

ATHY COLLEGE
CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
ACADEMIC YEAR – 2013-2014
IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES

- Induction and mentoring of most recently appointed teaching staff (Suzanne Hayden, Liz Broderick, Sarah White, Mary Glennon, Emily Curtin, William Kerr and Leigh-Anne Seale) and PGDE students (Sabrina Dempsey, Nessa O’Meara).
- Participation in the next round of training for Project Maths
- Participation in CPD for Junior Cycle English
- Continue training in Instructional Intelligence and continue cascading skills, tactics and strategies through newly appointed staff. Train an additional member of staff through the Barrie Bennett Instructional Intelligence Workshops. Develop cross-campus IL Project.
- Continuing participation in training of Science Teachers on sensors – organised by Co. Kildare VEC
- CPD in upward differentiation
- Leadership training – to co-ordinate the Gaisce Awards
- Up-grading staff IT skills for the classroom and development of proficiency in the areas of Moodle, EU Folio and Mahara
- CPD for HSCL Co-ordination

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Congratulations to Deirdre Murphy, conferred with an M Ed, Mavis Laide conferred with an M Sc, Billy Higgins, conferred with a PGDE in Educational Management during 2013-2014, and Fiona Murtagh, conferred with a PGDE in Special Education.

Fiona Murtagh – studying for a Master’s degree in Special Education

Linda Dempsey – studying for a PGDE in Special Education

SUBJECT BASED IN-CAREER DEVELOPMENT:

Science –Discovering Sensors: Sheila Brennan, Natalie O’Neill - April 2014

Science – NCCA Junior Cycle Review Consultation Process – Siobhan Freeman, November 2013

Project Maths: Mavis Laide, Deirdre Murphy, Siobhan Freeman, Suzanne Hayden, Ann Lawlor – March 2014

Junior Cycle English – Claire O’Connor, January 2014, Breda Sunderland, January 2014, Shirley Doyle, Feb 2014, Ciara Doyle, Feb 2014, Siobhan O’Brien Feb 2014, Liz Broderick, Feb 2014

LCA – Contemporary Issue Task – Noreen Tyrrell – September 2013

LCA – English and Communication – Liz Broderick – September 2013

LCA – Social Education – Year 1 - Noreen Tyrrell, September 2013

LCA – IT Specialism – Kevin Doyle, September 2013

Home Economics (PDST CPD) Leaving Cert Support – Sarah White, February 2014

Home Economics (PDST) Junior Cert Workshop – Sarah White, November 2013

Home Economics ATHE Meetings and Cluster Meetings : Sarah White, October 2013

Technology Subjects – Subject Planning: Ger McDonagh, April 2014

Gaeilge – Gramadach/Gaeilge Labhartha: Fiona McEvoy, October 2013.

Gaeilge – Scribneoireacht : Ailis Reidy, March 2014.

Art, Craft and Design – Art Teachers’ Association of Ireland : Felt Making, Leigh Ann Seale, December 13

Art, Craft and Design – Acrylic Painting, Navan Education Centre : Leigh-Ann Seale, April, 2014.

Religious Education: Junior Cert Journal Work – Athlone Education Centre : Brenda Sweeney, November 2013

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT:

NCCA Junior Cycle School Network: Deirdre Murphy, September 2013, December 2013

INSTRUCTIONAL INTELLIGENCE/TEACHING AND LEARNING/ KEYSKILLS

Instructional Leadership: Barrie Bennett workshops – Joanne Parry: November 2013 and March 2014.

Instructional Intelligence Workshop by Barrie Bennett (Greystones) – Breda Sunderland, March 2014

Metacognition and Upward Differentiation – Delivered to all teachers in August 2013 by Jean Johnson of the PDST.

