

Donegal ETB

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.DONEGALETB.IE/YOUTHREACH

WWW.YOUTHREACH.IE



TWITTER: @ DONEGALYR

Ballyshannon & Letterkenny Participate in Donegal ETB's Enterprise Day

Learners from Ballyshannon and Letterkenny participated in Donegal ETB's second ever Enterprise Day on 7 May, along with twelve schools from across the county. MC for the morning was Highland Radio's Lee Gooch. The day involved each team developing a product on which they were judged in a Dragon's Den-type set up. Teams were given a business mentor and an LYIT business studies student to guide them throughout the day. Image consultant Billie Dixon spoke to participants in the morning on how to present themselves while later on representatives from local companies made presentations to the teams on how to pitch a business idea. After all teams pitched their ideas to the judges, the final three teams then pitched their business idea to all participants. The day also included fun activities, ice breakers and team building games with staff from Gartan Outdoor Education and Training Centre.



Top left and right — Ballyshannon learners participating in Donegal ETB's Enterprise Day.

Below right — Letterkenny learners and staff and mentor taking a break from their busy day at the Enterprise Day!

Forthcoming Events!

- Mid-June: Summer Programmes—all centres
(follow events on Twitter @DonegalYR #YRsummerprog15)
- 30 June: First Youthreach Summer Games—Gartan OETC
- July: Work Experience—All centres
- August: Summer Holidays
- 24 August: Centres re-open (August Training Week)

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*Welcome...*to the second edition of our 2015 newsletter! It's been a busy few months for centres around the county which culminated in recent QQI (formerly FETAC) assessments. Summer programmes have begun in all centres which will be followed by summer work experience placements. We're also delighted to announce the development of our new social media strategy to help us better communicate our work to our multiple audiences (see below). The next edition of the newsletter will be available in October. In the meantime you can keep up to date with us on Twitter (@DonegalYR), Facebook (Donegal Youthreach) and YouTube (Donegal Youthreach Programme).

Dr Sandra Buchanan, Youthreach County Coordinator

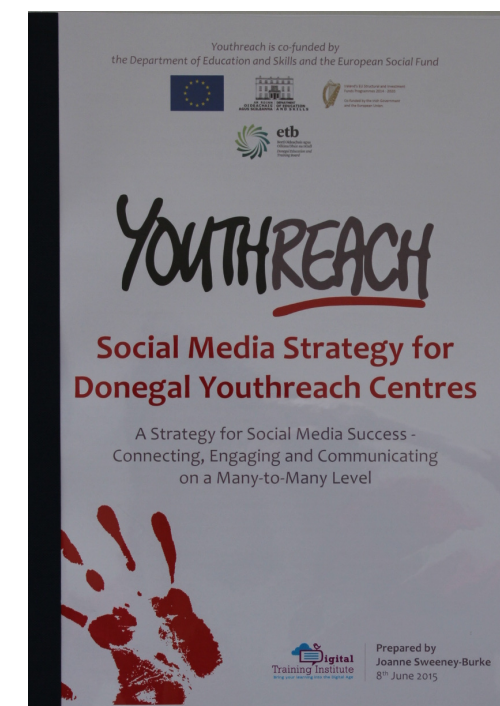
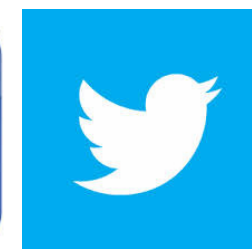
Youthreach Social Media Strategy Developed

Donegal Youthreach has recently developed a social media strategy with the support of Joanne Sweeney-Burke of the Digital Training Institute. In an age of mobile communications, it was deemed necessary to help us better communicate with our multiple audiences—learners, young people, parents, schools, employers, funders, Department of Education and Skills, Inspectorate, community and youth groups, supporting organisations (e.g. HSE, Gardaí, County Council, Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Gaisce, etc), other Youthreach centres around the country and the general public amongst others. The strategy will help us streamline our social media presence and provides key staff with training and support in developing and implementing the strategy. You can check us out on Twitter (@DonegalYR), Facebook (Donegal Youthreach) and YouTube (Donegal Youthreach Programme).



