



INTRODUCTION



Welcome to the latest Instructional Leadership Newsletter. It has been awhile since we produced one but the good news is that there will be more regular editions from here on, with the plan to issue one a term. Sharon Coffey, Deputy Principal, Athy College has taken over the responsibility as editor and we have a dedicated email address, newsletter@instructionalleadership.ie, should you wish to send us an article and/or photographs of your experiences with the programme and/or learning from the programme or how you are using your learning and the effect it is having on your classroom/school.

We have had a very busy time over the past few months, we hosted the inaugural International Conference in October 2016 and welcomed IL colleagues from Australia, Germany, Italy, and Canada, who shared their experiences with us and they in turn learned from us. Professor David Hopkins, acted as our critical friend to the programme and offered us some insightful ideas of how we could further embed the programme to drive and support leadership for effective teaching and learning in our classrooms.

In the spirit of progression, we made an open call, through the website, for comment and ideas to help us shape The Instructional Programme - 3 Year Strategic Plan. we were very pleased with the feedback, which is a great resource in drafting the plan. We are aiming to launch the Strategic Plan at the National Conference in October.

Cohort 7 graduated and Cohort 9 commenced the programme in March 2017. We have Cohort 10 signed up to commence in October and we are currently taking expression of interest for Cohort 11. We are also delighted to have engaged with our colleagues from the primary school sector, three principals will graduate from the programme in October, who will then work with us to make the programme accessible to the primary sector.

We are currently planning the National Conference, October

13th & 14th, and are aiming to showcase experiences and ideas of how the programme can be disseminated within schools to support; whole-school CPD, assessment & reflection, the e-learning platform, and effective learning in extended lesson times. There are 120 places available and you can express your interest in attending by emailing admin@instructionalleadership.ie

We are also hosting a day for Principals and Deputy Principals, on June 19th 2017, to support you in your role as an Instructional Leader and ways of making Instructional Leadership a whole-school topic for discussion and development. Express your interest in attending by emailing admin@instructionalleadership.ie

We have also revamped our website since the issuing of the last newsletter. Visit us at www.instructionalleadership.ie, if you have any resources you would like to share with your IL colleagues around the country we would be happy to upload them to our website.

As Chairperson of the National Steering Committee, I wish you happy reading and hope that you learn something from this edition of the newsletter.

Mise, le meas,

Joan Russell



Monday 19th June 2017

IL Programme: A Day for Principals & Deputy Principals, supporting your role as Instructional Leaders.

Register your interest at:
admin@instructionalleadership.ie

120 Places available. Agenda will issue shortly

Friday 13th and 14th October 2017

*Instructional Leadership National Conference 2017
"Moving Towards a Whole-School Approach to Effective Teaching and Learning."*

Register your interest with:
admin@instructionalleadership.ie



FROM TOURIST TO CITIZEN

Carmen Druyen

When presenting the "Duisburg Project", I used this phrase at the Instructional Leadership International Conference 2016 conference in October 2016, in order to describe our intention to hold students responsible for their learning by turning schools into learning organizations that would work collaboratively with all those involved in the system. During the conference, though, I realized that this phrase also applied to me. I had come from Germany to share our experiences with school development, a tourist on a mission. After three days of sharing, learning and assessing I felt I had become a citizen of the learning community of ETBI.

Joan Russell and her assistant Paula Fitzpatrick had organized a conference that made it possible for everybody to feel at ease, involved and appreciated. Professors from universities in Ireland and England, teachers, union members from Canada and Australia and not to forget students told their stories and all those stories formed a big picture of success and hope and challenges. Keynote speeches, presentations, workshops and time to share views and experiences were inspiring. The will to learn from each other was the undercurrent that had us share our objectives, expectations, expertise, dreams and even disappointments and created a feeling of belonging.

