

DEIS 2011 – 2014 PLAN LITERACY GROUP REPORT AT THE END OF YEAR 2

The main aims of the Literacy Committee for 2012 – 2013 were:

- to improve the literacy levels of all students: a. by decreasing by 5% those reading under age 10 at point of entrance assessment; b. to decrease by 5% those reading between the ages of 10 – 12 years at point of entrance assessment
- to foster a love of reading and all aspects of literacy

Reading Ages

Third year students were tested in May 2013. The results indicate the improvement from the point of first assessment at point of entry. The results are as follows:

Students reading at below 10 years was reduced from 40% at entrance assessment to 22% at the end of 3rd year.

Students reading at between 10 years and 12 years at entrance assessment was reduced from 31% at entrance assessment to 3% at the end of 3rd year.

Students reading at 15+ increased from 4% at entrance assessment to 31% at end of 3rd year.

SPELLING BEE

A new initiative for 1st and 2nd years was lots of fun and resulted in a real literacy “buzz”.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Another new initiative, co-ordinated by Siobhan O’Brien, was very successful. By using the plasma screens in the halls this literacy initiative succeeded in achieving high visibility. Many staff in a variety of subject departments were highly supportive of this particular initiative.

PRESENTATION TO WHOLE-STAFF ON PROMOTING LITERACY

The presentation, prepared by the Literacy Group, was made in September 2012. (Copy in Literacy folder).

DEAR

Drop Everything and Read was successful this year with many students borrowing books to finish reading at home. The format was varied slightly to fit in with the Mock Examinations. Shirley Doyle undertook to co-ordinate this initiative.

L.C.W.C.

This initiative took place in specifically targeted class groups.

School Library

New stock was bought for and donated to the school library. A borrowing facility operated every lunchtime. A record was kept of books borrowed. Many students used the library during lunchtime as a quiet, supervised place to read. The shelves are being carefully stocked and we are grateful to staff who voluntarily gave of their time to supervise the Library. We are grateful to a group of students who keep the catalogue updated, who operate the borrowing system and who supervise the use of the computers in the Library at lunchtime. The number of computers available to students in the Library was doubled.

WRITER IN RESIDENCE

Martin Malone, published novelist and short story writer, was “writer in residence”. He worked with B1 and B2 over a 5 month period, developing their writing skills. This project was sponsored by Kildare Co Council, under the direction of Lucina Russell, Arts Officer.

DRAMA TRIPS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR DRAMA GROUP

Students visited the theatre during the year.

A new initiative was the drama club organised by Claire O’Connor which met during lunchtime.

CECIL DAY LEWIS AWARD WINNERS

One student was placed among the prize winners and 4 students received certificates for highly commended work.

Book Clubs

The 1st and 2nd year book clubs continue to be successful. This year the 1st year group met with novelist Celine Kiernan. The link with Athy Town Library continues to be very helpful.

Keyword Posters

There was a very successful effort to re-focus attention on Key Word Posters, particularly for senior classes, where usage had diminished in recent years.

Readalong

The A3 and A4 groups completed and enjoyed the Readalong.

Book Boxes

The initiative of having boxes of books available for classes when a teacher was absent was continued. Thank you to Claire O’Connor who took charge of this initiative.

BOOK OF THE WEEK

The plasma screen notice boards were used to recommend “good reads”. Suggestions were made by staff and students.

The Literacy Committee continues to be encouraged by the numbers of students who sit and read non-school material in areas of high visibility – eg the school hall – before school and during lunchtime.