“South Tipperary Vocational Education Committee provides a quality education service for all the people in its administrative area”

- Develop our recognised role within the community as a provider of quality, locally based, accessible learning opportunities

- To continue to develop cohesive, flexible, and inclusive support services, through a consultative and professional approach

- In line with the overall provision and implementation of its policies and services, South Tipperary VEC undertakes to facilitate, encourage and support the ongoing professional training and development of its entire staff team
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CHAIRPERSON’S INTRODUCTION

I was appointed Chairperson of South Tipperary VEC on the 31st August 2009, following the retirement of my predecessor Ms. Susan Meagher from politics. I would firstly like to pay tribute to the work she was involved in during her time as Chairperson and thankfully she has remained on as a committee member of South Tipperary VEC. I am now very pleased to present my first Annual Report for South Tipperary VEC portraying the work and advancements which have taken place in 2011.

Throughout this report, you will see the various services, listed below, which are either directly or indirectly being guided, funded and administered by South Tipperary VEC. The achievements which have taken place within these services are detailed in their respective sections of this report.

- Post Primary Education;
- Post Leaving Certificate Courses;
- Adult Education;
- Adult Literacy;
- Community Education;
- Back to Education Initiative (BTEI);
- Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS);
- South Tipperary Adults in Guidance Service (STAGES);
- Youthreach;
- Third Level Education Grants;
- Post Primary School Transport;
- Youth Services

South Tipperary VEC is continuing to meet the challenges which are being set in the economic downturn and are in turn providing places for the increasing number of adults wishing to return to education.

I would finally like to commend the members of South Tipperary VEC Committee, the Chief Executive Officer, Fionuala McGeever and each member of staff for their dedication, hard-work, and high level of customer satisfaction which they provide to the patrons of the communities they serve. The high level of achievements detailed in the pages to follow is evidence of the excellent work which is being done by South Tipperary VEC.

I now look forward to 2012, to what will prove to be another challenging year, but I have no doubt South Tipperary VEC will overcome these challenges.

Chairperson
CEO’S INTRODUCTION

A Cathaoirleach and members of South Tipperary VEC, it gives me great pleasure to present this report to you on the work of the Committee for the year, January to December 2011. The work of the Committee continued its’ steady progress during the year. Details of the capital works projects which commenced at the VEC schools/centres in 2011 are provided in this document. The various Adult Education programmes and VEC Schools detail their statistics and achievements for 2011 in their respective sections of this report.

Overall I wish to convey my thanks and appreciation to:

- Each member of the Committee for their active co-operation in promoting the business of the Committee in so many ways – serving on Interview Boards, participating in Boards of Management, in Consultative Committees, attending Regional and National Meetings;
- The Principals for the progressive manner in which they lead their schools;
- The teachers for the quality of their work both inside and outside of the classroom;
- The non-teaching staff for their commitment and loyalty;
- The parents for their unfailing support;
- The Boards of Managements, the various Sub-Committees etc. who give so generously of their time in promoting the work of the Scheme;
- The Officials of the Department of Education and Skills for their co-operation in expanding the work of the Scheme;
- The Inspectors of the Department of Education and Skills for their unfailing co-operation. In particular, I wish to thank them for the time they so generously give to serving on Interview Boards.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the retirements of long serving members of staff and wish them health and happiness. South Tipperary VEC is indebted to them for their professional, dedicated service to the scheme:

- Mr. Michael Berry
- Fr. Matthew Knight
- Ms. Marie Farrell
- Mr. William Noonan
- Ms. Marguerite Fahey
- Ms. Veronica Hogan
- Ms. Kathleen Scally

Mr. Michael Berry Coláiste Dún Lascaigh, Cahir
Fr. Matthew Knight Coláiste Dún Lascaigh, Cahir
Ms. Marie Farrell Coláiste Dún Lascaigh, Cahir
Mr. William Noonan Coláiste Dún Lascaigh, Cahir
Ms. Marguerite Fahey Coláiste Chluain Meala, Clonmel
Ms. Veronica Hogan St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town
Ms. Kathleen Scally South Tipperary VEC Administrative Offices

In 2011, we undertook the task of collating and publishing our five year Education Plan for the period 2011-2015. We now look forward to implementing the plan during the 2011-2015 period. We also await directions from the Minister’s office regarding the merger of North and South Tipperary VECs into Tipperary Education Training Board (ETB)
SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC

ANNUAL REPORT 2011

SECTION 1
INTRODUCTIONS
LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

South Tipperary VEC is funded by the Department of Education and Skills. The VEC was established following the introduction of the Vocational Education Act of 1930. This Act is the foundation act for each VEC organisation. There are several other Acts which the Vocational Education Committees are governed by and the following are to name a few:

- The Education Act, 1998
- The Teaching Council Act (2001)
- The Qualifications (Education & Training) Act, 1999
- The Youth Work Act, 2001

Section 29 of the Vocational Education (Amendment) Act of 2001 requires VEC’s to prepare, adopt and submit to the Minister an Annual Report in relation to the performance of its functions for the preceding year.

SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC SERVICE PROVISION
MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC

Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer

Sub Committees
(Audit & Finance)

Schools
Boards of Management

Adult Education Officer

School Principals

Assistant Principal Officer

Adult Education

Schools & PLC

Administration

Adult Education Courses

Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir

Human Resources

Adult Literacy

Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir

Finance

Community Education

Central Technical Institute, Clonmel

Education Support Services

Back to Education Initiative

Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule

VTOS

St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town

Youthreach

St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse

S.T.A.G.E.S. (Adult Guidance)

Youth Services
SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC COMMITTEE MEMBERS AS AT 1st JANUARY, 2011.

Cllr. Tom Acheson ..................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Liam Ahearn ..................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. John Crosse ..................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Pat English ....................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. John Fahey .....................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Mary Hanna Hourigan .......................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Denis Leahy ....................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Richie Molloy ..................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Marie Murphy ..................................Elected by South Tipperary County Council
Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose .................................Elected by Clonmel Borough Council
Cllr. Darren Ryan .....................................Elected by Clonmel Borough Council
Cllr. Margaret Croke ..................................Elected by Carrick-on-Suir Town Council
Cllr. Pierce O’Loughlin .................................Elected by Carrick-on-Suir Town Council
Cllr. Eddie Bennett ....................................Elected by Cashel Town Council
Cllr. Joseph Moloney ..................................Elected by Cashel Town Council
Cllr. Jacqui Finn ......................................Elected by Tipperary Town Council
Cllr. Anna Tuohy-Halligan .........................Elected by Tipperary Town Council
Ms. Josephine Chamney ...............................County Council Nominees
Mr. Brendan Griffin .....................................County Council Nominees
Ms. Susan Meagher .....................................County Council Nominees
Mr. Kevin O’Reilly .....................................County Council Nominees
Mr. Michael Berry .....................................VEC Staff Nominees
Ms. Olive Cornelia ......................................VEC Staff Nominees
Mr. David Tobin ........................................VEC Parent Nominees
Ms. Maria O’Donnell ....................................VEC Parent Nominees

Meetings of South Tipperary VEC were held on the following dates in 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town</td>
<td>Monday, 17th January, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Central Technical Institute, The Mall, Clonmel</td>
<td>Monday, 21st February 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>YOUTHREACH Centre, Cappawhite</td>
<td>Monday, 21st March 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir</td>
<td>Monday, 18th April 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir</td>
<td>Monday, 16th May 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse, Clonmel</td>
<td>Monday, 20th June 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule</td>
<td>Friday 19th August 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town</td>
<td>Monday, 19th September 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir</td>
<td>Monday, 17th October 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir</td>
<td>Monday, 21st November 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>Central Technical Institute, The Mall, Clonmel</td>
<td>Monday, 19th December 2011</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADULT EDUCATION BOARD AS AT 1st JANUARY, 2011.
The Adult Education Service works in conjunction with the VEC Ad-Hoc Adult Education Board, who meet regularly and advise and support the Adult Education Officer on various matters. The members of the Ad-Hoc Adult Education Board are as follows:

Chairperson: ......................................................... Cllr. Liam Ahearn
Vice Chairperson: .................................................. Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose
Self Financing/Teaching Representative: ........................ Mr. Mathúin O’Caoimh
South Tipperary County Council: .................................. Ms. Ann Ryan
TEAGASC: ................................................................. Mr. Billy Gleeson
South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum: ............ Ms. Sara Bourke
Tipperary Libraries: ................................................. Mr. Martin Maher
South Tipperary County Council (Employer Interest)........ Mr. Anthony Fitzgerald

Meetings of the Adult Education Board in 2011 were held on:
- 7th April, 2011
- 22nd September, 2011
- 13th December, 2011

SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>MEETINGS IN 2011 WERE HELD ON:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose</td>
<td>30th May, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Jacqui Finnan</td>
<td>10th November, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Kevin O'Reilly (Chair)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Tom Acheson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Anna Tuohy-Halligan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Marie Murphy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Josephine Chamney</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC FINANCE SUB COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
<th>MEETINGS IN 2011 WERE HELD ON:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Liam Ahearn</td>
<td>18th April, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. John Crosse</td>
<td>4th May, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Mary Hanna-Hourigan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. Richie Molloy</td>
<td>20th July, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cllr. John Fahey (Chair)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Susan Meagher</td>
<td>17th October, 2011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Olive Cornelia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Administrative Staff

The administrative function of South Tipperary VEC operates through its Head Office, which is located at Western Road, Clonmel. It is supported by a network of staff located at the various schools and centres throughout South Tipperary.

Ms. Fionuala McGeever .......................Chief Executive Officer
Mr. Frank Bermingham ......................Assistant Principal Officer
Ms. Eileen Condon ............................Adult Education Officer
Ms. Lisa Kavanagh .............................Youth Officer
Ms. Veronica Crowe ..........................Community Education Facilitator
Ms. Kaye Mullaney ............................Back to Education Initiative Co-ordinator
Ms. Mary Roche ...............................Adult Literacy Organiser
Ms. Lavinia English .........................ESOL Co-ordinator
Mr. Tom Ryan .................................Adult Education Guidance Counsellor
Ms. Amy Scanlon .............................Information Officer / Administrator
Mr. Michael Corbett .........................VTOS Co-ordinator (Clonmel)
Ms. Tina Looby ...............................VTOS Co-ordinator (Cahir)
Ms. Diane Hyde ...............................VTOS Co-ordinator (Carrick)
Ms. Mary Ryan ...............................VTOS Co-ordinator (Tipperary)
Ms. Alice Halpin ..............................Grade VII
Ms. Benny Cooney-Butler ....................Grade VII
Ms. Kathleen Scally ..........................Grade VI (Retired 31/07/2011)
Ms. Nuala Fraher .............................Grade VI
Ms. Ann-Marie Moroney ....................Grade V
Ms. Brenda Ryan ..............................Grade V
Ms. Teresa Ryan ..............................Grade IV
Ms. Marie Gayson ............................Grade IV
Ms. Valerie Kiely .............................Grade IV
Ms. Kelly Sweeney ...........................Grade IV
Ms. Ann Marie McGrath .....................Grade IV
Ms. Lucy Butler ..............................Grade IV (Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule)
Ms. Carmel O’Gorman .......................Grade IV (Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir)
Ms. Elaine O’Dwyer .........................Grade III (Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir)
Ms. Anne O’Dwyer ...........................Grade III (Coláiste Chluain Meala, Clonmel)
Ms. Orla Neagle ..............................Grade III (Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn & Adult Education)
Ms. Margo Condon .........................Grade III (Job Sharing) (Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir)
Ms. Eleanor Coyne ...........................Grade III (Job Sharing) (Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir)
Ms. Clodagh Goode .........................Grade III (St. Ailbe’s, Tipperary Town)
Ms. Sinead Larkin ............................Grade III (Job-Sharing)
Ms. Cora Barron ..............................Grade III
Ms. Brigid Ryan ..............................Grade III (BTEI Centre)
Ms. Louise McGrath .........................Grade III (Adult Literacy Office)
Ms. Sarah-Jane Burke .......................Grade III (Reception, Head Office)
HEAD OFFICE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF & FUNCTIONS

South Tipperary VEC Head Office is divided into three main departments – Finance, Human Resources and Education Support Services.