Dr. Barrie Bennett being part of the Irish ETBI project from the first moment and key to its overwhelming success, gave us an example of his mastery of juggling with concepts, skills, tactics, strategies and instructional organizers and made us all wish to learn more and improve our own teaching. Mastery also showed in the presentations in the workshops, where teachers gave examples of their work with students. In our own workshop, Paola Debernardi from Italy and I were happy to share some activities wrapped around language teaching with teachers from all kinds of schools and systems.

After three days of shared values and views of teaching and instructional leadership, I left with the deep wish to learn more

and to give something in return to support teachers on their way to form a better school for better learning.

New horizons, dimensions (of instructional leadership) and a lot more...

In March 2017 I was given the chance to realize one of my wishes. My colleague Pierre Monier and I were lucky to become part of cohort 9. 131 teachers and principals from 44 schools arrived on Wednesday and were eager to work together for 3 days.

First we were given sample lessons by the teachers of cohort 8 who gave impressive proof of what they had learned. Those lessons gave us newcomers an idea of what the next sessions might bring.

In the afternoon 131 people gathered around tables in one room, waiting for the miracle. Being a teacher trainer myself, I kept wondering how this would work out. Round tables with 8 to 12 people did not seem to be the best conditions for demonstrating group work. How would all those people who did not know each other work together? Two hours later I had found the answers to these questions: One was Barrie Bennett who had us pair up or work in groups of threes and fours at our tables and filled our minds with information and activities so that environmental conditions like big tables or lack of oxygen became negligible; the second were the open-minded Irish teachers who made it easy to work and share with. Coming from outside and struggling with the language, Pierre and I never felt excluded.

Joan and Barrie had used their magic again and put a spell on us. Barrie challenged us with terms and tasks that were confusing and fascinating at the same time. After the first day we left the room with the idea that we had only understood a bit but that something big had been revealed to us. Like fish we were on the hook and even in the evening the discussions went on in the bar.

Due to Joan Russell's careful choice of the place we all felt spoilt and appreciated. A wonderful hotel, nice surroundings and candle light dinners made the whole difference to trainings that we had experienced in other places. Her eye and concern for details, like nametags with programme on strings, created a feeling of being taken care of.

Those who stayed overnight met in the bar in the evenings and it was a wonderful mixture of small talk and discussions of things learned and heard. Pierre and I loved being part of this group and enjoyed learning and talking to the people we met. We went home with many new ideas and can't wait to see the group again for the next training.

We thank all the people who made this experience so important for us: Barrie, Joan, Paula and the teachers we could talk to and work with. We enjoyed the Irish hospitality and can't wait to be back in October.

A PERSPECTIVE FROM A NEWLY APPOINTED DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Tracey Kennedy

“One thing is certain – even after just three days of Barrie Bennett and this programme, I could never again go back and teach exactly as I did before.”

That was my reaction to Session 1 of the Instructional Leadership Programme, which I began in March 2016, as part of Cohort 8. There’s something wonderful about having your eyes opened to new and effective teaching methods sixteen years into your career as a teacher.

What exactly is Instructional Leadership? I don’t profess to be any sort of expert in the field, but so far I understand it to be a professional development programme aimed at, among other things, enabling teachers to better understand their role, to utilise skills, tactics and strategies which will improve both teaching and learning and to improve classroom management.

