vince takes a long look at the picture.

A large BODYGUARD opens the door. Vince hastily stuffs the wallet into his pocket upon noticing the bodyguard.

BODYGUARD

He will see you now

Vince takes a deep breath and follows the bodyguard into the office. Sat behind the office desk is a man in a white collared shirt with a wine glass in his hand. This is TONY, head of the crime organization.

TONY

(enthusiastically)

There he is! Good to see you, Vince! Come, have a seat!

The bodyguard pulls the chair out. Vince sits down.

TONY (CONT'D)

When I heard you were back in town, I knew I had to bring you in for this job. It'll be just like old times!

VINCE

What's the job?

TONY

Oh, I'll tell you

Tony stands and begins slowly pacing up and down the room

TONY (CONT'D)

NICKY MARINO, That's our guy. He's a club owner from a couple states over. Thinks he's some big hot shot because of the money he makes.

TONY (CONT'D)

Well, who do you think made him so successful in the first place? I paid off his loans! He's in business because of me!

Tony sits down. He drinks from the wine glass on his desk.

TONY (CONT'D)

He still hasn't paid me back. He disrespected me, Vince. You know I don't like that. I need a man of your talents to take him out.

Vince suddenly stands.

VINCE

No way, Tony! I don't do that anymore!

Vince begins to leave the room.

TONY

Did I mention your payment?

Tony throws a stack of money on the desk. Vince stops in his tracks.

TONY (CONT'D)

And there's plenty more where that came from. Enough for your whole family.

Vince sits down.

Tony stands up and walks up to Vince.

TONY (CONT'D)

One more thing. If you back out, you're done! got it?

VINCE

Got it.

EXT. CAR PARK - DAY

Vince hides behind the corner of a building, waiting for his target. He holds a sniper rifle. His friend, PETE, joins him on the job.

PETE

I just don't know why you signed on. I thought you were done working with Tony

VINCE

I need the money, Pete

PETE

Well, if I were you, I wouldn't have come back. If I could get out of this town, I'd stay the hell away from Tony

VINCE

When I finish this job, hopefully, I'll never have to see him again

PETE

I don't know, Vince. The man never forgets a face.

Wide shot. A man steps out of a building and approaches his car, this is NICKY MARINO.

PETE

There he is! That's the guy!

Vince raises the rifle and aims it. Nicky is approached by a woman, his wife.

PETE

Crap!



Close up shot. Vince's hand starts to tremble. His finger grips the trigger.

PETE
I can't watch!

Vince's grip on the trigger loosens. He lowers the gun. Nicky and his wife get into the car and drive away.

PETE
(worried)

That's it, were dead! When Tony finds out he's going to kill us!

VINCE
I couldn't do it, Pete.

PETE
Oh god! He's going to get us for this!

VINCE
No, he's not. I've got an idea that might get us both off the hook.

We're going to pay Tony one last visit.

INT. OFFICE - DAY
Tony and a bodyguard are sat at a table playing poker.

Vince stands outside the office door, holding a gun. He bursts through the door and shoots the bodyguard in the shoulder. He falls over.

Tony springs out of his chair. He pulls out a gun and shoots at Vince. Vince ducks behind a chair.

Tony stops to reload the gun. Vince turns and shoots at him but misses.

The bodyguard stands up and pulls out a gun. He and Tony walk towards the chair that Vince is hiding behind.

TONY
Come out, Vince! You can't hide forever!

Vince crawls to a desk and hides underneath it. Tony doesn't notice him.

Tony lifts the chair Vince was hiding behind, expecting him to be behind it.

TONY
Son of a...

Vince jumps out from behind the desk. He takes a shot at the bodyguard. The bodyguard goes limp and falls to the floor.

TONY
Found you.

Tony shoots Vince in the shoulder. Vince falls to the ground and drops his gun. Tony begins to laugh as he approaches Vince, aiming his gun at him.

TONY
Any last words?

VINCE
(gasping) Look behind you.

As Tony turns around, Pete barges through the door. He knocks the gun out of Tony's hand.

Vince picks up his gun and points it at Tony.

TONY
Fellas, we can talk about this. What about the money?

Vince shoots Tony. He falls to the ground. Vince sits down and holds his head in his hands.

Pete rushes toward the window. The sound of police sirens can be heard faintly.

PETE
Uh, Vince? Weve got company!