HEAD OFFICE STAFF

**Ms. Fionuala McGeever (CEO)**

**Mr. Frank Bermingham (APO)**

**FINANCE**
- Ms. Benny Cooney-Butler (Head of Finance VII)
- Ms. Brenda Ryan (Grade V)
- Ms. Ann Marie Moroney (Grade V)
- Ms. Valerie Kiely (Grade IV)
- Ms. Ann Marie McGrath (Grade IV)
- Ms. Cora Barron (Grade III)

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Ms. Alice Halpin (Head of H.R. VII)
- Ms. Nuala Fraher (Grade VI)
- Ms. Kelly Sweeney (Grade IV)

**EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**
- Ms. Kathleen Scally (Head of ESS VI)
- Ms. Teresa Ryan (Grade IV)
- Ms. Marie Gayson (Grade IV)
- Ms. Sinead Larkin (Grade III) (Job Sharing)
- Ms. Sarah Jane Burke (Grade III) (Reception)

**HEAD OFFICE STAFF FUNCTIONS**

**FINANCE**
- Payroll
- Creditors
- Procurement / Stocktaking
- Budgets / Treasury
- Financial Reports
- RecoupmentS
- Audits

**HUMAN RESOURCES**
- Pay / Conditions of Employment
- Recruitment
- Staff Relations
- Staff Welfare / Development
- Contracts
- Superannuation
- Website / Newsletter

**EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES**
- Student Services - Transport
- Buildings inc. Health & Safety
- Education Support - Grants
- Corporate Services: Committee Servicing
- Legal
- Insurances
- Secretarial Support
- Customer Service/ Reception
FINANCE:
In 2011, South Tipperary Finance Department administered the Annual Expenditure (including Capital Expenditure) of €23m. A breakdown of the Pay and Non Pay expenditure can be seen in the Financial Statement on page 56. In 2011, 593 staff members were employed by the VEC in a variety of teaching, maintenance and administration positions. Payment of Staff Salaries is completed by the Payroll section of South Tipperary VEC. Finance Department staff looked after the payment of travelling expenses to all staff, committee members and other eligible persons.

The responsibility of the finances of South Tipperary VEC lies with the Head of Finance, APO, and CEO. All expenditure of a capital nature is passed by the Finance Sub Committee prior to spending. The banking role is administered by the Head of Finance and her staff. There are procurement procedures in place which are followed when purchasing items required by the VEC. The work of South Tipperary VEC is annually audited by the Vocational Support Services Unit (VSSU); Comptroller and Auditor General; and European Social Fund (ESF). A VSSU auditor namely Matthew Ryan avails of one of the offices at our Head Office. Our C&AG audit was carried out in May 2011; and the VSSU audit was carried out in February 2011.

HUMAN RESOURCES:
The Human Resources Department is responsible for 593 staff members employed by South Tipperary VEC in 2011. The main duties carried out by the Department are recruitment, teacher allocation, staff contracts, tracking staff absences, calculating leave entitlements, superannuation calculations along with employee or union grievances should they arise. The maintenance of the South Tipperary VEC website and the publication of newsletters, annual reports and any other publications is completed by the staff of the Human Resources Department along with the VEC Receptionist.

The Committee had approval for 160.14 whole time teacher equivalents for the school year 2011/2012. The total number of students enrolled in South Tipperary VEC schools (excluding St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse) in 2011/2012 was 2069. This figure includes Second Level, PLC & Core Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) Students. The breakdown for 2011 can be seen below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Mainstream / VTOS / PLC</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir</td>
<td>635</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comeragh College, Carrick on Suir</td>
<td>299</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Central Technical Institute, Clonmel</td>
<td>499</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse, Clonmel</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

One of the main roles of the Education Support Services Department is the processing of Student Grant Applications. For the academic year 2011/12, the total number of applications dealt with was 1,094 which is broken down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEW APPLICATIONS – 2011/12</th>
<th>VEC</th>
<th>PLC</th>
<th>TLT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>584</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RENEWALS – 2011/12</th>
<th>VEC</th>
<th>PLC</th>
<th>TLT</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Awarded</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>353</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL NUMBER OF APPLICANTS DEALT WITH IN 2011/12 = 1,094

The ESS Department also looks after the payment of the VEC Scholarships and for students attending PLC courses in the South Tipperary administrative area. The number of students paid whilst on VEC Scholarship in 2011 was 382 (New plus Renewals). The number of students attending South Tipperary PLC Schools who were paid in 2011 was 78.

The payment of VTOS & Youthreach students is also conducted by ESS Staff. The total number of VTOS placed allocated to South Tipperary by the Department of Education & Skills is 100 and Youthreach is 35. At any one time, this is the total number of students we can have on these programmes. From 2012 City of Dublin VEC will implement the new Student Universal Support Ireland (SUSI) system and South Tipperary VEC will handle grant renewals. The SUSI system is an online grant application system for students applying for the first time or changing level of course.

The co-ordination of the provision of school transport for all post primary schools in South Tipperary was completed by the ESS Department. 1,489 students were awarded school transport for the academic year 2011/2012. From January 1st 2012 School Transport will be a function of Bus Eireann.

SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC PLANNING

In 2011, South Tipperary VEC began the process of devising and publishing a second five year education plan for the period 2011-2015. This process enabled South Tipperary VEC identify the various educational, administrative and management needs of the organisation and develop a plan to ensure these needs were met.

SERVICE PLAN 2011

South Tipperary VEC prepared and submitted its Service Plan for 2011 to the Minister for Education and Skills. The Service Plan is an annual document which proposes the financial
demand from the Minister in order for South Tipperary VEC to obtain the financial resources it requires to respond to the various education needs of the people of South Tipperary.
CAPITAL PROJECTS UPDATE 2011

Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule
The largest capital project that the VEC has undertaken for some years is the new PE Hall at Scoil Ruáin. The tender for the hall was completed in 2011, the contractor was appointed and the work commenced on site in December 2011. The contractor is Noel Regan & Sons from Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon. A number of local sub-contractors were appointed to carry out various aspects of the project including site works, block laying and electrical work. The full cost of the hall, including consultants’ fees, VAT etc., will exceed €1.4m.

Under a separate project, the exit doors and screens in the school building were replaced with new doubled glazed units.

Refurbishment work was carried out to the old school building in Killenaule including dry lining some of the rooms and replacing the tiling in the toilets.

Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir
The heating system in the school was upgraded to allow the system to run on natural gas. The system in the school is now a dual system – it can be switched back to oil usage if needed.

Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir
The heating system in the St. Josephs building has been converted to natural gas. This involved the installation of a new boiler and a general upgrade of the heating in the building. Work on the installation of a lift and accessible toilet at St. Josephs was completed in 2011.

Coláiste Cluain Meala, Raheen Road, Clonmel
Under a scheme partly funded by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) the original lighting in the Raheen Road building was replaced with energy efficient lighting, including light and motion sensors.

Central Technical Institute, The Mall, Clonmel
All of the windows, which had been the original from the construction of the building in the early 1960’s, were replaced with aluminium, double glazing.
Under the SEAI scheme referred to above, the electrical heating in the portacabins at the rear of the school was replaced and integrated into the main gas system in the building.

St. Ailbes, Tipperary
The heating system in the building was converted to natural gas, providing more energy efficient and cost effective heating for the school.

Former VEC School, Cashel
Work on cleaning the rear yard at the building began in 2011. This involved demolishing a number of unused sheds, the removal of the old boiler house and resurfacing the yard.
Further & Adult Education Centre, Cahir (former school building)
The heating system in the building was converted to natural gas. The exterior of the building was repainted.

New Adult Literacy Centre, Dillon Street, Clonmel
The refurbishment of this building was completed early in the year and the Literacy service relocated to the building over the Easter break.

General
Water conservation works aimed at reducing the consumption of water in the toilets were carried out at all schools during the year.
Mission Statement: Coláiste Dún Iascaigh is a Christian community committed to the pursuit of excellence, to fostering a sense of self-worth, to providing the opportunities for each individual to reach his/her full potential and to forging strong visible links between the College and the local community. These aspirations are nurtured in a caring, safe and orderly environment where equality, openness and a spirit of co-operation and mutual respect are promoted.

Principal: ........................................... Ms. Mary Finnegan Burke
Deputy Principal: ................................. Mr. Darius Delahunty (took up duty 01/09/2011)
 ........................................................ Mr. Michael Berry (retired 02/09/2011)
Chairperson Board of Management:.......Mr. Liam Ahearn
Chairperson Parents’ Association:.........Ms. Ronnie Quinlan

Enrolment as at 01/01/2011..............635
Boys:..................................................327.
Girls:..................................................308

School Staff: .................................62
Teachers...........................................50 including part-time
Special Needs Assistants.......................7
Administration Staff..........................1 full time, 2 job sharing
Maintenance Staff.............................2

Programmes Available: Junior Certificate, Transition Year; Leaving Certificate Established, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC)


Extra Curricular Activities: Gaelic Football (Boys & Girls), Hurling, Camóige, Soccer, Rugby, Basketball, Gymnastics, Golf, Athletics, Hockey, Tennis, Equestrian, Cross-Country, Musicals, Library, Competitions, Debates, Quizzes, Speech & Drama, Musical Instruments, Orchestra, Educational Outings, Projects, Public Speaking.
Mission Statement: Comeragh College provides the staff, facilities, and environment through which parents provide for the religious and moral, intellectual, physical and social education of their children.

**Principal:** ....................................................... Mr. Patrick Callanan  
**Deputy Principal:** ........................................... Mr. Michael Kelly  
**Chairperson Board of Management:** .......... Mr. David Tobin  
**Chairperson Parents’ Association:** ............. Ms. Geraldine Flynn

**Enrolment as at 01/01/2011** ............... 299  
**Boys:** .......................................................... 218  
**Girls:** .......................................................... 81

**School Staff:**.................................................. 40  
**Teachers**.................................................... 31  
**Special Needs Assistants** ..................... 3  
**Administration Staff** ............................. 2 (1 full time, 1 part time)  
**Maintenance Staff** ................................. 4


Extra Curricular Activities: Hurling, Gaelic Football (boys and girls), Camóige, Soccer, Athletics, Swimming, Self Defence, Badminton, Golf, Tennis, Basketball,

*Comeragh College is a recognised DEIS (Delivering Equality in Schools) centre.*
SCHOOL REPORT – CENTRAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, CLONMEL

COLÁISTE CHLUAIN MEALA
Raheen Road, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 052-6121450  Fax: 052-6121405
E-mail: info@cti-clonmel.ie
Website: www.cti-clonmel.ie
School Roll No: 72420E

GAELCHOLÁISTE CHÉITINN
The Mall, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 052-6126269  Fax: 052-6121030
E-mail: info@cti-clonmel.ie
Website: www.cti-clonmel.ie
School Roll No: 72420E

School Background: The C.T.I. consists of 3 education models located on 2 campuses:
● Coláiste Chluain Meala, (Vocational School) located at Raheen Road.
● Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn (All Irish 2nd level unit) located at The Mall.
● The Senior College (Post Leaving Certificate, VTOS, further education programmes) located at The Mall.

