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# NALCAC

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED COORDINATORS

April 2010

Issue No 5

## NEWS BULLETIN



*Recipients: Left to Right - Sarah Reidy, Conor Byrne, Chloe Murphy, Cloe Bysouth, Jenny Fitzgerald, Saorcha Fitzgerald and Senator Feargal Quinn.*

The 2009 Feargal Quinn Leaving Certificate Applied Awards were presented to the six students who achieved the highest number of credits in the Leaving Certificate Applied 2009. The special ceremony took place at a special lunch in the Red Cow Moran Hotel on Saturday November 28th 2009. The lunch was attended by family members, the LCA coordinators in the six schools, the school principals, Sheila O'Driscoll, the national LCA Coordinator, SLSS, Ms. Noirin Hynes, State Examinations Commission and Dr. Ann Looney, Director, NCCA.

This year the awards were presented by Senator Feargal Quinn himself who was full of praise for the recipients. He praised their dedication and commitment to their studies and wished the students every success in the different courses they had chosen after their Leaving Certificate Applied. Each school was presented with a framed certificate commemorating the success of their individual students. The students were also presented with a framed certificate, a specially engraved Newbridge silver pen and a voucher. The council of the National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators would like to sincerely thank Senator Feargal Quinn for his attendance at this event. His presence made this a very memorable event for all the students and their families.

Many thanks also to the school principals and coordinators for their support and attendance at this important event.

***Leaving Certificate Applied Awards 2009  
Profiles of the recipients and  
their coordinators on pages 2 & 3***



# PROFILE OF STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS FOR THE FEARGAL QUINN LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED AWARDS 2009



**School/Centre:** Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown, Co Cork.

**Principal/Manager:** Ms. Anne Kirke

**Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinator:** Ms. Breda Fitzgerald

Presentation Secondary School, Mitchelstown is an all girls' school, with a school population of just over 300 pupils. The LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED Programme was introduced into the school in September, 1998, the school having previously been involved in other programmes such as Community Based Learning and Senior Cert. Since its introduction it has proved a popular programme, with the students involved consistently achieving excellent results. Over the years a number of students have also been officially recognised for achieving almost maximum credits. Such successes have been inspirational guiding the LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED Programme team and students to aspire to similar standards. Presentation Secondary School is justifiably proud of the extraordinary achievement of Chloe Murphy and Jenny Fitzgerald in securing such excellent results in the Summer of 2009.



## Chloe Murphy

From the day Chloe came into Secondary School, it was obvious that she grabbed life with both hands and was determined to extract every bit of value from it and that's what she still does today. Chloe has excellent communication skills, a young woman who looks at possibilities rather than obstacles. As a LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED student she was consistently to the forefront for hard work, meeting deadlines, team building, conflict management and for her warm hearted and positive outlook. Her excellent exam results are a worthy testament to her five years in Secondary School. Chloe is presently doing a Child Care Course in St Fanahan's Community College and is particularly enjoying her work experience in the local national school.



## Jenny Fitzgerald

Jenny chose to do LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED because of her awareness of her strengths-she likes active engagement and likes to personalise her involvement with the work in hand rather than have it prescribed. The LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED programme allowed her to build on those strengths. She tried various work experiences including mechanics which she enjoyed and was undaunted by the challenging nature of the work.. Her generosity of spirit was exemplified this year when she completed the Cork City Marathon in aid of the Samaritans. Jenny's pleasant manner, sense of fun and easy communications ensured that she played a key role in team building within her LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED group. Jenny is perusing a career in Hair Dressing.



**School/Centre:** Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew, Co Wicklow.

**Principal/Manager:** Ms. Linda Dunne *Acting Principal* Mr. Pat Brennan

**Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinator:** Ms. Eleanor Lee

Colaiste Bhríde Carnew, a rural VEC school in South Wicklow, has a student population of approx 670 students. We have had Leaving Cert Applied in our school since 1996, since its inception. In our Leaving Cert Applied Programme this year we have 29 students in Year 2 and 27 in year 1. There are 115 students in Leaving Cert in total this year in our school. Students from the school also this year have obtained 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the traditional Leaving Cert Engineering.