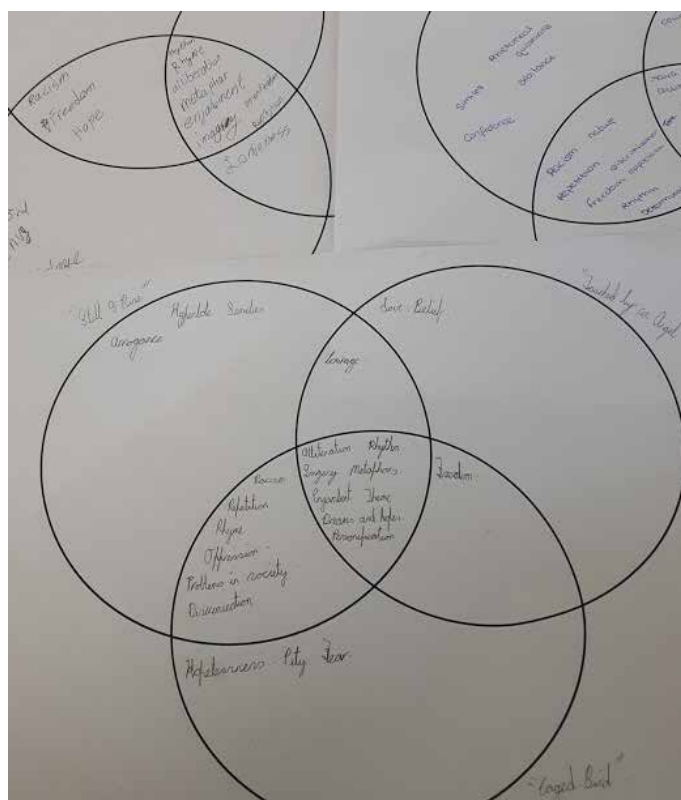
Our initial three days were exhilarating, exciting and exhausting. Barrie Bennett is an inspiring speaker and teacher, and I found his concrete examples of what we needed to do to improve our effectiveness in the classroom fascinating.

Most interesting for me was our work on the concepts and skills associated with effective group work. I had used group work in my classroom for years, and saw many benefits to it, particularly in a subject like English. However, I’ve never been entirely convinced that I was making the most effective use of group work. I had students who simply opted out, who didn’t fully engage or who were dependent on others in the group, but I wasn’t sure exactly what to do about this, and it was still more effective than constant whole-class teaching. In terms of questioning students, I knew it wasn’t easy to strike the balance between accountability and fear of failure. What we’ve learned in relation to effective group work over the three sessions I’ve now completed has been incredibly valuable to me.

I returned to school after Session 1 the day before Proclamation Day in March 2016, and all the English teachers in our school had undertaken to teach a 1916-related poem to each of their classes. This provided me with the perfect opportunity to test my new-found strategies and skills, so I tried out think-pair-share, framing questions and distribution of responses. Student feedback on these lessons was really interesting: “It was fun,” “It kept us on our toes,” “We really had to listen to what others were saying.” Just what I wanted to hear! I could see its effectiveness myself too, and this continued

as I increased my application of what I had learned from Barrie Bennett.

Since commencing the IL programme, I’ve changed schools and moved into the role of Deputy Principal at Carrigaline Community School, where all of the senior management team and five other teachers are involved in the programme. My focus has now changed from improving my own teaching to embedding the principles of IL in the school, and I look forward to a positive impact on teaching and learning.



COLÁISTE GHOBNATAN

Tá sé deacair focail a chur ar an trí lá a chaitheamar i dteannta Barrie Bennett agus ár gcomhleacaithe ó cheann ceann na tíre i Mount Wolseley i mí Márta ach bainfidh mé triail as.

Is mar bhaill do Cohórt 9 ar an gclár Ceannaireacht Theagascach (CT) a bhíomar i láthair. D'éirigh linn greim éigin a fháil ar a leithéidí **gnóthachtáil choincheapa, úsáideoirí meicniúla, scileanna sóisialta agus acadúla, tacsanomaíocht Bloom, CBAM (modh oibre a thomhaiseann buairt i measc na fóirne agus a chuireann tacaíocht ar fáil chun sprioc a bhaint amach nó clár nua a chur a bhfeidhm), ceistiú éifeachtach, tacar sonraí.**

Lá 1: Ceachtanna ó Cohórt 8. Nuair a chionn tú dream ó scoil eile i mbun oibre agus iad compórdach leis na téarmaí thuasluaite, thabharfadh sé dóchas duit go mbeifeá in ann an caighdeán céanna a shroichint.