Cross-campus Teaching and Learning Workshops

1. Delivered to all teachers on campus by Dr. Finn O’Murchu – November 2013
2. Delivered by Willie O’Gorman and Deirdre King, Scoil Phadraig Naofa to all teachers in Athy College on Integration in the Primary Curriculum – April 2014

ASCEND for Teachers – Strategies for students diagnosed with Autism – Leigh Anne Seale, March 2014

KWETB Induction Programme for Newly Appointed Teachers – September 2013, Suzanne Hayden, Liz Broderick

MENTORING PROGRAMME FOR RECENTLY APPOINTED STAFF

Mentoring Newly appointed staff :Sept 2013 and thereafter by attendance at Teaching and Learning Club – Tuesday evenings throughout the school year, including sessions on **Classroom Management – The Bumps Method; PWIM; Placemat**

LITERACY, NUMERACY AND SCHOOL SELF-EVALUATION

PROGRAMMES and SKILLS BASED IN-CAREER DEVELOPMENT

MOODLE – VLE: Whole Staff. Delivered by Frank Whelan throughout the school year.

EU Folio and MAHARA – Ciara Doyle and Siobhan O’Brien – January 2014, February 2014, March 2014

Leadership Training for the Gaisce Awards – Deirdre Murphy, October 2013

JCSP Co-Ordinator’s Meeting: Natalie O’Neill – October 2013, February 2014

HSCL Training –Joanne Parry – November 2013

Reasonable Accommodations – Provision for Students with SEN – NEPS – Shirley Doyle and Joanne Parry, January 2014

IT: Ger McDonagh: Microsoft Educators Summit 2014

Technology Subjects – Subject Planning : CPD delivered to all staff by Ger McDonagh on an electronic template for subject planning being developed by Technology Teachers' Association, May 2014.

DEVELOPING COLLEGIALITY

Teaching and Learning : Joint staffs of Athy Campus, Hosted by : Gaelscoil Atha I and Athy Model School, Dec 2013

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

Subject Planning	Whole staff	Aug/Sept/May
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DEIS/School Improvement Planning	Whole staff	Aug/Sept/May
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STAFF DELIVERING CPD OUTSIDE ATHY COLLEGE

Junior Cycle : Deirdre Murphy to staff of Piper's Hill College, Naas, August, 2013

KWETB Induction Programme for Newly Appointed Teachers – September 2013, Breda Sunderland

Instructional Leadership Programme – National Conference October 2013 – Richard Daly and Breda Sunderland

FEILTE – World Teachers' Day, Royal Hospital, Kilmainham – Deirdre Murphy, Richard Daly and Breda Sunderland, Workshop Facilitators on Instructional Leadership

REPORT ON THE PROVISION OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2013-2014

EVALUATION OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

An invitation to reflect on and evaluate CPD for 2013-2014 was responded to by 60% of the staff. Below are the main conclusions:

EU Folio and Mahara – “A great project to be involved in and links well with our aims for the new Junior Cycle. The CPD was quite basic and I found that we were way ahead, technology wise.” “The venue – i.e. the Digital Hub, Dublin – was excellent, as was the presenters’ knowledge. Presenters could have provided more information. A “Step-by-step” Guide for teachers and students would be a real help.” “There were difficulties surrounding the compatibility of certain function on Mahara and certain devices, such as iPads.” The session in Portlaoise Education Centre was “engaging and informative. We realised that some schools have not introduced “Mahara” at all while we have been very successful in our use of this facility so far.”

Moodle: Several teachers expressed their appreciation to Frank Whelan for the CPD he delivered throughout the year on Moodle and the amount of time he has invested in developing the facility for Athy College, with many reporting their increased confidence with Mahara as part of their teaching repertoire. “Frank is very open to share ideas and offer assistance.” There is a sense that the jury is out on whether VLE’s will make teaching any easier. There is a sense that some continuing support for those interested in developing their use of Moodle would be good, but with a shift in emphasis towards introducing Moodle to newly appointed staff, so that “everyone is on the same page”.

Project Maths CPD: “Was very interesting and worthwhile. Good resources were shared.” However, for a colleague who first had the opportunity to attend during the current academic year, the CPD “would have been more beneficial” had she had an opportunity to attend all sessions. Another colleague who had attended the previous sessions reported is as excellent in all respects. “Workshop 10 – Choosing Learning Teaching Approaches and Strategies gave some good advice on how to cultivate and develop problem solving skills and also how to use ‘teaching as enquiry’. Presenter was very professional and good resources were distributed.”

Metacognition and Upward Differentiation – “Hugely helpful in my teaching and learning”. The presenter’s knowledge, content and the venue were excellent. Delivery could have been better.