Mission Statement: The role of the Central Technical Institute is to facilitate the students of Clonmel and its environs in the acquisition of general and specialised education.

The Schools seeks to do the following:
● To encourage the development of the full person through imparting knowledge and skills and through inculcating values.
● To bring students to an awareness of their identity in a multi-denominational, multi-racial, multi-cultural context.
● To enable the transition to further education.
● To encourage the participation of parents in the education of their children.
● To respond to the educational needs of the local community.

Principal: ............................................. Mr. Charlie McGeever
Deputy Principal: ................................. Ms. Martina Kennedy
Chairperson Board of Management: ........ Ms. Josephine Chamney
Chairperson Parents’ Association: .............. Mr. Peter Barry (Coláiste Chluain Meala)
....................................................................................................................... Mr. Sean Ó Meachair (Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn)
Enrolment as at 01/01/2011....................... 499 (including PLCs)
Boys: .......................................................... 300
Girls: .......................................................... 199

School Staff:.................................................. 57
Teachers...................................................... 41
Special Needs Assistants ....................... 7 (5 full time, 2 part time)
Administration Staff............................... 3 (2 full time, 1 part time)
Maintenance Staff................................. 6

Programmes Available: Junior Certificate, Transition Year; Leaving Certificate Established, Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), School Completion Programme, Learning Support Programme, Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC)


Extra Curricular Activities: Indoor Soccer, Hill Walking, Table Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton, Hurling, Gaelic Football, Board Games (e.g. chess), Self-Defence, Dance, Art (e.g. murals, model making, art competitions etc.), Educational tours and outings, Visits to theatres, Athletics, Public Speaking, Speech & Drama, Quizzes, Cookery Competitions, Charity Fundraising.
SCHOOL REPORT – SCOIL RUÁIN, KILLENAULE

SCOIL RUÁIN
Killenaule, Thurles, Co. Tipperary.
Tel: 052-9156332  Fax: 052-9156332
E-mail: scoilruain@eircom.net
Website: www.scoilruain.com
School Roll No: 72430H

Mission Statement: Scoil Ruáin will provide a quality education in a caring, respectful and trusting environment. We will encourage the development of the complete person in keeping with our school motto: “Ad Totam Personam”.

Principal: ................................. Mr. Gerry McGill (took up duty 07/06/2011)
Deputy Principal: ......................... Ms. Colette Treacy (Resigned 02/06/2011)
Chairperson Board of Management:  Cllr. Susan Meagher
Chairperson Parents’ Association:  Mr. James O’Gorman

Enrolment as at 01/01/2011 .................. 369
Boys: .............................................. 202
Girls: ............................................... 167

School Staff: ................................. 41
Teachers................................................. 33
Special Needs Assistants ............... 2 (1 full time, 1 part time)
Administration Staff ..................... 2 (1 full time, 1 part time)
Maintenance Staff................................ 4 (3 full time, 1 part time)

Programmes Available: Junior Certificate, Junior Certificate Schools’ Programme, Leaving Certificate Established, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), School Completion Programme, School Meals, Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC)


SCHOOL REPORTS – ST. AILBE’S SCHOOL, TIPPERARY TOWN

**ST. AILBE’S SCHOOL**
Rosanna Road, Tipperary Town, Co. Tipperary.  
Tel: 062-51905      Fax: 062-51378  
E-mail: admin@ailbes.com  
Website: www.ailbes.com  
School Roll No: 72480W

**Mission Statement:** To provide quality education that meets the actual needs of the young people in the best quality learning environment. To create an atmosphere of trust and confidence between students, parents, community and staff which enhances self-esteem and self worth. To help pupils reach their full potential in all areas of life, both social and moral. Recognising that there is no single standard that applies to all. To help pupils grow in confidence with a positive outlook on life and with due consideration for others and their property.

**Principal:** ................................ Mr. Paul O’Callaghan  
**Deputy Principal:** .............................. Mr. John Blackburn  
**Chairperson Board of Management:** ...... Cllr. Anna Tuohy Halligan  
**Chairperson Parents’ Association:** .......... Mrs. Alice Jenkins

**Enrolment as at 01/01/2011 ................. 314**  
Boys: .................................................. 148  
Girls: .................................................. 166

**School Staff: ........................................ 38**  
Teachers............................................. 29  
Special Needs Assistants....................... 5 (3 full time, 2 part time)  
Administration Staff............................. 1  
Maintenance Staff................................. 3

**Programmes Available:** Junior Certificate, Junior Certificate Schools’ Programme, Leaving Certificate Established, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), School Completion Programme, School Meals, Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLC)  

**Extra Curricular Activities:** Athletics, Basketball, Debating, Equestrian, Formula 1 in Schools Technology Challenge, Gaelic Football (Girls & Boys), Hurling, Rugby, Soccer (Girls & Boys).
About St. Joseph’s: St. Joseph’s School is an open residential centre, owned and managed by the H.S.E., for boys between the ages of ten and seventeen. In June 2007, the responsibility for the provision of education at St. Joseph’s School was transferred from the Department of Education to South Tipperary VEC. The centre, through comprehensive policies of care, education and control, aims to provide a safe environment for young boys whose diverse needs have not been met for a variety of reasons.

Within this framework St. Joseph’s School has developed programmes and procedures which are designed to facilitate the achievement of these objectives. The centre actively involves the children and their families as well as a dedicated and professional multi skilled staff team in the achievement of these goals. Our ethos is to nurture all through a spirit of inclusion, tolerance and promotion of individual self-growth. We value and respect each individual.

Principal: ............................................... Mr. Anthony Kearins
Deputy Principal: ........................................ Mr. Brian Looney
Chairperson Board of Management: ........ Ms. Josephine Chamney

Enrolment: The total number of students that can be enrolled at any one time is capped at 35. The School is for boys only.


Programmes Available: Junior Certificate; FETAC Programmes; Transition Year; Work Experience.
SECTION 3
ADULT EDUCATION SERVICE REPORTS
South Tipperary VEC Adult Education Service has grown from strength to strength and is one of the largest services in the VEC. **In 2011, over 5,000 learners participated on our programmes.**

The year 2011 brought significant challenges and opportunities to adult education. Firstly, increased unemployment led to a higher demand for labour-market activation programmes. However, it remains the ethos of this adult education service to balance economic needs with the more holistic needs of adults returning to education, such as increased confidence and well-being. Secondly, the announcement in July of the planned establishment of SOLAS pointed to changes in the landscape of further education and training. As stated by Minister for Education, Ruairi Quinn, “the new SOLAS mandate will be to ensure the provision of 21st century high-quality further education and training programmes to jobseekers and other learners.” Thirdly, the transfer of old FETAC Awards to a new Common Awards System involved significant investment of time and resources for all VEC adult education staff across the country. Staff worked extremely hard to ensure deadlines were met, and programmes written. At local level, we participated in the development of the new VEC Education Plan 2011-2015, and digested news about aggregation. In a time of flux, we continued to focus on providing a quality service on the ground, in addition to keeping abreast of broader changes afoot.

**ADULT EDUCATION BOARD FOR 2011**

The Adult Education Service works in conjunction with the VEC Ad-Hoc Adult Education Board, who meet regularly and advise and support the Adult Education Officer on various matters.

The following is the list of members and the agencies they represent:

- Cllr. Liam Ahearn (Chairperson) ~ South Tipperary VEC
- Cllr. Siobhán Ambrose (Vice-Chairperson) ~ South Tipperary VEC
- Mathúin Ó Caoimh ~ Self-financing/Teacher Representative
- Ann Ryan ~ South Tipperary County Council
- Billy Gleeson ~ TEAGASC
- Sara Bourke ~ South Tipperary Community & Voluntary Forum
- Martin Maher ~ Tipperary Libraries
- Anthony Fitzgerald ~ South Tipperary Co. Co./Employer Interests

The Adult Education Officer met with the Board in 2011 on the following dates:
- 7th April, 2011.
- 22nd September 2011
- 13th December, 2011.

Throughout 2011, the AEO attended meetings in her capacity as member to all of the above and continued partnerships in adult education provision with these groups.
- Director on Board of Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise Ltd.
- AIT member of Clonmel RAPID.
- Secretary of South East Region AEO Association.
- Board member on Aontas the Adult Learner Journal.
- Board member of South Tipperary Arts Centre
LOCATIONS OF PROVISION
The main locations of provision of adult education in South Tipperary are located below:
**Staff Support and Development**
The AEO, in consultation with staff, provided support for individuals and groups in the following in 2011:

1. Team Planning
2. Strategic Planning
3. In-Career Development Conference
4. Devising Learner Evaluations
5. Salespuls Training
6. Team Building & Annual Review
7. FETAC L.3 Seminar
8. Mindfulness Training
9. Examining the benefits of Community Education (AONTAS)
10. CISCO Training Course
11. FETAC L3 Training Day

**Main Developments for 2011**
This year marked the start of the new **VEC Education Plan, 2011-2015**. We identified five key priorities for the new Plan:

1. Provide a range of high quality learning options, including progression routes.
2. Integrate communication and have joined-up approaches to provision.
3. Value equality and diversity
4. Improve partnership and collaboration
5. Provide staff support and development

In **February**, we launched the national **AONTAS Adult Learners Festival** with the broadcast of **Winning Streak** at the Mall.
In October, the Minister for Training and Skills, Ciaran Cannon, officially opened the new Adult Literacy Headquarters in Dillon St. Clonmel.

In November, the annual VEC Adult Education Awards were held in Raheen House. Approximately 200 learners received awards.

In addition to the above, the following pieces of work took place:

- The AEO of South Tipperary VEC played a role in constructing the national AEOA position paper on the formation of the LETB’s. This was given to the SOLAS Implementation Group (SIG).
FETAC Level 3 programmes were developed and validated in July. This was a large piece of work undertaken by Lillian Hahessey and tutors and coordinators with the support of Further Education Support Service and Cork City VEC. This involved collaboration between 3 VEC’s – South Tipperary, County Waterford and Waterford City.

South Tipperary VEC was part of the process of writing new minor awards for FETAC Level 4. We developed 2 awards in IT and 1 in Engineering Workshop Practices.

The Adult Learner, a national publication of scholarly articles published by AONTAS, was partly edited by the AEO.

The BTEI programme had a visit from Mary Kett, FEDU, who complimented South Tipperary VEC on its excellent track record and high accreditation rates.

New procedures were put in place for BTEI Community Strand funding. This required changes in practice for all concerned and greater collaboration with community providers.

The Marie Keating Foundation held an information day in the Mall with their mobile unit. Women from the Travelling Community attended as did some men participating on VTOS.

The AEO was requested to make a presentation at the AONTAS AGM, and highlighted South Tipperary VEC’s good practice in regard to PR for Learners Festival.