San iarnóin, thug Barrie léirmheas ar Cheannaireacht Theagascach agus go mion, is an pointe gur ghairm casta le seacht gcúramaí an tsoil i gceist leis a chuaigh i bhfeidhm orm. Is de bharr san go bhfuil géarghá le machnamh dáiríre a dhéanamh ar do chuid chleachtas. Seans go raibh tuirse ag teacht orainn le **gnóthachtáil choincheapa** a fhoghlaim ach leanamar linn. Má bhaintear cuid don gcathaoir, ní cathaoir é a thuilleadh! I ndeireadh na dála, is léir go dtugann tuiscint ar an gcoincheap seans níos fearr duit an rud a mhúineadh.

Lá 2: Do leanamar linn ag léimint idir Dréimire Gordon (conas cruth cuimseach comhfhiosach a fhorbairt id' chleachtas) go

Hall agus Hord (CBAM) a léirigh na leibhéil d'úsáideoira a bhíonn le sroichint ag an múinteoir nuair a bhíonn clár nua le cur i bhfeidhm, go obair Madeleine Hunter, a shocraigh obair an mhúinteora i gceithre catagóir eolais, gníomhaíochtaí, ceisteanna agus freagraí! Is ar conas ceisteanna chur go héifeachtach a chaitheamar an cuid eile den lá. Bhí an seomra gleacaíochta ag teastáil fén dtráth sin, gan trácht ar an mbeár!

Lá 3: Deatach bán fé dheireadh ach níor bhraitheamar an tam ag imeacht agus is ag an bpointe seo go bhfuair Barrie a chuid fuinnimh ceart agus é ag tagairt do **tacar sonraí**. Cheapamar go mbeadh sé sásta go maith ag treabhadh tríd "A" agus "B" go deo ach gan amhras, lig sé dúinn ár gcuid féin a dhéanamh den rud. Suíomh sábháilte, taitneamhach, comhoibreach ab ea an seomra ranga i Mount Wolseley. Ní haon ionadh go bhfuilim ag súil go mór leis an bhFómhar!

Siobhán Uí Dhonnchú, Gearóid Ó Creimín, Toirdealbhach Ó Lionáird

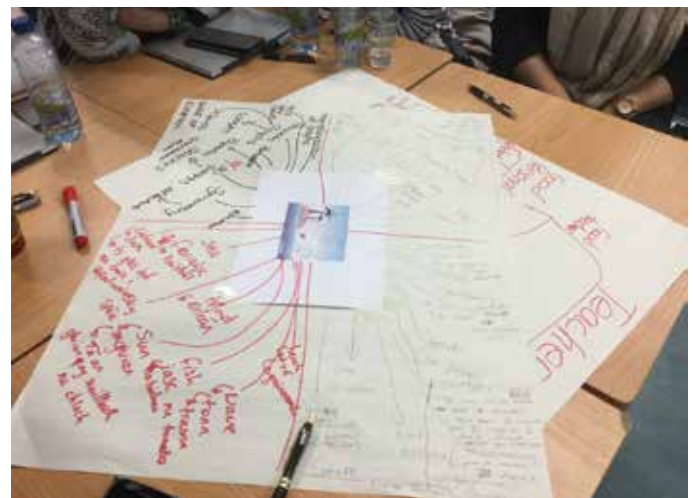


GRADUATION OF COHORT 7

Congratulations to all teachers who graduated in March 2017.



DUBLIN DUN LAOGHAIRE ETB WORKSHOP



Noel Kelly Deputy Principal in Greenhills College facilitated a workshop for teachers of Dublin Dun Laoghaire ETB during a TL21 session. Pictures of the session are shown above.

INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME DATES FOR OCTOBER 2017

Cohort 9 - Session 2	
Monday	9th October
Tuesday	10th October
Wednesday	11th October
Cohort 8- Session 4 (Graduation)	
Wednesday	11th October
Thursday	12th October
Friday	13th October
Cohort 10 - Session 1	
Monday	16th October
Tuesday	17th October
Wednesday	18th October

International Conference 2016



Feedback for IL Programme:

'I can't wait to go back to try some of the tactics in my classroom'
Eileen

'I got some brilliant ideas for the Junior Cycle Classroom'
Shiela M.