Cross-campus Teaching and Learning Workshops : The Cross-Campus Teaching and Learning Workshops were excellent “narrowing the gap between primary and secondary education.” “It was helpful to build awareness of the links between the two levels and the importance of cohesion between the sectors.” “I would give an excellent evaluation in all respects to the Cross-Campus initiative.” The CPD on IL in November gave all teachers on campus the opportunity to come together to understand the principles of IL. The format and presentation on the day were very professional and enjoyable.”

“The CPD from staff of Scoil Phadraig on an Integrated Approach to Learning was very interesting. It could work well with students, especially JCSP groups, but it would be very difficult to implement across the board given the number of teachers involved in teaching each class group.”

NCCA Junior Cycle School Network – “Unfortunately a lot of meetings were postponed due to industrial action. The meeting in September was very beneficial, especially the section on “What other schools are doing”. One of the schools focused on AFL and the comments they use on ePortal were shared. Very interesting and the comments gave a lot more insight into the students.”

Home Economics Junior Cert Workshop PDST: While the venue was excellent and the presentation’s content, the presenter’s knowledge and delivery were good the session did not quite meet the expectations of the teacher who attended. The **AHTE ICT in Home Economics** was reported as “fair” in terms of content and how it met the expectations of a teacher who attended, while the presenter’s knowledge was good and delivery was “excellent”. However, the standard of the CPD delivered by the **PDST for Leaving Cert Home Economics** was perceived as excellent overall reaching the teacher’s expectations.

Gaeilge – Gramadach/Gaeilge Labhartha: The presenter’s knowledge and delivery were excellent and the content was very good.

Gaeilge – Scribneoireacht : “Very practical with useful ideas for class and we were given notes that could be passed to other teachers.”

Religious Education: Junior Cert Journal Work : “Focused on how to achieve full marks on religion journal, common pitfalls and how to incorporate reflective learning. Overall excellent.”

Revised Junior Cycle English (PDST): Comments varied and each teacher of English attended a different workshop. “While the presenter’s delivery and the venue were excellent and the content of the presentation was very good, uncertainty surrounding assessment was disconcerting. The presenter could not provide us with any significant details about assessment.” Another teacher stated that while content, delivery and venue were of a very high standard, her expectations were not met and the presenter’s knowledge was limited.

LCA CPD: - The CPD on Contemporary Issues (Social Education) was excellent in every respect.

Technology Subjects – Subject Planning: This CPD was particularly valuable and excellent in all respects. In May, Ger McDonagh shared information on an electronic subject planning template with all staff. That session was well received and very useful.

ASCEND for Teachers – Strategies for students diagnosed with Autism: “Run by the Lucena Clinic, Wicklow. Very informative and insightful. Provided us with lots of strategies, sources for resources. The only thing was that the content was mostly focused on primary age children (though still relevant).”

Art, Craft and Design – Art Teachers’ Association of Ireland : “ Held at IMMA, the content was clear, concise and easy to follow. Opened up new possibilities for my own practice.”

Art, Craft and Design – Acrylic Painting: “A great course, providing ideas on how to approach colour mixing, colour theory and acrylic painting with students. Great opportunity to network....an inspiring and informative treat.”

IDENTIFIED NEEDS FOR DEVELOPMENT

- Further development of Teaching and Learning
- First Aid training
- Induction and mentoring of newly appointed staff. Introducing Instructional Intelligence, Moodle and Mahara to new staff
- Engaging and Motivating Students
- Teaching and Learning – developing the Campus Professional Network
- Team-building : Further developing collegiality
- A gap exists in the absence of support/CPD by the PDST for school planning personnel in the introduction and implementation of School Self Evaluation. Support from the PDST has been requested in this area.

IDENTIFIED EXPERTISE WITHIN THE STAFF

- 3 teachers are IVEA certified practitioners in Instructional Leadership – Teaching and Learning – Deirdre Murphy, Natalie O’Neill and Breda Sunderland. These teachers have been involved in training at a national level for Cohorts 2 and 3 of the Instructional Leadership Project. They are also trained facilitators. Brenda Sweeney is also an excellent and practised deliverer of CPD in this area.
- ICT – Richard Daly, Frank Whelan, Ger McDonagh, Deirdre Murphy.
- Moodle and Mahara – Frank Whelan