



Le Chéile Update

Spring 2020

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- ◆ The Le Chéile Conference
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Words to the Wise

We do not sit around waiting for the future to come to us, we shape the future by developing a sustainable system in the present

David Tuohy 2013



This newsletter is available on our website to e-mail onwards to your whole school community, Staff, Parents, Student Council, Board or to put on your own website.

Volume 15 Issue 13

David Touhy SJ

It is two months since we lost our “founder” and friend David Tuohy SJ. His Months Mind Mass was celebrated recently, in the Church where he was ordained, St Ignatius Church, Galway. The link below will bring you to the homily his close friend Martin Curry SJ, shared with the large crowd and references David’s work with Le Chéile. The same website also has a lovely article about David that shares his extraordinary life and contribution to education. The Le Chéile Community is grateful for the life and work of David whose foundational contribution to Le Chéile started our congregations and our community on our journey and will ensure it will continue to grow.

<https://www.jesuit.ie/news/a-galway-farewell/>

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dílis



Little Things Matter!

In this very difficult time with the spread of the Corona virus Covid 19 throughout the world, little things matter. While we all observe social distancing, it’s nice to observe some positives, like a child out jogging with his dad, a street exercising together, a phone call to an elderly neighbour, a text message enquiring how you are, the joys of slow-cooking and parents spending more time with their children and each other. Gardening takes on a new significance for some, technology becomes more important than ever for many and life generally slows down a bit.

Yes, it may also be frustrating, worrying and scary. But we are reassured that it’s ok to feel anxious and we learn to deal with it by listening to the experts and not social media! We also turn to our deep values including hope and joy.



Our schools have been doing amazing work over the last three weeks, switching to online teaching, learning and support. This is a real challenge—a totally different way of running a school with everyone having to learn new skills. We extend a very big thank you to all our school communities for their terrific commitment to their students, not only for the academic work but also for the creative ways they

have found to continue some level of pastoral and spiritual support as well as entertaining and fun challenges to keep some semblance of normality in life.

We wish everybody a very Happy Easter and hope that the break from school work will provide some new energy as we cope with these difficult times. Please remember to stay safe and observe the advice of the HSE on cocooning, social distancing and handwashing!





This has certainly been a different Lent for all of us. Those of us who began thinking we would give up a treat of some kind or give more time to prayer had little idea how precious treats would become as we gave up family and friends and the normal distractions that fill up so much of our days. These days I've been thinking about the passivity of what we are being asked to do and how powerful that passivity is. When did we ever expect to be able to save lives by doing nothing. It seems so counter-intuitive for a generation of 'doers' and 'fixers'. During this Holy Week as we enter into this feeling of helplessness may we allow it to teach us something of the God who is always with those who have least.

Churches are not being closed.
Buildings are being closed.
You are the church! You are to remain open.



Introducing Dr. Aine Moran Leadership and Ethos Officer

Dr Áine Moran began her teaching career in one of our Le Cheile schools—St. Louis Community School, Kiltimagh as a teacher of Business Studies and Maths. She has since taught in Ardscoil Mhuire in Ballinasloe and been school chaplain in St. Aidan's in Brookfield, Tallaght. During her time there she attended DCU and achieved a MA in School Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care. She was granted a full scholarship from the College to pursue her PhD research on the rationale for school chaplaincy in Irish schools.

In 2011, Áine was appointed as the first Deputy Principal of Kildare Town Community School, a new school established as a result of the amalgamation of the three schools in Kildare Town. Áine left KTCS in 2014 to become the founding principal of Le Chéile Secondary School in Tyrrelstown. We're delighted to welcome Aine to the Le Cheile team.

Le Chéile Day

Le Chéile Day (AKA Pay it Forward Day) was to be held on April 3rd. This year we had hoped that the day would be used to embed the conference message of hope and sustainability into our schools. Given the public health crisis we are currently experiencing, if schools choose to celebrate Le Chéile Day we suggest they do so by affording some hope to those who are lonely and afraid.