The newly acquired BTEI premises in the Ormonde Centre was renovated to accommodate a new IT training room, a workshop for animal grooming and craft courses, and a fitness training room.

2011 was the European Year of the Volunteer. A Volunteer tutor support meeting was held on the 6th of April in Cahir. We thanked the volunteers for their service.

The AEO and her staff had a day of planning on the 30th March. We decided on our actions under the draft VEC Education Plan. This will be our guiding document for the next 5 years. Also, we discussed the need to convey our remit to other stakeholders. We explored ways of avoiding duplication and outcomes that are not strategic. We looked at provision for disability groups and other groups, e.g. Travellers, RAPID, etc. to improve the outcomes for the participants.

NALA published a piece of research on family learning featuring 3 VECs – called Family Learning in Action. South Tipperary VEC was one of the three featured.

Booklet on Courses in South Tipperary. Booklets were distributed during the summer. This publication was produced by STAGES.

Additional DES funding was received for part-time accredited programmes (BTEI) Jobs Initiative. This amounted to €100,000 as well as a further €65,000 for Levels 5/6.

A ceremony was held in County Council Chambers on June 3rd for workers on basic education programmes.

The work on the Education Plan involved a full 2 days with VEC Principals and administrative staff. This improved teamwork immensely.

Regular budget meetings with Finance section in Head Office encourage trust and loyalty between operational and administrative staff. Budget issues can be dealt with openly. This has enabled us to keep track of spending in an efficient manner.

The Community Education Facilitator engaged with 58 different groups in South Tipperary. This ensured a bottom-up approach to programme design and delivery.
• **Local employers** responded to training needs e.g. Maher’s Pharmacy, Minnie Mee, Bergin’s Spar, The Wardrobe, The Lazy Bean (Cahir).

• Adult Education staff received training from **Mary Sheehy in the Further Education Support Service** regarding FETAC Programme and Assessment. This was also open to key tutors in each area.

• The idea of aggregation of VEC’s was discussed at many meetings with a view of moving forward positively.

**CONCLUSION**

The AEO is indebted to the support of her Coordinators, including excellent administrative assistance and also the support of the CEO and the wider administrative support at the VEC Headquarters. These key people, including the Adult Education Board and the VEC, are vital components to the success of the service.

**ADULT LITERACY**

**INTRODUCTION**

The South Tipperary VEC Adult Learning Scheme provides a confidential service for adults with literacy and numeracy difficulties and promotes literacy awareness to other service providers. The headquarters of the Scheme is in Clonmel and 5 other permanent centres are located in Tipperary Town, Cahir, Cashel, Killenaule and Carrick-on-Suir. Outreach provision takes place in 15 community and employer venues around South Tipperary.

**PROFILE OF LEARNERS**

Approximately 10% of our students have special needs; a further 10% are from the Travelling community. The service is targeted at adults whose literacy and numeracy skills are inadequate for their functional participation in social and practical life, with priority given to those most in need.

![Graph showing increase in students attending the Scheme over 12 months]

This graph represents the increase in students attending the Scheme over a twelve-month period. In December 2010 there were 941 students. In December 2011, the number of students accessing the service was 1021.
LOCATIONS OF PROVISION

STAFF
The Adult Learning Scheme is staffed by a full-time Adult Literacy Organiser, Mary Roche. We also have 3 full-time Resource Workers, Lillian Hahessy, Peter Cleary and Lavinia English. During 2011, the scheme had 26 part-time paid group tutors and 60 volunteer tutors. The administrative duties are supported by Louise McGrath and Orla O’Ryan, based in Clonmel.

BACK TO EDUCATION INITIATIVE (BTEI)

INTRODUCTION
The Back to Education Initiative (BTEI) provides part-time Further Education programmes for young people and adults in accredited learning. The aim is to give people an opportunity to combine a return to learning with family, work and other responsibilities.
- Courses are part time and perfect for upskilling.
- Free to early school leavers or those with social welfare/medical card payment.
- Flexible to suit needs and interests of the group.
- Are all accredited by FETAC (Further Education Training Awards Council).
- Ideal for learners who want to return to education after a long period of time out of education.
Early school leavers formed the biggest category as selected by learners in 2011. Learners who are one parent families and those with disabilities formed the other highest areas.

Outcomes for participants in terms of completion, certification and progression:

(a) Completion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FETAC Level</th>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Programme Completed Total 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Single Subject</td>
<td>292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 3</td>
<td>Full Award</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Single Subject</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 4</td>
<td>Full Award</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Single Subject</td>
<td>535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level 5</td>
<td>Full Award</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total No of Awards</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1001</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Figure 1 Number of Certified Awards as per Implementation Report Dec 2011*

Certification: 63% of our total numbers on mainstream BTEI achieved certification in 2011.
Range of locations including new outreach initiatives
The main locations of BTEI Activity for 2011 were: Cashel, Tipperary Town, Clonmel, Carrick on Suir.

- In 2011 we were part of an Interagency Initiative to develop skills and employment prospects of Traveller Men in the County. As part of this we delivered Craft Training in Killenaule and Tipperary Town.
- We have started a FETAC Level 5 Healthcare Course in Ballingarry in consultation with Millennium Family Resource Centre and Slievardagh CITE.

LOCATIONS OF PROVISION

BTEI programmes are located in the following range of locations throughout the county:
- Tipperary Town
- Cahir
- Carrick-on-Suir
- Clonmel
- Killenaule
- Cashel

COURSES AVAILABLE
There was a total number of 29 BTEI programmes offered at FETAC Level 3, 4 and 5 in 2011.
COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Another busy year for the Community Education section. 2011 started with the commencement of many new and innovative programmes and again we are delighted to see numbers increasing due to the variety of programmes and responding to the needs of the learners. This year South Tipperary VEC had 1,850 adult learners engaged in various community education programmes.

External Partnerships

- South Tipperary Sports Partnership
- Respond/Older People and Rural Communities
- Rapid Tipperary
- Integrate Carrick
- Education Network
- Community Mother Programme
- CEF Regional/National Group
- South Tipperary Development Company
- Health Service Executive
- South Tipperary Positive Ageing Group

Key Target Groups Involved in Community Education

- The Traveller Community
- Special Needs
- Deaf Hear
- Asylum Seekers
- Young mums
- Day Care and Elderly
- Lone Parents
- Rural Men
- RAPID areas
- Community Development Projects
- Family Resource Centres
- Disability Groups
- Women’s Groups
- Sheltered Housing
- National Council for the Blind
- Mental Health Care
Snapshot of Programmes
A total of 179 Community Education Programmes took place throughout South Tipperary in 2011. The map below shows the locations of the programmes.

Breakdown of Learners
STAGES

INTRODUCTION
STAGES (South Tipperary Adult Guidance in Education Service) is part of The National Adult Education Guidance Initiative. It is 1 of 40 such services throughout the country and is funded under the National Development Plan 2007 – 2013. Guidance facilitates people throughout their lives to manage their own educational, training, occupational, personal, social and life choices so that they reach their full potential and contribute to the development of a better society. The service is for Adults involved in or considering a VEC Adult Education Programme. (i.e. Adult Literacy, BTEI, VTOS, Community Education) as well as Education Finance Board Clients.

PROFILE OF LEARNERS 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Client Type</th>
<th>No's</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) 1 to 1 Clients</td>
<td>280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Number of Clients in Groups</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) General Information Queries</td>
<td>559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Numbers Worked With 2010</td>
<td>1,246</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STAFF
The Adult Guidance Service staff are Tom Ryan (Guidance Counsellor / Coordinator) and Amy Scanlon (Information Officer). The service is based at The Mall, Clonmel. Outreach is provided at Cahir, Cashel, Carrick-on-Suir & Tipperary Town.

OTHER POINTS
- The Guidance Coordinator and Information Officer are both members of the Adult Guidance Association of Ireland.
- The Guidance Coordinator is a member of the Institute of Guidance Counsellors.
- The Guidance Coordinator is a director of Tipperary Citizens Information Service.
- The Guidance Coordinator participated in and contributed to the development of the 2011-2015 strategic plan.
- The Guidance Coordinator attends professional counselling supervision.
- The Guidance Service reported quarterly to the NCGE (National Centre for Guidance in Education) and the Department of Education and Skills.
- The Guidance Service also reports to and updates the Adult Education Board on its work.
VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME, CLONMEL

INTRODUCTION
Clonmel VTOS offers a one or two year return to education programme for people who are over 21 and in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment. The programme runs for the academic year from September to June. Participants who were in receipt of their payment for twelve months or more prior to commencing the programme receive a bonus payment for returning to education. Those who were in receipt of jobseekers’ payment will be paid by the VEC once they join the programme. All payments are by paypath directly to participant’s bank accounts.

In Clonmel VTOS is offered at the CTI Senior College, The Mall in two forms, ‘Core’ and ‘Dispersed’. Core learners follow a full-time programme which includes Leaving Certificate subjects and FETAC modules at levels 4 and 5. Dispersed learners follow Post-Leaving Certificate programmes.

VTOS Programmes are free of charge, learners are provided with the necessary books and materials and exam fees are covered by VTOS.

CORE GROUP
Clonmel VTOS offers a two year programme for core students, a portfolio model course covering Leaving Certificate subjects and FETAC modules at Levels 4 and 5.

Subjects /Modules:
- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Geography
- Business
- History
- Information Technology
- Photography
- French
- Biology

The following statistics represent the position at the end of the calendar year 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learners December 2011</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dispersed</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>Male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DISPERSED MODE
VTOS learners may also join Post-Leaving Certificate programmes at the C. T. I., Senior College in ‘Dispersed Mode’. A number of places are allocated each year for VTOS learners who wish to gain a FETAC Level 5 /Level 6 qualification.
PLC Programmes followed by participants in DISPERSED MODE:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life Skills</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childcare</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nursing Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Construction and Electronics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art (design)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art (craft)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewellery Design</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretarial Studies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Educational standard of Core and Dispersed learners prior to commencing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status of Learners</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Cycle</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Cert</td>
<td>30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving Cert</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FETAC Level 5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Status of Learners December 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assistance Type</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jobseekers’ Allowance/ Benefit</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability Payment</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One Parent Family Payment</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

External networking / partnerships

- FAS
- Department of Social Protection, Clonmel
- Oakland Drive Community Childcare
- South Tipperary Lone Parents’ Initiative
- Citizens’ Information, Clonmel
- County Childcare Committee

Childcare

Learners pursuing VTOS, BTEI, and Youthreach Programmes can avail of CETS childcare places. These places are very limited and are dependent on the childcare facility applying for and being approved for a CETS place. Two Clonmel VTOS core learners availed of a CETS place from September 2011.

Additional Support

VTOS works in conjunction with other Adult Education Schemes run by the VEC and Clonmel VTOS is aided by liaising with Mary Roche and the Adult Learning Scheme. This service was able to provide extra help by providing supplementary maths classes for Core VTOS learners to supplement their normal classes. These classes take place in the afternoons after regular classes have finished. This has been extremely successful and was an additional support which was availed of and valued by core learners.
VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME, TIPPERARY

INTRODUCTION
St Ailbe’s Adult Education Department ran 5, full time courses for the academic year 2011-2012. This is one less course than the previous year, which was due mainly to the cap placed on PLC numbers and the budget restrictions placed on education. Each course was completed successfully with candidates achieving high grades. The courses were open to adults of all ages, both male and female. All the courses on offer were fully certified by FETAC, the National Qualifications Authority of Ireland.