The sirens grow louder. Vince begins to slowly exit the room and walk down the stairs.



EXT. CAR PARK - DAY
CAMERA TURNS 180 DEGREES FROM VINCE'S BACK TO FRONT.

Vince steps out the front door. The volume of the sirens increases. He slowly puts his hands in the air.

CUT TO BLACK

Short story

The Impaler

By Grace Joyce

She doesn't have a name, just as she doesn't have a mother. The mountains and forests are her mother, and Strength is her name.

The child, likewise, has no name, but it will grow to be Kindness.

Amid an attack, alarm bells are crying; servants are fleeing; somewhere a fire is roaring, the child of a stray knocked candle.

The girl doesn't cry or flee or roar up the curtains like the fire. She walks through the halls slowly. The stone is freezing under her feet — she was given no time to grab boots, when she was woken and bundled into her cloak, hurried and harried until, halfway to a hidden exit in the throne room, where she realised where they were going, she began to scream and thrash. The stoic, cold-hardened servant held her and dragged her until she sunk her teeth into the flesh of their shoulder, and then they dropped her, cursing out her name and her father's name and her horse's name.

Now, they trail her quietly, sullenly, knowing there is no point in escape unless they carry her. Her father would kill them if they returned without her. But as the land is her mother and Strength is her name, she will not flee. Unlike her father, she is no coward, and she will fight to defend her home.

The ruckus began below. The enemies had met no resistance, just as they would find no victims, no loot. Her father had made sure of that — there was nothing worth defending, so no point in staying.

No point except pride. Dignity. Strength.

She pauses at the noise that rings out nearby — a noise so unlike the screaming and the crashing. Behind her, the servant, their head down in a sulk, fails to stop, jarring her when they knock into her. She hisses over their mumbled apologies, elbowing them back several steps, and begins in the direction of the sound.

"What is that?" she demands when they reach it.

The servant approaches and looks over her shoulder. "God," they say. "That's a baby."

They both look down at the creature, lying on its back, clinging to its feet. As they come into view, it pauses its laughter to consider them seriously. After a moment, it begins to laugh again.

The girl looks down at herself, then at the servant. "What's it laughing at?"

"How should I know?" the servant snaps.

"Why won't it stand?"

"It's a baby," the servant says. "Too young to stand. You were a baby once. God, what's it doing here?"

"Someone left it behind," she says absently. "Father would have told them to bring only what was necessary."

"But... it's a child."

It laughs again, gleeful. After a solemn moment, she turns away. "Kill it."

The servant gives an exhausted laugh. "I'm not going to kill it."

"That sound will draw them straight to us," she says, then considers. "Straight into a trap. You're right, of course. It's the perfect bait." She's already looking around the room, scanning for tools.

"You can come if you want." She looks over to see the servant has scooped up the child. They hardly look at her as they pass.

"You're leaving?"

"I have to get this child to safety."

She scoffs. "You have to get yourself to safety. The child is just an excuse, seeing as I wouldn't be one."

They lift a shoulder easily. "Maybe."

She scoffs again and follows them outside. They pause, looking at her. When she shakes her head, they give an unsurprised nod. They open their mouth as if to make some farewell, but in the end, they just give her another nod and turn away.

They don't get far. She can't bring herself to look away from their retreating back, so she catches the exact moment everything goes wrong.

They start to turn the corner, and freeze, a strangled sound escaping their mouth. As if knowing there's no running, they simply turn their back to whatever they see, their body cradling that of the helpless baby. An axe appears, burying itself hungrily into the servant's spine. They manage to fall gently, still cradling the child, so when the last breath leaves their lungs, the child is mostly hidden, protected in their arms.

Then the enemies come around the corner. Three of them, wide and tall and dark. One of them sees her and grins, while another wrenches the axe from the servant's back with a wet crunch.

"Lost girl," one observes, pointing.

"Lost and weapon-less."

"And ugly." The third barely looks at her, wiping his axe on his cloak.



"Come here, girl," the first croons, crouching to her level.

She crouches with him. They're right on every account except that she's weapon-less — she has her claws and her teeth, just as she

always has and always would. Tension pools into her muscles, and she waits.

She doesn't get to attack. She sees her enemies go suddenly still, amusement fleeing from their faces, and then she's ambushed from behind. She screams, a frantic battle-cry, and thrashes, but freezes when she catches a glimpse of her attacker's face.

"Father?" He came back for her.