## Conor Byrne

Conor Byrne spent 6 years in Colaiste Bhríde having completed the Transition Year Programme prior to completing his Leaving Cert Applied.

Having completed a Contemporary issues task on the issue of Poverty (follow on from TY) and having investigated the Millennium Development Goals, Conor won a trip to the European Parliament in Strasbourg with the Micheal Sweetman Trust in his Leaving Cert year. Conor earlier this year was one of the national winners in the Michael Sweetman essay competition and he represented the country in the European Parliament where he made a 30 minute speech in not English or Gaeilge but in French. Conors Contemporary Issues task won the title of Young Social Innovators of the year 2009 for their project entitled The Butterfly Effect.

Conor enjoys playing golf and has an interest in Martial Arts  
Connor is currently pursuing a PLC in Sport and Leisure in Enniscorthy.





**School/Centre:** Presentation Secondary School, Listowel, Co Kerry.

**Principal/Manager:** Sr. Nuala O'Leary

**Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinator:** Ms. Caroline Reynolds

Presentation Secondary School, Listowel is an All Girls Secondary School under the trusteeship of Ceist. School Size 375 students. The LCA programme has been running in the school since 1996. We also run the LCVP and Transition Year programme. Students from the school have won the J.P. McManus All Ireland Scholarship in 2008 and again this year. The school has a very high reputation in Basketball.



### Saorcha Fitzgerald

Saorcha won an All Ireland Gold medal while playing with the Presentation Secondary School First Year Basketball Team in the 'A' League in 2005. Saorcha joined the Kingdom Pony Club in 2006 and lost no time in taking and passing the required tests which enabled her to represent the club at competition level. She has been a very active member of the club, taking part in all events at local, regional and National level. Saorcha is very much a team player and this was most evident when she qualified on the Kingdom Intermediate Show jumping team for the National Championships. Saorcha also qualified for the Horse Trial Championship. Cross Country events seemed to be her favourite. Saorcha also plays Badminton with Moyvane Senior Club. She also helped to coach the Juvenile players.

Saorcha is continuing with her studies and is following a Pre-Nursing Course at Listowel Community College, we wish her well, I am sure she will excel.



**School/Centre:** Scoil Mhuire, Greenhill, Carrick On Suir, Co Tipperary.

**Principal/Manager:** Ms. Mary O'Keefe

**Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinator:** Ms. Martina Holden

The school Scoil Mhuire has an enrolment of 430 girls. Chloe is currently continuing her studies and is pursuing a PLC course in Business at Waterford College of Further Education, next year she hopes to go on to Legal Studies in Waterford Institute of Technology.



### Cloe Bysouth

Cloe has been a very studious LCA student. She was involved in fundraising for her school and she participated in all aspects of school life. She has displayed a level of support for her school and school community that was quite extraordinary. During her time in Scoil Mhuire she was committed to improving not just herself but also her fellow students. She continually offered advice and direction to the younger students, while maintaining an excellent relationship with her peers and teachers.



**School/Centre:** Clare Youth Services, Ennis, Co Clare

**Principal/Manager:** Ms. Toni Knowles

**Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinator:** Ms. Michelle O'Keefe

Clare Youth Service exists to serve the county's young people aged 12 -25. We do this in numerous ways - by providing information on rights and entitlements; by representing youth interests; by providing education and training; by organisation or supporting youth clubs, projects and other activities run in local communities; by listening and befriending; by responding to ideas for activities generated by young people.