PROFILE OF LEARNERS
Number of participating: 59

Age Profile: – the majority of our students were in the 25 – 45 age group and 10 school leavers.
Gender: candidates were predominately female with 9 males.
Profile: The participants on our programmes have varying levels of education, social and economic backgrounds. This year we saw a marked increase in those who had been made redundant, returning to education.

LIST OF COURSES AVAILABLE
- Business/Secretarial Studies, FETAC Level 5
- Childcare, FETAC Level 5
- Supervision in Childcare, FETAC Level 6
- Nursing Studies, FETAC Level 5
- Security Studies, FETAC Level 5
- Office Technology Retraining, FETAC Level 4 & 5
VOCATIONAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES SCHEME, CAHIR

INTRODUCTION

Cahir VTOS offers a one or two year return to education programme for people who are over 21 and in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment. The programme runs for the academic year from September to June. Participants, who were in receipt of their payment for twelve months or more prior to commencing the programme, receive a bonus payment for returning to education. Those who were in receipt of jobseekers’ payments will be paid by the VEC once they join the programme. All payments are by pay path directly to participants’ bank accounts. Limited childcare support is available and travel and meal allowances are also payable. In Cahir, the VTOS Service is situated at the Adult Education Centre, Church St., Cahir.

PROFILE OF LEARNERS

In January 2011, Total number of VTOS learners: ............ 6
Female .................................................................................. 5
Male .......................................................................................... 1

Core Group Only

Cahir VTOS offers a two year programme running FETAC Level 4 and 5 modules. Subjects /Modules are as follows:

- Drawing,
- Painting,
- Sculpture,
- Combined Materials,
- Printmaking,
- Music,
- Communications,
- Community Art,
- Work Experience.

Status of learners in CORE GROUP prior to commencing programme:

Jobseekers’ Allowance .............................................. 3
Disability Payments .................................................. 1
One-Parent Family Payment ......................... 2

June 2011: Every June a number of learners complete their one or two-year programme. Those who have completed one year of their two-year programme remain on the programme and receive a V.T.O.S payment during the summer months. Each September a new group of learners join the programme. In June 2011 five learners who had completed their programme on V.T.O.S Multimedia Art Course and received their Full FETAC Level 5 Art Award. Two continued their studies to third level college. This included one to Crawford College of Art and Design and one to Limerick School of Art and Design. One progressed to FETAC Level 6. Two returned to Disability payment and one to the live register.

September 2011: A new group joined in September and these learners are participating in a two-year FETAC programme.

September 2011 Intake

Male ................................................................. 3
Female ................................................................. 7
YOUTHREACH CENTRE, CAPPAWHITE

INTRODUCTION

Youthreach is provided for young people who have left mainstream education prior to achieving their Leaving Certificate. The programme offers second chance opportunities to learners aged 15 – 20. Our centre at Cappawhite is one of over 100 centres throughout the country. Under the remit of the Department of Education & Skills, Youthreach Cappawhite is managed by South Tipperary VEC. Financial support and funding for the programme comes from the Department of Education & Skills, the National Development Plan (NDP) and European Union Social & Structural Funds. Our Ethos is: To offer second chance learning opportunities for early school leavers. Our Mission is: To offer a safe, learner centered environment to enable young people develop educational, vocational and social skills.

LOCATION

Our services are offered to all eligible applicants within approximately 20 miles of Cappawhite. This would include Cappawhite, Toem, Doon, Annacarty, Hollyford, Rear Cross, Kilcommon, Bansha, Cahir, Tipperary Town, Emly, Oola, Golden, Rearcross, Cullen, Donohill, Boherlahan, Knockavilla, Dundrum and Cashel.

RESOURCES

Youthreach is a 35 student centre and historically was staffed at the lower rate of a 25 student centre. The growth in student numbers and the diversity of programmes required the full complement of hours which was 5880. This increase of hours (1680) allowed the centre to develop a comprehensive numeracy and literacy policy as well as other initiatives.

External Resources

- Ms. Eileen Bergin from South Tipperary HSE provides addiction counselling in the centre one day a month which is very popular with the students.
- FIT-Fast Track to Information Technology, Ms. Lorraine Walsh prepares the students for interviews and conducts mock interviews with external business people. The students are also taken to work places.
- The Community and Resource Centre Cappawhite is used one day a week for indoor soccer for the boys and the gym for the girls.

PROFILE OF LEARNERS AT 31 DECEMBER, 2011:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AT ENTRY</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary Education:</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Certificate, (1-4 subjects)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Certificate, (Full)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals:</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ECONOMIC STATUS OF LEARNERS AT ENTRY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entered directly after dropping out of school</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed seeking first job</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labour market/Unavailable for work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

AGE PROFILE OF LEARNERS AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSES

- Certificate in General Learning (FETAC Level 3 & 4)
- Leaving Certificate Applied
- ECDL
- Fastrack to Information Technology (F.I.T.)
- Commercial Examining Board of Ireland

STAFF

Acting Coordinator: John Kelly
Resource Teachers: Joanne Barry, Jim Haide, Tony Nolan
Part time Teaching Staff: Mary Fitzpatrick, Melissa Corish, Dan O’Sullivan, Eileen Spens, Michelle Pando Kelly, Breda O’Dwyer
Student Counsellor: Maureen O’Reilly
Career Guidance: Noreen Ryan
Advocate: Anne Bourke
Caretaker: Cecilia Walshe
HIGHLIGHTS OF 2011

Youthreach Summer Camp: A trip to University College Limerick Adventure Centre, Killaloe, Co. Clare took place in July. This was the highlight of the summer programme 2011. Our learners thoroughly enjoyed themselves and participated enthusiastically in all activities which were offered.

Awards: Willie Morey received an award for Personal Achievement
YOUTH SERVICES

LOCAL YOUTH CLUB GRANT SCHEME 2011

The Local Youth Club Grant Scheme, funded by the Youth Affairs Unit, Department of Children and Youth Affairs and administered by the VEC, aims to make provision for the support of youth work activities at local level. This Scheme is part-funded by the proceeds of the National Lottery and is supported by the National Development Plan.

The Scheme, which provides grant-in-aid towards the costs of running clubs, aims to respond to the realities and practicalities experienced by local voluntary youth groups in the provision of activities to young people, with priority being given to young people between the ages of 10 and 21.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No. Of Clubs Receiving Funding</th>
<th>Total Allocation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foróige</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irish Girl Guides</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scouting Ireland</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary Regional Youth Service</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford &amp; South Tipperary Community Youth Service</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>30 clubs and groups</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ADULT EDUCATION EXTERNAL NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Adult Education Service recognises the value and necessity of working with other key stakeholders in developing appropriate educational activities. In 2011, we worked with and attended meetings representing South Tipperary VEC on various Boards & Committees including the following:

- Clonmel Youth Training Enterprise
- RAPID Areas Implementation Team (AIT)
- South East Region Adult Education Officer’s Association (AEOA)
- AONTAS
- South Tipperary Arts Centre
- Traveller Interagency Group
- Carrick-on-Suir Education Network
- Tipperary Education Network
- South Tipperary Disability Groups Forum
- Adult Literacy Organisers Association (Regional and Executive)
- National Intensive Tuition in Adult Basic Education (ITABE) Advisory Group
- South Tipperary County Childcare Committee
- Steering Committee of Men’s Traveller Project
- Steering Committee for FETAC Level 5 River Conservation Course
- Steering Committee of Heritage Forum for South Tipperary
- Back to Education Initiative Association
- Tipperary RAPID Area Implementation Team AIT
- Integrate Carrick
- Community Education Facilitator’s (CEF) Regional/National Group
- FÁS
- South Tipperary County Council
- Health Service Executive (HSE)
- Department of Social & Family Affairs
- South Tipperary Local Development Company
- Tipperary Institute
- NALA
- TEAGASC
- Tipperary Libraries
- REHAB Care, Clonmel
- NTDI (aka National Learning Network)
- FÁILTE Ireland
- Home School Liaison Officers
- FETAC
- Family Resource Centres –
  - Knockenrawley, Tipperary
  - Millennium, Glengoole
- Spafield, Cashel
- Three Drives
- Clonmel
- Nano Nagle, Carrick
- Tipperary Regional Youth Service
- Various Community Groups e.g. lone parents, elderly etc.
- Cluain Training and Enterprise, Clonmel
- Gateway Training, Cahir
- Nagle Centre, Cashel
- Camphill, Carrick-on-Suir and Grangemockler
- Moorehaven, Tipperary Town
- St. Luke’s Hospital, Clonmel
- Cuan Croí, Tipperary Town
- Tigh Mac Gámhna, Cashel
- Tipperary Rural Traveller Project
- Brothers of Charity, Clerihan
- Carrick-on-Suir Local Employment Service (LES)
- South Tipperary Sports Partnership
- Respond/Older People and Rural Communities
- Tipperary Citizens Information Service
- South Tipp Lone Parents Initiative (Clonmel)
- Oakland Drive Community Childcare
- Local Nurseries, Nursing Homes and Hospitals
- Local Primary Schools
- Local Secondary Schools, for work placement
- Local Businesses, for work placement
- Irish Red Cross
- Our Lady’s Hospital, Cashel
- Brothers of Charity
- Clonmel Community Partnership
- Cahir Woman’s Group
- Craft Granary Cahir
OVERALL VEC HIGHLIGHTS

CLIMB OF KILIMANJARO IN AID OF AWARE

In early February of 2011, Broadcaster, Adventurer, Lecturer, & Author Mr. Ian McKeever from County Wicklow phoned South Tipperary VEC and spoke with the Chief Executive Officer Ms. Fionuala McGeever, providing details of this project he was arranging. He had many links with South Tipperary as he used to work for the local radio station Tipp FM and so wanted to give something back by offering this opportunity to the young people. The CEO was aware of Mr. McKeever as he had visited a number of the South Tipperary VEC schools in previous years providing successful motivational talks to the students. The CEO was delighted to have Ian visit the six VEC Schools in South Tipperary and offer the staff and students this opportunity.

Ian McKeever came to visit the schools in late February of this year, where he gave motivational talks to the students and provided details of his previous climbs up Mount Kilimanjaro. He was offering the staff and students the opportunity to sign up to his "Brocolli" Training and Nutrition Programme and prepare for the climb of Mount Kilimanjaro which is his way of making students realise that any goal you set in your life is achievable and to think about signing up to climb with him this summer. He was also encouraging staff members to think about signing up too. Ian is a highly motivated person who likes to encourage others to become motivated too.

After Ian’s visit in February, he arranged to return to South Tipperary in March to speak with those who were interested in participating in the programme. The meeting was held in Clonmel and attended by over 70 students, staff and parents. Ian made his presentation on the commitment and hard work that was involved in participating in the project and all in all 19 people from South Tipperary signed up to complete the programme.