"Quiet, girl." He's already running, dragging her by one arm. The stone scrapes the skin from her feet as she struggles to keep up with his heavy strides.

"Father," she says again, overjoyed. He came back for her, and now that they're together, they can fight together, defend their home. Their enemies will rue this day, she's sure of it.

The steps of their pursuers thunder behind them, echoing up and down the corridor. Her father takes turn after turn, finally ducking into a narrow, carpeted hallway. This is wise, it softens their steps, so their pursuers have no way of telling when they suddenly stop running, ducking into a narrow servant passageway. Their pursuers call out to each other in a foreign language, finally dispersing. Silence takes over.

Her father takes a deep breath and crouches to her level. How she hates when adults do that. Now she is not a fighter, willing to lay down her life for her home. Now, she is a child.

She bares her teeth and him, and he flicks her chin. "I know you know war, child," he says. "But you do not know politics. You do not know the intricate webs that bind both you and I. But I know those webs well, so you must trust me when I say: the best thing we can do right now, is live. Leave, and live. We will come back, and we will fight, and we will take our home back, but not today. Understand?"

She snarls. But she understands. "I will come with you," she says, "If you let me kill one man on the way out."

"Not today," he repeats, and stands.

It's quiet, outside. Now that they are not to fight, the quiet is eerie. It rings off her teeth



and sends her fists curling with trepidation as she follows her father through the quiet corridors. The only sound they hear is the distant, muffled crying of the baby. The girl tuts at the missed opportunity for a trap.

It isn't until they've almost reached the throne room that it occurs to her that it's too quiet.

Enemies descend as soon as she and her father even touch the heavy wooden doors. Someone must have betrayed their secret route, but she has no time to be furious before they are swallowed.

The crowd is a writhing, roiling beast, and she is being digested. She cannot even find the breath to roar. Her father instantly hauls her upwards and away, turning his back to the enemies so he's between her and them. "Father," she gasps, outraged at this vulnerability, but she cannot think of the words before the arrow appears, pricking her chest as it protrudes from his.

He stumbles, drops her. She wavers, her rage evaporated in an instant.

Her father rallies, rises again, scoops her up and launches her towards the door before they can be surrounded. She hits the ground and rolls, catching herself on all fours. Their enemies are not paying attention to her, focused on barring her father from escape.

He meets her eyes, and his expression is cold and hard and angry. "Run," he growls, barely audible. "Leave, and live, and avenge me, daughter." Blood spills over his chin with the words.

She rises and runs.

Gradually, she becomes aware of the steps of her pursuers. The flailing animal that is her mind doesn't know what to do about it for a too-long moment. She takes a sharp turn, sending her pursuers skidding, and then she loops back, earning a few steps of space between them. She continues at this until they lose sight of her. Absently, she's aware of the child, blood-soaked and wailing. She barely pauses when she scoops it up, pulling it from the servant's body lest the incessant cries draw the attention of her enemies.

The child quietens when she touches it and falls almost silent when she shoves her way past a heavy painting into a small, dusty alcove. There, she crouches, slowing her breath. She finds herself gently rocking back and forth, and she finds the baby relaxing with it.

How long they huddle there, she doesn't know. A few times, heavy footsteps thunder past, and she finds herself pressing her cheek to the baby's soft, vulnerable head and whispering to it, reassuring it over and over that they would be okay. Where she finds the words, she has no idea, when all

she can see in the darkness is blood pouring from her father's mouth.

The blood all over them begins to itch, and the baby begins to whimper pathetically.

She pulls back to look at the thing. "Stupid baby," she whispers, and finds her voice strangely gentle, weak. "You can't defend yourself; you cannot even stand. Don't look at me like that."

It doesn't heed her, continuing to watch her with tearstained and hopeful eyes.

"I should kill you now," she continues. "You'll only slow me down."

And yet, strangely, her arms are glued to the beast, unable and unwilling to let it go.

When she shifts, her foot slides in the blood that has spread from the servant's body under the door. She rises suddenly, unsteady with the numbness of her legs after so long crouched in the darkness. She knows she should wait, listen carefully before emerging, but the metallic, cloying smell of blood and fear is suddenly smothering — she shoulders the painting away and scrambles into the hallway.

The distant clamour of a celebration is the only sound. They're too busy drinking her father's mead, eating her father's food. She moves slowly through the halls, but no one is looking for her. No one left alive cares about her at all.