### Sarah Reidy

At present Sarah is attending Athlone Community College, doing a PLC FETAC Level 5 course in Community and Social Care. She is a master sports person and camogie is her real love. Sarah captained Under 16 Camoige Team for the Muster Final 2007. She also played in Under 18 Camoige team for the 2008 Munster Final and twice placed in the senior county championship for Co. Clare with her local Kilmaley Camoige team. By the way all she was on the winning team for all of these matches!

## AGM 2009 a huge success

This year our agm was combined with a very informative workshop delivered by Miriam Horgan, Chief Inspector, Department of Education and Science. Miriam outlined the process involved in an LCA programme evaluation. The feedback from the coordinators present was extremely positive.

Tom Rodgers, chairman of NALCAC welcomed members to the agm. He gave an outline of the programme for the day and spoke about his concern about the impact of the educational cutbacks on the LCA programme.

Liam Deaton circulated the financial report drawing members attention to the current bank balances and outlining the proposed cutbacks to the TPN funding and the importance of such funding for the association.

Margaret O'Shea proposed the financial report and M. Farrell seconded the proposal. The report was accepted by the members present. M. Farrell reported on the work of the NCCA committee which is reviewing the LCA and also on the ESRI follow up survey of LCA graduates.

Tom thanked all those present for their contributions and welcomed Miriam Horgan from the Department of Education and Science inspectorate.

## CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen, Thank you for taking time out to come here today, another testimony of the dedication of the teaching profession, who are giving of their day off to travel to Dublin.

We have a very packed AGM which has to be completed by 11:30 am when the Department Inspector Miriam Horgan will have the floor. However there are a number of issues I would like to address.

The savage educational cuts imposed last year continue to inflict hardship on ourselves and our students. This is particularly the case for the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. I don't need to list these cuts for you and we hope to have an opportunity later in the AGM to discuss how these educational cuts are impacting on your schools.

The excellent service being provided by the SLSS is also severely curtailed this year. It is imperative that there is no reduction in the level of in-service provided for the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. The nature of the course and the high turnover of teachers require it.

It is in all our interests to continue to campaign to have the cuts reversed. Education featured strongly in the re-negotiated Programme for Government but has anyone seen any circular restoring what was cut?

To help fight for these cuts to be reversed it is imperative that we have a strong organisation, representing the views of all our members.

Our executive needs new members, new blood, new ideas. I appeal to you to consider putting your name forward to be a member of the National Executive.

### NALCAC need's you.

*So what is involved?*

*What would you be letting yourselves in for?*

*How much of my time will it take?*

There is a Maximum of 4 meetings a year, in Dublin. We do most of our business over the phone using Phone-conferencing where we all converse with each other at the same time, sitting at home. We would have 7-8 such phone conferences each year. At a pre-determined time (by Mary) e.g. Monday at 7:00 pm you simply dial a Dublin number, enter a code and you're connected. If possible I would like see: Geographical spread, Gender balance, and representation from all School/Centre's offering Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. Every organisation

needs new ideas, new methods, and new people if it to grow, to expand, to survive. So please give it some thought, and do consider putting your name forward.

The aspirations of the average Leaving Certificate Applied student has changed since the Programme was first introduced. In the initial years the goal of most Leaving Certificate Applied students was to enter the world of work, or to get an apprentice. Nowadays, however, the vast majority, I feel, want to continue their studies and they go on to enrol in Further Education Colleges to take Post Leaving Certificate courses, where they do very well, due no doubt to the fact that they are very familiar with the idea of Assignments, Projects and meeting deadlines.

This is certainly true of my school, where they enrol in our PLC courses and then progress to the Institute of Technology next door. The scenario has changed dramatically in the last few years. Any study of Leaving Certificate Applied students must take this shift in attitude into account.

Finally I want to publicly thank the members of our committee and the staff in Dublin West Education for all work they do for us and for their kindness and willingness to help.

## Secretary's Report

The council met in December, January, April and June with 9 phone conferences in between. We had one new member on the council this year, Margaret O'Shea from Colaiste Dulaig, Coolock.