The group dedicated much of their time and energy to the project where they learned and displayed the following:

- The importance of diet (by following Ian’s Nutritional Plan and gaining knowledge on foods, nutrition, vitamins, minerals, bloods etc);
- The importance of exercise (by following Ian’s Exercise Regime and participating on many mountain climbs around Ireland as part of their training including Glendalough, The Lug, Carrantuohill, Galtee Mor, Slievenamon);
- The importance of the gear (they learned the different climates that they would encounter on the mountain and how warm it is during the day and how cold it gets at night. They were required to have special gear for the night of the summit because of the cold weather on top of the Mountain);
- The importance of fundraising (by arranging fundraising events such as Bag Packs, Wax Nights, Race Nights, Darts Competition, Battle of the Bands, Fancy Dress nights, Church Gate Collections, Fashion Shows to name but a few) The group chose “AWARE” as the Charity they wished to raise money for. AWARE is a charity which helps people deal with and defeat depression and is based in Dublin along with offering services all over Ireland. The monies raised by South Tipperary will be put back into services, programmes and support groups in South Tipperary offered by AWARE.
The importance of medications and vaccines (the participants were all required to get travel vaccines to protect themselves whilst in Africa and bring medications with them to protect themselves from illness on the mountain).

- Each participant was required to undertake a DISC psychometric assessment for the ‘buddy/buddy’ pairings on the mountain and to help them become more self aware.

The group of 19 was broken up over two trips. Five participated in the trip from 27th June – 6th July; and the remaining 14 participated from 22nd August to 31st August.

Two staff members namely David O’Brien (Teacher, St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse) and Brigid Ryan (Careworker, St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse) & three students namely David O’Connell (St. Joseph’s School, Ferryhouse); and Luke Mullally & Aodhan Maher (both from Scoil Ruain, Killenaule) set off on their trip and arrived in Kilimanjaro on Monday 27th June. They took to the mountain the next morning and reached the summit on the 5th July which was a huge achievement for each of them. The climb was a total of 8 days, 6½ days was taken to reach the summit & 1½ to return back down the mountain. The group had a day to recover at their hotel and take in the scenery before boarding their flight back to Ireland on the 6th July.

The remaining 14 left for Tanzania on the 22nd August, where they suffered a slight setback and had to have an unplanned sleepover in Amsterdam due to the bad weather. They arrived in Kilimanjaro on 23rd of August and started on their Climb early the next morning. The group spent 6 days reaching the summit which they did on 29th August, and returned to their hotel the next day to begin their recovery process and take in the local sites and shops. They returned to Dublin on board their flight on 31st August. Climbing in the second South Tipperary VEC group were: the CEO of South Tipperary VEC, Fionuala McGeever, her sister & local business woman Orla Sheehan, Scoil Ruain School teacher Leah McNamara, Sinead O’Neill (SNA of Scoil Ruain, Killenaule); Sarah O’Neill (daughter of Sinead O’Neill); and the following VEC students Keith Hickey, James Hindley, Killian Skorka, Amanda DaSilva (Scoil Ruain, Killenaule); Kerry Ann Cleary (Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir); Etain Ryan (St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town); Kieran King, Ashlee Hally, Michaela Peters (Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir). The students varied in age from 11 to 18.

This trip will be recorded in the history books for one participant, namely Sarah O’Neill, who hails from Bansha in Tipperary becoming the youngest girl to reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro. Sarah’s mother Sinead O’Neill worked as a Special Needs Assistant in Scoil Ruain in Killenaule and was present at Ian’s motivational speech. Sinead immediately felt inspired by Ian and when she went home and mentioned it to eleven year old daughter Sarah about doing the climb, Sarah’s first response was “No way, are you mad?” However, having slept on it and thought about it, Sarah decided Yes, it was something she’d love to try. Sarah would have been your typical child and involved in Gaelic Football, swimming, tennis and participated in P.E. in School. In training for her climb of Kilimanjaro, Sarah climbed the following mountains in Ireland: Log Na Coille, Galtee Mountains, Comeragh Mountains, Carrautoohill, Glendalough, Slievenamon to name a few. Sarah and her mother joined the Galtee Mountain walking club and went walking twice a week. Sarah’s fitness levels rose tremendously and Sarah needed to

S e c t i o n 4

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adjust her diet to ensure she was fit and ready. Sarah dedicated a lot of time and hard work to ensure her body was ready for the climb.

In total, Ian McKeever brought 155 people from Ireland to Kilimanjaro and has maintained a 100% record by getting each one of them to the summit. Ian is providing an unbelievable opportunity to so many people and is hoping with the support of the VEC's around Ireland, to next year do the same thing and make it a VEC led project in 2012.

Congratulations to each and every participant. There is no doubt that this experience will leave a positive long lasting impression in each person's life.

Here’s hoping 2012 will be just as successful!

All Participants at the Summit of Kilimanjaro!

TOP (L-R): Luke Mullally at the Summit on 4th July 2011; Aodhan Maher at the Summit on 4th July 2011; David O’Brien at the Summit on 4th July 2011; Brigid Ryan at the Summit on 4th July 2011; David O’Connell at the Summit on 4th July 2011.

SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC ANNUAL AWARDS CEREMONY 2011
The presentation of the VEC Awards took place on Friday the 14th of October, 2011 in Hotel Minella, Clonmel. These awards are in recognition of the efforts of students, teachers and schools to achieve continuous improvement and excellence in academic study and personal development. They are also an opportunity to pay tribute to staff who have recently retired, for their dedicated service to South Tipperary VEC.

Ms. Fionuala McGeever, Chief Executive Officer of South Tipperary VEC was master of ceremonies and was joined at the top table by the following special dignitaries: the Chairperson of South Tipperary VEC, Cllr. John Fahey; the Chairman of South Tipperary County Council, Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald and the Deputising Mayor of Clonmel, Cllr. Gabrielle Egan.

The recipients of the Student Awards for 2011 were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME OF RECIPIENT</th>
<th>TYPE OF AWARD</th>
<th>SCHOOL ATTENDED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maurice Casey</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>Coláiste Dún lascaigh, Cahir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Burke</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niamh Myles</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Dunphy</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danielle Roche</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Power</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry Mulcahy</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>Coláiste Chluain Meala, Clonmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Magorrian</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Magorrian</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ian Fahey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diarmuid Ó Ící</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn, Clonmel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dearbhla Siomha Nic Amhalghaidh</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ciarán Thomás Mac an Ghaill</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maria Ryan</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aisha Tobin</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Curran</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tomás Nolan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Bresnan</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate</td>
<td>St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louise Roche</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew Ryan</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maeve O’Gorman</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmy Ryan</td>
<td>Best Leaving Certificate Applied</td>
<td>Youreach Centre, Cappawhite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Morey</td>
<td>Personal Achievement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The following members of staff retired from the Scheme during 2011 and were present at the awards night to receive a piece of commemorative crystal in appreciation of their years of dedicated service to South Tipperary VEC. The collective service of the 4 retiring teaching staff members to teaching is in the region of 147 years, 120 of which are with South Tipperary VEC.
The following two staff members also retired from the Scheme during 2011 but were unable to attend the awards night:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RETIRING STAFF MEMBER</th>
<th>SCHOOL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Kathleen Scally</td>
<td>Administration, South Tipperary VEC Administrative Offices</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Veronica Hogan</td>
<td>Administration, St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A happy and healthy retirement is wished to all the retiring staff members of South Tipperary VEC.

For the first time ever at the Annual VEC Awards Ceremony, a special tribute was paid to the group of 19 people, who all took part in a Climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in the Summer of 2011! The group maintained a 100% record of reaching the summit and in the process raised €16,212.37 for their chosen charity “AWARE”. A special thanks goes to everyone who sponsored the participants and helped them reach their goals. Each participant received a piece to commemorate their magnificent achievement, and a presentation was also made to Ian McKeever for his help, support and contribution to the project.

Pictured to the Left are the Group of 19 participants who Summated Mount Kilimanjaro in aid of Aware in Summer of 2011. A cheque for €16,212.37 was presented to “AWARE” on the night!

**Back Row** (L-R): Mr. Luke Mullally, Mr. Aodhan Maher, Mr. Kieran King, Mr. Keith Hickey, Mr. David O’Connell, Mr. James Hindley, Mr. Killian Skorka.

**Middle Row** (L-R): Ms. Michaela Peters, Ms. Leah McNamara, Ms. Amanda DaSilva, Ms. Orla Sheehan, Ms. Ashlee Hally, Ms. Etain Ryan, Ms. Sinead O’Neill, Ms. Fionuala McGeever (CEO of South Tipperary VEC); Ms. Brigid Ryan.

**Front Row** (L-R): Mr. David O’Brien, Mr. Eamon Meaney (Representative of AWARE); Mr. Ian McKeever (Project Co-ordinator); Ms. Sarah O’Neill (Youngest Girl to ever reach the Summit of Mount Kilimanjaro); Ms. Fionuala McGeever (CEO of South Tipperary VEC); Ms. Brigid Ryan.
Staff & Students of Coláiste Dún lascaigh Cahir, pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Staff & Students of Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir, pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Staff & Students of Coláiste Chlúain Meala, pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Staff & Students of Gaelscoláiste Chéitinn, pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Staff & Students of Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Staff & Students of St. Ailbe’s School, Tipperary Town, pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Staff & Students of Youthreach Centre, Cappawhite pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.

Retiring Members of Staff pictured with CEO & special dignitaries at the Annual VEC Awards.
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS – COLÁISTE DÚN IASCAIGH, CAHIR

Orla Duggan leads the senior chorus on stage in "Does your mother know?" staged at Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir.

On bended knee - Nathan Keating gets serious with Donna (Orla Duggan), watched by Lorna Hanley, Caoimhe Hickey, Graham Halley, Gemma Duggan, Patrick O’Meara and Niamh O’Brien during "Does your mother know?" staged to full houses at Coláiste Dún Iascaigh, Cahir, on its four night run last weekend.

COLÁISTE GIRLS ACHIEVE REMARKABLE JUNIOR DOUBLE

Coláiste Dún Iascaigh’s junior girls completed an outstanding sporting double in Spring 2011 in winning the Munster camogie title for the first time, and just three weeks later adding the Munster Junior football title to this year’s list of successes.

Back row L-R Mr. Keith Morrissey (coach), Aisling Moloney, Jessica Weste, Michaela Maher, Ashely McNerney, Emma Buckely, Aoife Murray, Megan Heffernan, Claire Walsh, Lauran Fitzpatrick. Middle row L-R Emma Corcoran, Katie Farrell, Maureen Murphy, Roisin Howard, Alana Bourke, Chloe Reilly, Jackie Doyle, Megan Lambert, Kayleigh Bourke, Ms. Sile O'Donnell (coach). Front row L-R Aoife Corcoran, Laura Casey, Roisin Costigan, Laura Dillon, Rachel O'Dwyer, Joye Arbuckle, Caoimhe Condon, Kirsty Arbuckle, Maria Ryan.
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS – COMERAGH COLLEGE, CARRICK-ON-SUIR
On Friday 21st October a group of students travelled to Glen Comeragh for a student Council Training day given by Miss Sinead Burke(School Completion Co-Ordinator ). Glen Comeragh provided an ideal setting for the day. A convention room and a three course meal was provided for the students. The student council fosters an excellent link between students and management and great events will be planned in the future.
COMERAGH COLLEGE ATHLETES
A team of 40 students from Comeragh College travelled to the Post Primary Schools Athletics meet in Dr O’Callaghan Complex, Clonmel on Tuesday 5th April. Their efforts were rewarded by a collection of gold medals, with the Senior Team winning overall team gold. Our gold medallists were James Greene (400m), Billy Power (100m), Michael Loughman (long jump). Michael also won silver in the 800m. Golds also for our senior relay team of James Greene, Billy Power, Adam Hants and Adam Fleming.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS – CENTRAL TECHNICAL INSTITUTE, CLONMEL
Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn’s Síomha is Second in Ireland in Poetry Aloud Competition
Siomha Ní Chaisleáin, Gaelcholáiste Chéitinn Clonmel, did her school proud by coming second in Ireland in the Senior Category in the All Ireland Final of the Poetry Aloud poetry speaking competition organised by Poetry Ireland and the National Literary of Ireland. This prestigious competition took place in the National Library in Dublin in early January. Siomha’s captivating recitation greatly impressed the adjudicators and delighted the audience.
GAELCHOLÁISTE CHÉTINN RECEIVES INSPIRATIONAL VISIT FROM IAN MCKEEVER

Ian McKeever is a communications lecturer, adventurer and broadcaster and also author of the book ‘Give Me Irish Hero’s’. He made a visit to Gaelcholáiste Chéttinn to discuss and promote the Kilimanjaro School Project where 200 students, parents and teachers will travel to Africa this summer to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Ian gave an inspirational speech regarding the benefits of the climb and how rewarding and worthwhile the project is.