It's a short distance to a discreet servant hallway, and a shorter distance from there to the kitchen, and then to a backdoor and outside. The sky is an impenetrable blanket of darkness, but she knows the land like she knew herself. She stands, her feet numbing quickly in the thick snow. Her breath clouds in front of her, and the sharp bite of the cold feels like a blessing. Here, she is home, more truly than in the musty, bloody castle.



She knows the way. She turns to look at the castle behind her, fire roaring past one of the windows in an upstairs room. She will come back. When her arms aren't stiff from holding the child, when she has boots and when she's clean, and when she no longer sees blood and death every time she blinks, she can come back. And she will avenge her father.

Increasing number of Dunboyne College students accessing high points courses



Over 90% of eligible DCFE graduates who applied via the CAO in 2022 received an offer based on their QQI results and not their Leaving Certificate points according to figures released by the Central Applications Office (CAO).

416 DCFE graduates were offered places on Level 8 honours degrees with 273 receiving Level 7 offers.

Among the offers to DCFE graduates in 2022 were places on DCU's Athletic Therapy and Training and Commerce in UCD for which Leaving Certificate students would have to achieve 554 points to receive a Round 1 offer.

Offers were also made for in Psychology Maynooth University which requires 530 Leaving Certificate points.

DCFE students also received offers for Accounting and Finance in DCU (529 Leaving Certificate points), Home Economics and Biology with Teacher Education in St Angela's College, (509 points) and Psychology in UCD (564 points).

TU Dublin offered places to DCFE graduates on Clinical Measurement Science (520 points) and Optometry (555 points) while Trinity College made offers on BESS Business Economics & Social Studies (576 points) and Biological and Biomedical Sciences (578 points).

It has also been particular strong year for Pre-Nursing graduates. 80% of all QQI places for general nursing in UCD were offered to DCFE graduates. In other universities where there were specialised nursing courses all the places were offered to our students.

TU Dublin made 270 offers across Level 8 and Level 7 courses to Dunboyne students

with Maynooth University offering 87 places. Other Dublin based universities attracted Dunboyne students with DCU offering 58 places, followed closely by UCD with 54 offers and 21 offers from Trinity College.

While the majority of the offers and subsequent acceptances reflects DCFE's location other universities and colleges from Carlow to Cork, Letterkenny to Limerick, Sligo to the new South East Technology University in Waterford and across to Galway, were well represented in the figures.

Commenting on the figures College Principal Denis Leonard says they clearly support the move by Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education to allow students start their third level experience in further education. "Universities are increasing the number of places for QQI graduates and our experience demonstrates that it is very possible to progress from Level 5 to a Level 8 degrees. We have been working closely with Irish universities including Maynooth and TU Dublin to open up opportunities for our students to get to where they want to go."

Mr Leonard acknowledges that the CAO statistics do not tell the full story. "The progression to UK colleges is not captured, many of our Nursing and Sports students continue their studies in England and Scotland.

Many other DCFE students used their qualifications to gain a work. About 50% of our graduates complete Pre-Employment programmes.

There was a 100% employment rate for our Hairdressing graduates, while many of our Childcare graduates received multiple job offers.

Across the board there is a strong demand for those coming out of the Airline, Tourism and Professional Cookery courses, reflecting the re-opening of businesses after the lockdowns. DCFE graduates are now working with Ryan Air and Aer Lingus and many other sectors of the tourism and hospitality industry.

In fact, we can not meet the demand for graduates in some sectors.

It really points to the fact there are plenty of options available for all students and a CAO offer is not the only show in town."



DCFE graduates received CAO offers from QQI results in 2022

416

Level 8 offers to DCFE graduates

273

Level 7 offers to DCFE graduates

Top 9 Offering Universities & Colleges

offers

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | TU Dublin | 270 |
| 2 | Maynooth University | 87 |
| 3 | Dublin City University (DCU) | 58 |
| 4 | University College Dublin (UCD) | 54 |
| 5 | Atlantic Technological University | 34 |
| 6 | South East Technical University | 32 |
| 7 | Dundalk IT | 29 |
| 8 | Technical Institute of the Shannon | 29 |
| 9 | Trinity College Dublin | 21 |



Students If you are interested in finding out more about your options for progression contact Meabh Nimmo or Derek Ball in the guidance office at mnimmo.dbc@lmetb.ie or dball.dbc@lmetb.ie