### *Our activities this year included:*

Publication of our Newsletter in February

First National Awards Ceremony in November 2008 -

Second Annual Conference November 2008 – the keynote speaker was Professor Tom Collins, NUIM who considered the role of the Leaving Certificate Applied in the rapidly changing society of 2008. The workshops covered the assessment of the PAT and the Contemporary Issues Task, making the most of the task experience was presented by author Jane Landy and the last workshop looked at Enterprise and how to make it a key part of the task experience.

Regional Meeting – Dublin - April

Members Survey re impact of educational cutbacks in May 2009

Publication of Calendar in September 2009

Improvement in web site

Setting up NALCAC blog

**Meetings:** Dublin West Education Centre, Blackrock Education Centre  
Letter/Communication with Brian Hayes, Joe Sherlock, TD re cutbacks  
Participation in the NCCA review of the leaving certificate applied  
Interview on RTE Morning Ireland November 2009

*M. Farrell*



AGM 2009

## Membership Update

The past year was a very strong one from a membership point of view. At the present time we have circa 240 members of The Association. We continued our policy of keeping members on our list even though they may not be fully paid up to date. This is on the basis that coordinators may drop out from coordinating the programme in their schools or centres for a year or more before returning again.

Given the present economic climate however particularly with a reduction in our grant from The TPN I would request members to continue to pay their membership even though they may not be coordinating in the short term. I would also ask members to renew their membership early in September of each year so that our finances remain healthy.

This coming year we will be updating our membership form placing more prominence on Email Addresses and Mobile Phone Numbers. Using this information we will endeavour to distribute information by email and text messaging as much as possible. This will be more convenient and will reduce our costs so please give both when filling out the form. It would also be very helpful if existing members quoted their membership number when renewing their membership.

A strong membership is essential to the strength of The Association. I would urge coordinators to join The Association if they have not already done so. I would also invite them to get involved at Council level. Many of our meetings are by teleconferencing and therefore do not require travel.

We do hold face to face meetings during the year but not many and it is quite understandable if you cannot attend all. We would far prefer you to miss some meetings rather than not be involved at all.

Always feel free to contact us if you wish to seek advice or give us your views. Remember you can also use our blog on the website if you wish, PLEASE USE THE BLOG we would love to hear your views. Schools and centres have experienced a very difficult year as a result of the present economic crises. A strong Association is more vital than ever so please continue to support your association.

Membership fees remain the same as before 20 euro for one coordinator in a school or centre or 30 euro per school/centre where there is more than one coordinator.

I would like to thank all our members for their continued support. I would also like to wish a long and happy retirement to our members who retired during the year. Finally I would like to wish all teachers in schools and centres an enjoyable and well earned summer break.

**John Linehan**

## Moodle: What is it all about?

Moodle is a free and open-source e-Learning tool that is being used to support teaching and learning on a rapidly growing basis within many Irish secondary schools. At the heart of Moodle is the concept of providing every student with a personal online learning space. Moodle provides a host of functions that can be used to enhance conventional classroom instruction, including the following:

- Controlled access to curriculum resources as well as additional reading materials, images and video clips
- Self-assessment quizzes with automated marking and immediate feedback
- Communication tools such as notice boards for up-to-date course information
- Student tools such as 'drop boxes' for the upload of course work, electronic journals and calendars
- Collaboration tools such as threaded discussion forums which support various types of communication, such as one-to-one, one-to-many and many-to-many.

Among the many pedagogical arguments for the introduction of Moodle into the practice of Leaving Certificate Applied teachers are that:

- If students lose classnotes they simply log into Moodle and find a copy there.
- If students are out sick or away from school they can still join in discussion forums, quizzes, key assignments etc. over the Internet.
- Through meaningful interactions and contexts within Moodle students are allowed to be more actively involved in developing their long-term knowledge and understanding.