As part of their Junior Cycle History Programme our students (1st year Gaelcholáiste Cheitinn) were involved in an archaeological dig with archaeologist Joanne Hughes in conjunction with Tipperary S.R. County Museum.
SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS – SCOIL RUÁIN, KILLENAULE

SCOIL RUÁIN CELEBRATES SCIENCE WEEK
Our annual Science Quiz took place on Thursday 17th November 2011 with a great turn out from local primary schools. Paulacapple N.S. took an early lead which they maintained right up until the last round when Moyglass N.S. overtook them to become overall winners. The overall standard of the participants was extremely high and we are very grateful to the competing primary schools. Great credit is also due to the students of Transition Year and their teachers for planning and running the science quiz so successfully.

TRANSITION YEAR MUSICAL COMEDY
‘BLAST FROM THE PAST’ – 9TH AND 10TH NOVEMBER 2011
Transition year students of Scoil Ruán provided magnificent entertainment to parents, staff and students with their presentation of a comedy musical ‘Blast from The Past’. The script was written by Mr. Ian Purcell and produced by Mrs. Siobhan Tobin, both of whom put a great deal of their own time and effort into preparations and the final productions. Rehearsals began in mid September and for many of our Transition Year students this was their debut on stage. The musical was based on the foot tapping music of the seventies. The Transition Year students were thrilled to see the huge support they received over the two nights.

SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS – ST. AILBE’S SCHOOL, TIPPERARY
MUNSTER JUNIOR GIRLS FOOTBALL FINAL 2011
This game was played in New Inn on Saturday 12th of February, 2011 between St. Ailbe’s School Tipperary and Scoil Ruán, Killenaule. After a hard fought battle St. Ailbe’s were victorious with a final score of St. Ailbe’s 3 – 7 Killenaule 2 7.
LOCAL POLITICIANS VISIT ST. AILBE’S
This year we have school visits from Dr. Martin Manseragh and Mr. Tom Hayes. These two local politicians were invited to St Ailbe’s School by Third Years as part of their CSPE Project and by our leaving Certificate Applied students as part of their Contemporary Issues Task. Our Third Year Students also took part in Comhairle Na nÓg which was held in Cappawhite in December 2011. Robert O’Donnell was elected by his peers to represent students in Comhairle na nÓg.
ADULT EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS

- The Adult Learning Scheme headquarters has moved from the Gashouse Bridge to Dillon Street in Clonmel. We opened the doors to our new premises on Tuesday May 3rd. The **new literacy headquarters** in Clonmel on Dillon St. was officially opened by Ciaran Cannon, Minister of State for Training and Skills, on October 3rd. The Minister said that he was delighted “to acknowledge the hard work and determination of the VEC team, which resulted in this state of the art learning facility.”

![Image of the opening of the new literacy headquarters](image)

- The Adult Learning Scheme **participated in a NALA (National Adult Literacy Agency) research project** that provides case studies of a number of Adult Literacy schemes that provide Family Literacy programmes. The rationale behind this research project was to broaden the knowledge base and illuminate family literacy practice and provision in three VECs. As part of the research, the Adult Literacy Organiser Mary Roche participated in an interview with NALA Research Officer, Tina Byrne that focussed on our family literacy programmes. NALA also met with some of the families who take part in our programmes. The document also contains a list of Family Learning programmes delivered by South Tipperary VEC. Family Learning in Action, the document, can be downloaded free of charge from the NALA website: [http://www.nala.ie/publications/family-learning-action](http://www.nala.ie/publications/family-learning-action)

- During May, mothers and their toddlers and babies gathered up for a **‘Family Reading Breakfast’** in the Millenium Family Resource Centre, Glengoole. This workshop was designed for families to take part in fun activities during breakfast time which could lead to further interest in reading together. It provided an opportunity to talk to parents and carers about their reading and how they can help their children by introducing reading as a fun activity, and the idea of further learning with their children. South Tipperary VEC organised this event for the first time in conjunction with Tipperary Libraries and the Millenium Family Resource Centre to celebrate World Book Day.

- The Adult Learning Scheme book club continues to meet once every 5 weeks, organised in conjunction with Tipperary Libraries.
• During 2011 we delivered five ITABE (Intensive Tuition in Adult Basic Education) projects in South Tipperary. Each project was delivered to groups of 6-8 participants and was 14 weeks in duration. These took place in Tipperary Town, Carrick and Clonmel.

• We have had a very busy year with English language classes (ESOL), over 250 students were enrolled in either fee-paying or free classes. As we have no ring-fenced funding for ESOL, we have been creative in our approach to organising classes and particularly the D/SP, RAPID Tipperary Town. South Tipperary Development Company and Knockanrawley Resource Centre have been very supportive with funding. The following programmes were designed and delivered during 2011:
  · ESOL for the unemployed (Clonmel, Cahir and Tipperary Town)
  · ESOL for the Deaf (Clonmel)
  · ESOL for Asylum Seekers (Carrick-on-Suir)
  · ESOL for parents of primary school children (Clonmel and Tipperary Town)
  · ESOL and Skills for Work (Clonmel)
  · ESOL fee paying

• 17 new volunteer tutors were VEC trained during 2011. Our in-house training programme comprises of 13 modules and the initial training duration is 32 hours. It is an accredited course at level 6, validated by WIT. All of the new volunteers are matched with students.

• Some of the Adult Learning Scheme staff are studying for the WIT BA (Honours) in Adult Education; one part-time tutor is studying for the WIT BA (Ordinary) and a further three tutors are studying for the WIT Higher Certificate.

• The Return to Learning Initiative is a programme to help employees of South Tipperary Local Authority to learn new skills and brush up on old ones. During the academic year 2010/2011 five groups took part in the Return to Learning Initiative in South Tipperary. On June 3rd, students from all the classes attended an awards ceremony hosted by South Tipperary Local Authorities. It was a day to celebrate the effort of all involved and to look back over the year.

Pictured above are the Tipperary Town General Learning group with tutor Pat Hoban, South Tipperary VEC Workplace Coordinator, Lavinia English and South Tipperary Local Authority Partnership Facilitator, Walter Doheny.
Pictured above are members of the Clonmel General Learning & ICT groups with tutor Pat Hoban, South Tipperary VEC Workplace Coordinator, Lavinia English and South Tipperary Local Authority Partnership Facilitator, Walter Doheny.

Pictured above are members of the Cahir General Learning group with tutor Pat Hoban, South Tipperary VEC Workplace Coordinator, Lavinia English and South Tipperary Local Authority Partnership Facilitator, Walter Doheny.

Pictured above are members of the Cashel General Learning group with tutor Shelagh Murphy, South Tipperary VEC Workplace Coordinator, Lavinia English and South Tipperary Local Authority Partnership Facilitator, Walter Doheny.
• We designed and delivered 11 Skills for Work programmes during 2011. Skills for Work is a national programme aimed at providing training opportunities to help employees deal with the basic skills demands of the workplace. The initiative is funded through the Department of Education and Skills and delivered by the 33 VECs.

• Two FAS/VEC Return to Education courses were designed and delivered by us for the academic year 2010/2011; and they took place in Clonmel and Cahir. Each course ran for one full day a week over a period of 25 weeks. We were successful with our application to the NALA Student Development Fund and owing to this we were able to bring our FAS Return to Education participants on a field trip to Mitchlestown Caves. This brought to life one of the projects in a way that made it real for so many of the students.

Some of the Students and Tutors of the RTE groups at a visit to Mitchelstown Caves

• During 2011, 23 students achieved FETAC certification at levels 1, 2 or 3.

• We published our Christmas Annual 2011, full of Scheme news and student writings.

• External networking / partnerships
  The ALO and/or the Resource workers represented the VEC at the following networking meetings on a regular basis:
  • Adult Education Team meetings
  • Traveller Interagency Group
  • South Tipperary Traveller Mens Group
  • Carrick-on-Suir Education Network
  • Tipperary Education Network
  • South Tipperary Disability Groups Forum
  • Adult Literacy Organisers Association
• We also have partnerships with the following groups to maximise service provision to their service users/our students:
  o Cluain Training and Enterprise, Clonmel
  o Rehab Care, Clonmel and Knocklofty
  o Brothers of Charity Gateway Training, Cahir
  o Brothers of Charity Nagle Centre, Cashel
  o Camphill, Carrick-on-Suir and Grangemockler
  o Moorehaven, Tipperary Town
  o Cuan Croí, Tipperary Town
  o Brothers of Charity Tigh Mac Gama, Cashel
  o Tipperary Rural Traveller Project
  o Brothers of Charity, Clerihan
  o Scoil Ruáin, Killenaule,
  o St. Michael’s School, Tipperary Town
  o St. Peter and Pauls School, Clonmel
  o Comeragh College, Carrick-on-Suir
  o St. Olivers School, Clonmel
  o Spafield Resource Centre, Cashel
  o Millenium Family Resource Centre, Glengoole

• Some of the programmes described in this report are made possible through the funding and in-kind cooperation received from external partners. State and local agencies that contribute to these programmes include:
  ▪ Department of Social Protection
  ▪ South Tipperary Local Authorities
  ▪ South Tipperary Development Company
  ▪ Carrick-on-Suir Local Employment Service
  ▪ Knockanrawley Resource Centre
  ▪ RAPID Tipperary Town
  ▪ Tipperary Libraries
MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN ADULT EDUCATION SERVICES IN 2011

**Adult Education Main achievements**
January to December 2011

The BTEI Programme increased substantially in response to increased funding from the Department of Further Education and Skills.

- Overall we had new learners or learners progressing on part time programmes across FETAC Level 3 to 5 courses in Social Care, General Learning, General Vocational Skills, Business and Office Skills, Healthcare, Childcare, Information and Communications Technologies, Craft, Organic Horticulture, Animal Care, etc.

- Extra funding was provided for labour activation programmes and we were able to start 10 FETAC Level 3 General Learning Programmes of which 7 are on target to be completed in one year (from September 2011 to June 2012).

- Funding for Level 5 programmes in Childcare (Cashel) and Healthcare (Cashel and Ballingarry) was made available for learners who wanted to complete full FETAC Level 5 within one year.