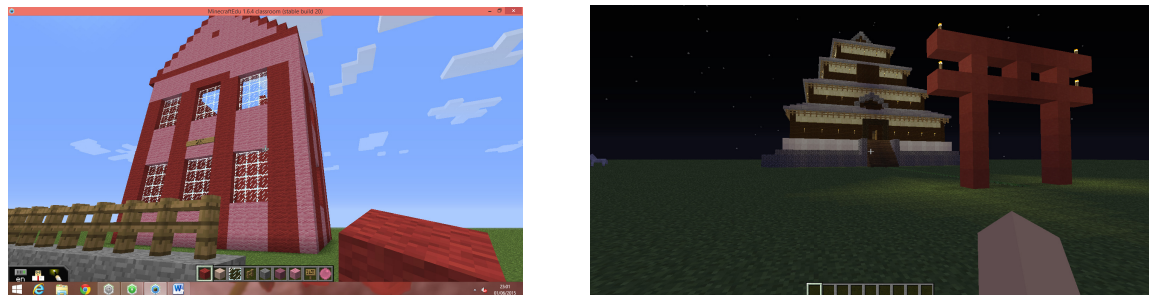
Left: Joanne Sweeney-Burke facilitating social media training with the Youthreach social media team.

Right: Donegal Youthreach Social Media Strategy.



Minecraft Enabling Innovative Maths Teaching in Buncrana

MinecraftEdu is a special version of Minecraft designed specifically for schools, with additions that are more useful and appropriate for the classroom. Over 5,000 teachers in more than forty countries have used it to teach the STEM subjects, art, history and computer coding. Youthreach Buncrana/Glengad have begun using MinecraftEdu to teach maths topics including fractions, geometry, percentages and co-ordinate geometry to name a few. This programme instantly engages learners and allows them to unleash their individual creativity as well as promoting collaborate learning. There are plans to use it to teach programming skills to the learners in the near future.



Pictured are the Buncrana Youthreach centre and a temple which learners are building and working on through Minecraft.

Lifford Host Transformation Month!

The month of May was “Transformation Month” in Lifford Youthreach. As part of this initiative learners and staff were encouraged to “transform” aspects of their lifestyle, including diet, mental health and exercise.



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The programme included healthy fruit salad breakfasts, morning walks and jogs, head massage, reflexology, mental health clinics and workshops, smoking cessation workshops, kickboxing, circuits and rounders. The month was topped off with the “Tough Mudder Challenge” mud run (pictured left).



The programme was designed to encourage participation in a range of healthy and enjoyable activities. The emphasis has been on trying to encourage change in small aspects of learner’s lifestyles, so that they can hopefully develop these changes into habits in the future. Learners have been very keen to try out new foods, take part in reflexology and even try and reduce the number of cigarettes they smoke in a day, all of which should hopefully contribute to a healthier learner. Learners have already discussed making the fruit salad breakfast a permanent fixture on the daily timetable. The photos below give a flavour of what they got up to. *#healthybodieshealthymindshealthylearners*



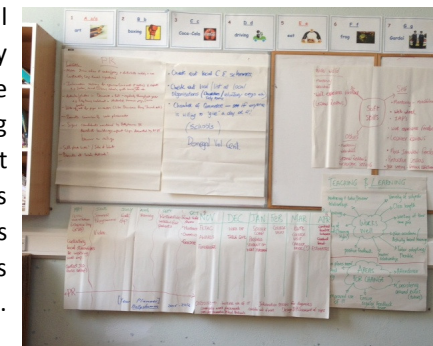
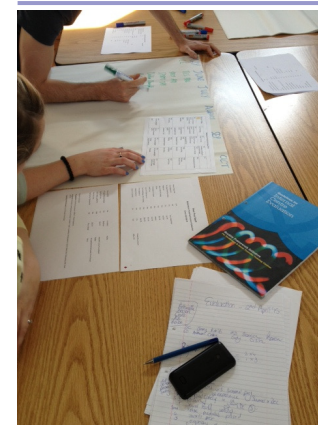
End of a Hard Year’s Work in Letterkenny

Learners and staff were very glad to have come to the end of the certified class work for the year by submitting a total of 202 individual modules for certification by our learners. Pictured below left is a selection of the work gathered for assessment. Before the summer programme gets into full swing in the Centre, learners worked on a variety of Centre projects (below right), including recording a CD for our 25th Anniversary in October, making flower boxes for sale, creating a historical book memoir of the Centre and working on Centre murals and decorations.



Centres Undertake Annual Internal Centre Evaluation (ICE)

All centres are currently completing their annual Internal Centre Evaluation (ICE). This is two day process whereby centres take time out to evaluate the work they have done and issues arising over the last year, while planning for their work over the coming year. It includes looking at evaluations carried out with learners, parents, employers and community stakeholders. An annual report is produced and along with their Centre Development Plans (CDP), guides centre work over the next twelve months. This happens under the Youthreach Quality Framework.



Gortahork’s Irish Language Project

Gortahork’s learners recently worked on a Gaeilge language project with Colm Cille and Foras na Gaeilge. The aim was to improve their Gaeilge and promote its use. Learners have been learning Gaeilge and Scots Gáidhlig and took part in a local parade to promote our project, dressing up in Morph suits, dancing on the Main Street of Falcarragh and chanting in Gaeilge as we moved down the street.