Middle Leaders Course 2020-2021

The course will run over the academic year 2020-2021 beginning in October and will take place outside of school hours over a weekend and three Wednesday evenings from 5.00 -8.00p.m. It is open to all teachers, post holders and non-post holders who have completed a minimum 2 years full-time teaching in the same school. For further information visit the Middle Leaders section on our website or refer to your Principal for a copy of the application form which includes a draft outline of the course content and clear applications

guidelines. **Please note the earlier closing date of 29th May 2020.** A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who attend the complete course.

The course will be held in the two venues below (subject to demand).

Carlton Hotel, Blanchardstown—Weekend 9th & 10th October 2020

18th November 2020 - Webinar

28th January 2021 and 24th March 2021

Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone Co. Westmeath —Weekend 16th and 17th October 2020

18th November 2020 - Webinar

20th January 2021 and 31st April 2021

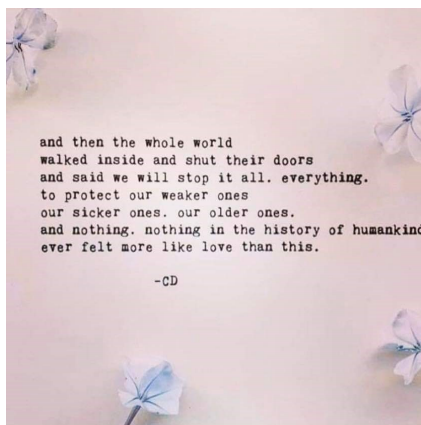
Many thanks to this year's Middle Leaders course participants for submitting their final projects. Unfortunately because of the present situation we had to postpone the final session in both venues. We hope to reschedule these sessions before the end of the school year.



Turning The Sod

We were delighted to celebrate the start of the building of the new Le Chéile Education Centre on the grounds of Our Lady's School, Templeogue on 24th February. Present for the sod-turning event were the Architect, Alice Casey (TAKA Architects), Paschal English (Eamonn Costello Builders), the school senior management team, representatives of Síol, the Le Cheile team and the RCE Sisters. The sod turning was followed by a very special celebration hosted by the Sisters. We extend our special thanks to them and to all our Congregations who have made this project possible! We also thank the school for their excellent support and co-operation.

Unfortunately, due to the Corona Virus, work on the site has stopped for the moment. We hope the building will be complete early in 2021.



We have heard so many good news stories of leadership and staff ensuring that the most vulnerable in their school community are being served at this time. The lengths that have been gone to in DEIS schools to ensure food reaches the students who really need it is indeed God's work. The founders of your

congregations would be proud to see the way their mission is being lived out everyday. Teachers have shown their flexibility and creativity in the way they have engaged with technology to ensure the curriculum is still being taught. We've loved seeing the screengrabs of classes being taught and games being played —

le chéile, though apart! And everywhere there is leadership. People from all across our school community stepping up to say—I can help, I can show, I can do. It is surely true that when times are hard we are at our best. As Heaney said "If we can winter this one out, we can summer anywhere".



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Sustainable Suggestions!

Have you changed your search engine to Ecosia yet? Share your school or individual suggestions for sustainability with us, send your suggestions to admin@lecheiletrust.ie and we will insert them on our new, upcoming sustainability section on the website.



Board of Management Trustee Appointments

Do you know someone who would be willing to share their skills, experience, time and enthusiasm on a school Board of Management? A neighbour, friend or colleague of any age with perhaps legal, business or construction experience? if so, we would genuinely welcome your suggestions for any of the large number of boards throughout the country that change every year.

Calendar and Handbook for 2020/2021

We are currently compiling our calendar for 2020/2021. If you know of any events that may influence our schedule please tell us. This Calendar will include our training events, meetings and important dates and will be included in our handbook, on our website and distributed by e-mail.

Dates for your diary

Postponed Middle Leaders Training Dublin (6/6) 5.00–8.00pm Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan Final Session and Presentation of Certificates, Principals invited

Postponed Middle Leaders Training Thurles (6/6) 5.00–8.00pm Anner Hotel, Thurles Final Session and Presentation of Certificates, Principals invited

May 31st Final date for e-mailing **2020 -2021 Budgets** to Le Chéile Office

June 30th Final date for e-mailing **2019-2020 End of Year Report** to Le Chéile Office

Please inform Le Chéile if School Board of Management is changing