

# Nuachtlitir Choláiste De Lacy

*Spring 2014*



## Message from the Principal

A chara,

It is with great pleasure and honour that I present the first edition of our school newsletter. Coláiste De Lacy will open its doors for first year students at the end of August 2014. This is an exciting and historic year for the first students of our coláiste and for the community of Ashbourne and its environs.

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that we have a permanent site for Coláiste De Lacy. The Department of Education and Skills (DES) has acquired lands adjacent to Donaghmore-Ashbourne GAA grounds for our school. The DES has also signed off on a suite of rooms for our temporary accommodation which means that Coláiste De Lacy will be completely self-sufficient from the start. This is fantastic news and means that our students will enjoy a diverse range of optional subjects in modern practical rooms with brand new equipment (see section on Curriculum Planning).



Coláiste De Lacy is one of three brand new schools to be opened under the patronage of Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) in 2014. LMETB has a long-standing and proven track record of establishing new schools in modern, fully equipped buildings which are built to the highest specifications. Preparations are well underway for the temporary campus (building, parking, access routes...etc.) and plans are also progressing for the permanent building.

I have now finished up in my previous role (see section on DCC Farewell) and am busy making lots of different preparations for the opening of our coláiste. I look forward to working with both students and parents/guardians to develop Coláiste De Lacy and Gaelcholáiste De Lacy (Aonad lán Gaeilge) in the coming years. The months ahead will be very busy and there will be a number of events (dates to follow) for example; entrance exams, information meetings, induction days at start of term...etc. However, please be assured that I will strive to smooth the transition from primary school to post-primary school for your son or daughter.

Further correspondence and information will follow in the coming weeks but please do not hesitate to contact me by email ([Education@lmetb.ie](mailto:Education@lmetb.ie)) or by calling the LMETB head office (046-9068200) should you have any specific queries or concerns.

Le gach deá-ghuí,  
Ms Corrigan

## DCC Farewell to Ms. Corrigan



On Friday 31st January, the students, parents and staff of Dunshaughlin Community College said farewell to Ms Corrigan. Ms. Corrigan first arrived in DCC in 1996 and returned in 2000 to teach Chemistry, Biology, Science and Mathematics. Ms. Corrigan became Deputy Principal in 2007.



Ms. Corrigan received a standing ovation from students and staff on her arrival at the student assemblies. Many presentations and tributes were paid to her by students, colleagues and the Parents Association for her leadership, hard work, dedication, development of DCC and care for her students. Students wrote speeches, poems and made a film to remind her of her time in DCC.



Ms. Corrigan described her farewell as "overwhelming" and as "a day she will never forget".



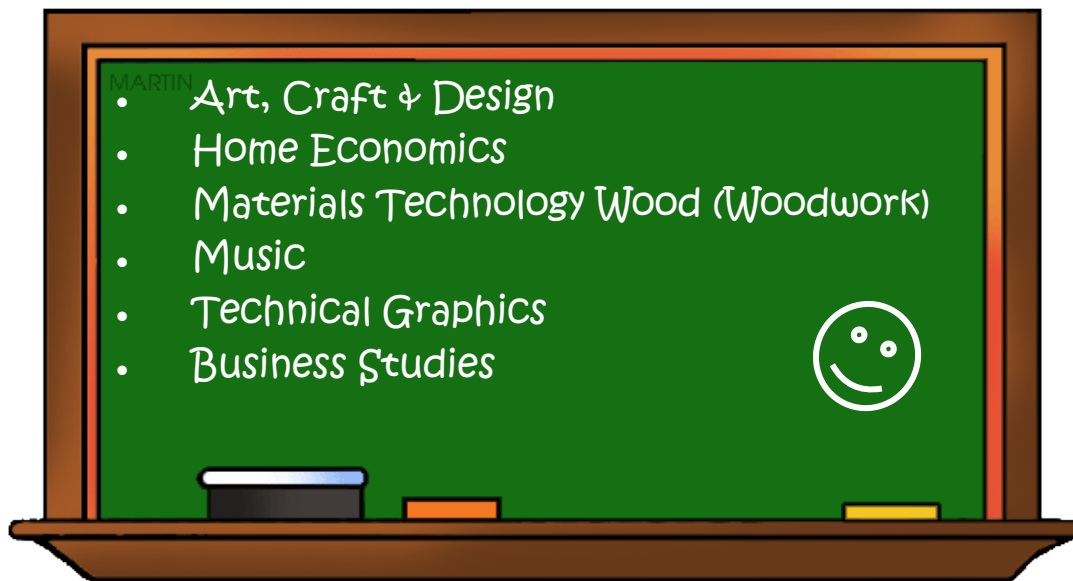
Check out details of our logo competition in the pack with this newsletter!!!



## Curriculum Planning

It is intended that in addition to core subjects (such as English, Gaeilge, Mathematics, Science....etc.), that the students of Coláiste De Lacy (2014) will have an opportunity to try a wide range of practical subjects in their first year (see list below). This provides students with a wonderful opportunity to sample various subjects and will hopefully reduce concerns regarding subject choice in first year for both students and parents/guardians.

Students will be asked to choose two of these subjects at the **end of first year** for further study in second and third year for their Junior Cycle Schools Award. Further information will be available at an upcoming information meeting (date to be decided).



As part of the new Junior Cycle, all students must study a second language.

Included with this newsletter is a survey for students and parents to complete regarding the European languages which **may** be offered for students. Students (with the help of their parents/guardians) should rank these languages in order of preference (i.e. place a number 1 beside their first preference, a number 2 beside their second preference, a number 3 beside their third preference and a number 4 beside their least preferred language). The purpose of this survey is purely to find out what subjects students and parents would like to see offered. Students will be asked to make **their individual** choices regarding the language they want to study at a later date. Languages which are being considered include:

- French
- German
- Spanish
- Italian

Please return all completed forms to Ms Corrigan by Friday 28th February 2014.

## Principals Trip to London

Ms. Corrigan recently travelled to London to attend the 'BETT Conference' in order to investigate the latest developments in the use of technology to support teaching and learning. In particular, Ms. Corrigan was looking at the use of 1-to-1 computing devices such as the iPad and the Microsoft Surface. An information meeting will be held in the near future where findings will be outlined for parents. While in London, she was also part of a team that visited a school that opened five years ago to learn from their experience as a start-up school.



*Please complete the enclosed 'Expression of Interest' form if you wish to put your name forward as a parents representative on our Uniform Task Group and return to Ms. Corrigan by 28-2-14.*

## Check List for Parents/Guardians

Please check the following check-list carefully and follow up as soon as possible if necessary.

- ◆ Have you submitted the acceptance form and payment of deposit? A final decision must be made as soon as possible regarding maximum numbers for 2014-15 for school planning purposes. Places cannot be guaranteed if acceptance forms have not been submitted or deposits paid. Please contact Ms. Corrigan if you have any concerns or difficulties regarding enrollment.
- ◆ If your child has had an educational/psychological assessment, have you submitted the report with your application? If you haven't, then **please forward a copy of the assessment/report to Ms. Corrigan as soon as possible.**
- ◆ Have you contacted Bus Éireann about School Transport if necessary?? Remember that the school does not have anything to do with organizing school buses. Please check out [www.buseireann.ie](http://www.buseireann.ie) for details. The closing date for application last year was the end of February so don't delay!



### Contact Details

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