**Enhanced Programme development:**
(a) **Tutor preparation and planning** for the FETAC Level 3 General Learning commenced in April 2011 where tutors worked together in teams to devise integrated briefs and programmes of learning. This approach was a major advantage as learner meetings were successfully delegated to tutors delivering General Learning. This one to one approach (learner/tutor) assuaged more learners onto Level 3 programmes as a result.

(b) **Screenings** were part of the initial contacts with learners and resulted in placing learners on appropriate programmes, alerting us to extra supports that may be needed and also in referring learners to the literacy service where required.

(c) **Consistency of an integrated literacy approach** to Level 3 and 4 programmes was crucial to engaging with hard to reach target groups and the majority of our tutors working at Level 3 and 4 have completed professional development in the area of literacy and group work.

**Effective Working in Partnership:**
In 2011 we managed to work with TRYS (Tipperary Regional Youth Service) to provide Youth Programmes for learners who are participating in work placements. Through BTEI Activation Funding, an educational dimension was piloted with 2 groups and we are working on this model for the rest of the county with other youth related services.
Clonmel VTOS

Field Trips
Clonmel VTOS regards field trips to be an integral part of the programme. These trips allow learners to get to know each other and experience learning in a different way.
- On January 19th our first trip of the year was to Waterford to see the play ‘Hamlet’
- On 11 March learners travelled to Cloneen to see the play ‘Sive’
- The final outing of the academic year was on 30 May, to Dublin. In Dublin we visited Kilmainham Jail, Dublin Castle, the Chester Beatty Library, Trinity College and Glasnevin Visitor Centre
- The first trip of the new academic year was on 29 September to Wicklow for a guided tour of Avondale House, birthplace of Charles Stewart Parnell and to Wicklow Gaol
- On December 19th we visited the Bolton Library, the Rock of Cashel and the Bru Boru Centre in Cashel.

VTOS learners presenting a cheque, the proceeds of their fundraising initiative for the Cambodian Safe House on to Mairead Bergin, CTI, Clonmel

Annual PLC/FETAC Awards Ceremony
VTOS Dispersed learners who completed their programmes in June were presented with their FETAC (Level 5) Certificates at the annual PLC Annual Awards Ceremony which was held at the CTI, Clonmel on 25 November.

Adult Education Awards Ceremony
VTOS learners received their Leaving and FETAC Certificates at the annual Adult Education Awards Ceremony which was held in Raheen House, Clonmel on 20 October.

Education Guidance Service
The majority of VTOS learners used the services of the adult education guidance office especially when deciding on progression from VTOS and in particular when help was required with the CAO application process. VTOS would like to acknowledge the contribution of Information Officer, Amy Scanlon and Adult Educational Guidance Counsellor Tom Ryan.
Adult Learners’ Festival, February 2011
VTOS learners enjoyed the event held at the C.T.I., Senior College for the Adult Learners’ Festival. Dispersed learners displayed their art/craft work at the event and core learners managed the canteen for the event. The event featured on RTE’s Winning Streak programme.

Learners pictured in Dublin Castle during their trip in May, 2011

VTOS Core learners who joined the programme in September 2011, pictured with staff members
Community Education Programmes which took place in 2011

| Art | Disability Awareness | History/Heritage | Pottery |
| Art Therapy | Drama | Horticulture | Sign Language |
| Bird & Bath Box Construction | Family Learning | Irish Comhrá | Skills Development |
| Card Making | First Aid | Jewellery | Soft Skills |
| Car Mechanics | FIT Computers | Lifestyle | Story Time |
| Chi Gung | Fitness & Nutrition | Memories & Photos | Tai Chi |
| Committee Skills | Food & Safety | Mindfulness | Textiles |
| Community Training | Group Facilitation | Music Therapy | Website Training |
| Computers | Health Education | Parenting Skills | Welding |
| Cookery | Health & Fitness | Personal Development | Woodwork Training |
| Craftwork | Health & Wellbeing | Photography | Women’s Health |
| Creative Writing | Hearing Help | Pilates | Yoga |

Positive Ageing Week

South Tipperary VEC was delighted to be part of the positive age weekend which took place from 7th September 2011. Highlights included:

- Photography workshops, which took place in Clonmel Library.
- Cookery workshops, which were hosted by Spafield Family Resource Centre in Cashel.
- Songs and dancing with our Music Therapy tutor Roger Mehta who hosted six sessions with various Active Retirement groups in Cashel, Tipperary, Glengoole, Kilsheelan, Carrick-on-Suir and Cahir.
**Adult Learner Festival**

South Tipperary Adult Learner Festival in conjunction with Aontas took place the week of 20th February 2011. Activities included, Art Exhibitions, Jewellery Displays, Dog Grooming, Information Stands, Photography Exhibition, Cookery Demonstrations, Fitness Demonstrations, RTE National Lottery Spin the Wheel.

A great day was had by all.

In February, we launched the national **AONTAS Adult Learners Festival** with the broadcast of **Winning Streak** at the Mall.
Major Developments 2011

- Sales Pulse Training.
- CEFA Regional Meeting, Kilkenny.
- Attended “Building on Strength”, Dublin.
- Attended AONTAS Media Training, Dublin.
- Attended Mental Health Conference, Clonmel.
- Sixteen Days of Action Opposing Violence Against Women.
- CEFA National Training with Mary Kett.
- Brian Harvey and Partners.
- Launch of Community Education Research, February 2011.
- CEFA AGM, Dublin.

Highlights

- Organised PAW programme for older people.
- VEC Awards, Clonmel.
- Marie Keating mobile unit/Information Talks.
- VEC Adult Education Plan.
- Arts in Health, Clonmel.
- Art exhibition, Grange Community.
- Bealtaine in Cashel.
- Evaluation Training, Clonmel.
- Writers’ Day in Excel Centre, Tipperary.

Conclusion

To close, I would like to thank all tutors, learners and groups who I have been involved with during the past year.

“We are in Community each time we find a place where we belong.”

Peter T. Block.
SOUTH TIPPERARY VEC ANNUAL ADULT EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY 2011

Approximately 100 adult learners and guests attended the annual South Tipperary VEC Adult Education Awards held in Raheen House on Thursday, October 20th 2011.

Special dignitaries in attendance included Cllr. John Fahey, Chairperson of South Tipperary VEC; Cllr. Liam Ahern, Chairperson of the Adult Education Board; Cllr. Jacqui Finnan, Mayor of Tipperary Town; Ms. Fionuala McGeever, Chief Executive Officer, South Tipperary VEC; and Ms. Eileen Condon, Adult Education Officer, South Tipperary VEC.

This awards ceremony is an important date in the VEC calendar, as the ceremony provides an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the efforts made by adults who made the decision to return to education and pursue accreditation.

Due to the increasing numbers participating in VEC Adult Education programmes, those attending were representative of recipients of full awards. There are hundreds of other adults attending who are on the ladder to achieving a full award. The awards that were presented on the night ranged from the Leaving Certificate, completed Clonmel VTOS learners, to full FETAC awards at Levels 2, 3 and 5, and BULATS awards, which are a qualification in English Language proficiency, developed and accredited by University of Cambridge. To achieve a full FETAC award at Level 5, it could take 2 years attending part-time.

In his welcome speech, Cllr Liam Ahern, Chairperson of the VEC Adult Education Board, began with the quote, “nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared to believe that something inside them was superior to circumstance.” He then went on to praise the learners for overcoming old fears that may have held them back from engaging in education, saying, “due to your perseverance and determination to rise above circumstance, you are able to sit here tonight and be proud of your accomplishments.” He also thanked family members for supporting the adults on their learning journey.

Eileen Condon, AEO, congratulated the hard work of all and praised the VEC tutors and staff who are highly qualified and work within best practice in adult education. She remarked that the strength of VEC’s is their focus on employability, not just employment. The development of core skills in communications, team work, problem-solving skills and IT skills are inherent in all programmes, and are the transferable qualities that all employers seek. She also mentioned the essential gains made in confidence and personal development that are at the core of what adult education is about. With a focus on accreditation, these are not easy to measure, but they are no less important.

An enjoyable evening followed with refreshments for all.
ADULT EDUCATION AWARDS CEREMONY IN PICTURE

- Recipients of BTEI General Learning FETAC Level 3 Certificates & their Tutors
- Recipients of FETAC award in Living for Life / General Learning & their Tutors
- Recipients of BTEI Childcare FETAC Level 5 Certificates & their Tutors
- Recipients of VTOS Certificates & their Tutors
- Recipients of BTEI Healthcare FETAC Level 5 Certificates & their Tutors
- Recipients of VTOS Multimedia Certificates & their Tutors
- Recipients of Certificates in BULATS, a University of Cambridge accredited course in English language proficiency
FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The financial objectives set out in the Annual Service Plan of South Tipperary must be achieved within Budget each year. It is the responsibility of the Finance Department along with Senior Management to oversee this work and ensure this objective is accomplished. Finance Support includes: decision making support, corporate control of public money, transaction processing and Statutory Accountability.

The VEC are governed by strict accountability measures. South Tipperary VEC is required to prepare an Annual set of Accounts in a format designed by the Department of Education & Skills. These accounts must then be audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General before they can be published. South Tipperary VEC are required to follow Policies and Procedures which are in place to ensure the effective achievement of objectives.

South Tipperary VEC’s Annual Budget for 2011 was €23 million approximately including Capital.

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<td>Percentages %</td>
<td></td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Pay Expenditure Analysis 2011 (Compared to 2010)


Non Pay Expenditure Analysis 2011 (Compared to 2010)

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE
South Tipperary VEC has adopted a Code of Best Practice for Governance. The code adopted is consistent with the code set out by the Department of Education and Skills in Circular F11/05. The purpose of the Code is to ensure that the principles of good governance and management are applied by South Tipperary VEC.

AUDIT COMMITTEE
The Audit Committee is composed of 7 Members of South Tipperary VEC, all of whom are under the Chairmanship of Mr. Kevin O’Reilly, who is appointed to this position for the duration of the VEC Committee. (See page 5 for details) The Audit Committee is responsible for monitoring the VEC in the carrying out of its functions and provides assurances to the Committee as to the effectiveness of the Internal Control processes. The Audit Committee reviews reports received from VEC Management and External Auditors (Comptroller & Auditor General) and Internal Auditors (Vocational Support Services Unit). These reports include a review of the policies and procedures governing the functioning of the VEC. Minutes of Audit Committee meetings are recorded for information purposes.

FINANCE COMMITTEE
The Finance Committee comprises of 7 members of South Tipperary VEC, all of whom are chaired by the VEC Chairperson Cllr. John Fahey. (See page 5 for details) The CEO sits on this Committee in an Ex-Officio capacity. The Committee is responsible for reviewing the Income and Expenditure of the VEC, signing off on major contracts awarded by the VEC (e.g. Capital Projects) and is also responsible for finalising the financial aspects of the Education Plan & Service Plans. Minutes of Finance Committee meetings are recorded for information purposes.
Coiste Gairmoideachais Thiobraid Árann Theas
Seirbhís Oideachais den Chéad Scoth
South Tipperary Vocational Education Committee
Provides a Quality Education Service

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,
WESTERN ROAD,
CLONMEL,
CO. TIPPERARY.

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Ms. Fionuala McGeever
CHAIRPERSON: Cllr. John Fahey