A culture of professional development exists within the staff, and it is very positive to note the staff's involvement with initiatives that look to develop teaching and learning in the classroom such as the Instructional Leadership programme (MLL Report 2015)

'It is great to be treated like a professional'
John.

'The best in-service I ever attended'
GO'S

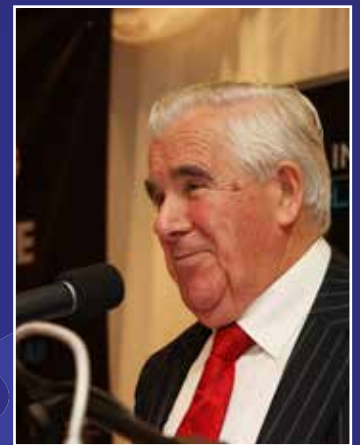
There has been significant engagement with the concepts, skills and tactics associated with instructional leadership, and the positive impact of this initiative on students' classroom experience was evident in lesson observations (MLL Report 2015)

'I feel so enthused going back to my classroom'
P.K.

The deputy principal, along with other members of staff, has completed the Instructional Leadership Programme (ILP). It is commendable that the learning from this CPD programme has been shared with interested colleagues to support and expand their instructional repertoire. (MLL Report 2013)

This should be part of all the teacher education programmes'
JL.

'I wish I did this training years ago'
Conor



INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME AND INITIAL TEACHER EDUCATION (Post Primary) AT MIC ST PATRICK'S CAMPUS THURLES

Partnerships for Learning: Supporting Initial Teacher Education for the Benefit of All.

Finn Ó Murchú

The work of Barrie Bennett and its origins in initial teacher education were a central feature of a seminar organised by MIC St Patrick's Campus Thurles on March 4th. The title for the day was **Partnerships for Learning: Supporting Initial Teacher Education for the Benefit of All**. As newly appointed Head of School I was anxious to build relationships with the Instructional Leadership Programme (ILP) and with senior school management and cooperating teachers. Currently our programme in Thurles offers a 4 year concurrent BA in Education in Gaeilge, Business, Accounting and Religion. We are very conscious that the quality of school placement is a central feature of our work and we hope to build relationships that are of mutual benefit to school and college personnel while also serving the educational needs of the pupils who occupy our classrooms.

As well as Barrie presenting there were a series of workshops which included Joan Russell presenting on the Instructional Leadership Programme. Other graduates and supporters of the ILP who presented included Seánie McGrath (Glanmire Community College), Carmel Kelly (Castleisland Community College), Toirdhealbhach Ó Lionáird (Coláiste Ghobnatain) and Derry O'Callaghan (Coláiste Treasa, Kanturk). Members of the NIPT team also presented and the successful day was brought to a close by a plenary session facilitated by Director of the Teaching Council, Tomás Ó Ruairc.

We look forward to more days and closer engagement between our programmes in MIC Thurles and the work of Barrie and the Instructional Leadership Programme.



Dr. Finn Ó Murchú (Head of School, MIC Thurles), Prof. Teresa O'Doherty (Dean of Education, MIC), Toirdhealbhach Ó Lionáird, Derry O'Callaghan, Anne Jones and Judy O'Connor (NIPT), Joan Russell (ETBI), Tomás Ó Ruairc (Director Teaching Council), Prof. Barrie Bennett and Tony O'Flynn (MIC, Thurles)



Tomás Ó Ruairc facilitating the plenary session at the seminar.



**INSTRUCTIONAL
LEADERSHIP**
programme

CONTACT DETAILS:

MS. JOAN RUSSELL
Chairperson
National Steering Committee
Instructional Leadership Programme

MS. PAULA FITZPATRICK
Instructional Leadership Programme
ETBI Head Office,
Pipers Hill,
Naas, Co Kildare

admin@instructionalleadership.ie
Tel (045) 901 070 Ext #31
www.instructionalleadership.ie