DEIS & JCSP

Welcome to our May newsletter from the Oide DEIS & JCSP team!

As the end of the year is now finally upon us and the long-anticipated days of summer await, we would like to thank you for your engagement and participation over the last year and to wish you a restful summer holiday.

Our final mailshot for this school year is filled with exciting snapshots of this term, including:

- The conclusion of our DEIS Teaching and Learning full-day Professional Learning Experience (PLE).
- The completion of the Third Year JCSP profiling folders.
- The grand finale of our JCSP competitions, where students surpassed all expectations of talent and skills in a fun and competitive environment.
- We also caught up with a busy JCSP school librarian and ventured into his world... “A Day in the Life of Neil Kettles”

Meet the Team

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Senior Leader

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Supporting the Professional Learning of School Leaders and Teachers

Teaching, Learning and Assessment to Support DEIS Action Planning PLE

In March, we launched the “Teaching, Learning and Assessment to Support DEIS Action Planning” Professional Learning Experience (PLE), which was enthusiastically received nationwide.

This professional learning provided school leaders and teachers with opportunities to delve into a student-centered approach to the eight DEIS themes and the six-step SSE process.

Participant feedback was overwhelmingly positive, particularly regarding the shared learning around practical strategies for implementing teaching and learning actions in classrooms.

We are pleased to announce that we will offer this PLE again in the Autumn.

The slides used for the PLE this year are available on the Oide website at this link Teaching, Learning and Assessment to Support DEIS Action Planning.

JCSP Competition

Our final JCSP competition for this year, “Young People in the Community” has officially concluded. This competition provided students opportunities to share their ideas on how young people can play a positive role in their local communities.

Submissions from students all over the country showcased a diverse range of perspectives and challenges presented through posters, infographics and written pieces.

A selection of these impressive submissions can be seen below.

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A Day in the life of Neil Kettles, JCSP Librarian, Beaufort College, Navan

We caught up with Neil as he began his daily routine, offering a glimpse into the vibrant and multifaceted environment of the College library.

Neil's day typically begins around 8.15 A.M. when he welcomes a familiar group of students eager to access the library. Their reasons for arriving early vary – from studying and playing games to simply finding a quiet corner to enjoy their favourite book. Whatever their needs, Neil ensures they are met with warmth and support.

As the day unfolds, the library transforms into a hive of activity. One of the standout features is the hugely popular Chess Club, which boasts over 200 participants from both the Junior and Senior cycle with over 1,200 matches recorded since the beginning of the school year. But the offerings don't stop there...

The library also hosts an array of engaging activities, including "Fighting Words", creative writing workshops, music lessons, and imaginative pursuits like Hero Quest and Warhammer miniature painting. These activities attract a wide range of students from both the Junior and Senior cohorts. Their intricate Warhammer creations were recently showcased at the JCSP "Make a Book" exhibition – a testament to their dedication and creativity. Throughout, Neil remains a steadfast and stoic presence, guiding students from behind the scenes.

Annual JCSP initiatives such as: "Dave's Jungle", "WRaPPround" and "Artist in Residence" – featuring local poet, Christy Leech – all take part within the library's welcoming walls. These projects flourish under Neil's careful coordination and supervision.

On the academic front, Neil is deeply involved in promoting literacy, numeracy and learning skills, especially in areas of information, digital and media literacy. For example, the " Accelerated Reader Programme" helps students set and achieve personalised reading goals. He also provides one-to-one support and targeted interventions, including students in the Learning Support cohort, ensuring that they receive the academic guidance they need.

To Neil, the library is more than just a room filled with books – It's an extension of the classroom and a sanctuary where students can read, learn, explore, or simply find peace. Understanding the diverse needs of students who visit the library, Neil adapts his approach daily, always ready to meet new challenges and embrace new opportunities.

As the day winds down, the library continues to buzz with activity during homework clubs and evening study sessions. When the final book is closed and the lights go out, Neil locks the library door, already anticipating the new adventures tomorrow will bring...

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