For more information regarding Moodle log onto [www.enovation.ie](http://www.enovation.ie).

**Mary Mc Mahon**



*Presentation by Ms. Miriam Horgan, Chief Inspector,  
Department of Education and Science*

## Latest news on funding for the Leaving Certificate Applied programme

**Following a request to clarify the current situation regarding the funding of the LCA programme the following statement was issued to NALCAC from Julie Anderson on behalf of the Dept of Education and Science:**

With regard to the provision of funding for the Leaving Certificate Applied, the Renewed Programme for Government states the following:

An extra allocation is being made available at primary and second levels to allow schools to provide grant assistance for books, as per the situation that existed in September 2008. A further allocation will be made at second level to fund the transition year, leaving cert applied,

LCVP, physics, chemistry, home economics, music activities and the junior certificate schools programme, as per the September 2008 allocation under the former amalgamated grants.

I can confirm that funding has been allocated. The Department is currently considering how to administer the funding in a manner consistent with the Minister's policy on streamlining funding to schools. The aim is to reduce the administrative burden for schools and for the Department. The Department will consult with management bodies and will be in touch with schools as soon as a decision is reached.

## NCCA review of the LCA

The NCCA has set up a committee to review the Leaving Certificate Applied. This is a very broadbased committee with representatives from the SLSS, the SEC, NALCAC, IBEC, Teachers Unions, Special Schools. The committee has met on three occasions and has considered issues in relation to the Leaving Certificate Applied and the ESRI findings resulting from its longitudinal study of LCA graduates. The work of the committee has also included subject reviews, in particular Gaeilge Cumarsaide and Mathematical Applications, assessment issues e.g. the imbalance between the sessions, 90% attendance, the assessment of tasks and certification, the inaccessibility of the relative value of the LCA award at pass, merit or distinction levels to the various grades on a Leaving Certificate award. This review is important now in the context of project Maths and changes in the Irish oral marking schemes and in the context of the senior cycle developments and the proposed flexible learning profiles. If you have any views on Mathematical Applications or GaeilgeCumarsaide or indeed on any aspect of the Leaving Certificate Applied please email me at maryfarrell1@ireland.com.

### COUNCIL MEMBERS 2009/2010

- Chairperson: **Tom Rodgers**, Chairman,  
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- Pat Cashman**, St. Colmans College,  
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We would like to extend a very warm welcome to Nina, Claire and Pat to the council this year.



Jenny Fitzgerald with family members and Ms. Ann Kirke



Sarah Reidy with family members and Ms. Michelle O'Keefe



Conor Byrne with family members and Ms. Elenor Lee



Chloe Murphy, Jenny Fitzgerald with Ms. Breda Fitzgerald and Ms. Ann Kirke

## Your views are important!

Please contact us to let us know how we can best assist you in your work as an LCA teacher or coordinator. What workshops would you be interested in attending? Our contact details are at the back of this newsletter.

# Failte Ireland – Response from NALCAC

Mr. Sean O'Malley,  
Manager of Education Operations,  
Failte Ireland.

Dear Mr. O'Malley,

I am writing to you on behalf of the council of the National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators. We are a voluntary body representing Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators around the country.

We wish to express our disappointment and dismay at your letter of 20th November which outlines the new policy and strategy Failte Ireland and the Institutes of Technology (IOT'S) have put in place in relation to the provision of Hospitality and Tourism Programmes in the IOT system. We note in particular that this policy applies to the intake for 2010/2011.

Your minimum entry requirements states that 'The Leaving Certificate Applied programme does not meet minimum entry requirements'. This change in minimum entry requirements will have a very serious impact on Leaving Certificate Applied students who have been eligible since the programme was introduced to enroll on Failte Ireland's Hospitality and Tourism Programmes. Indeed many Leaving Certificate Applied students have obtained employment in this area.

This decision further discriminates against current Leaving Certificate Applied students who selected their specialism modules with the intention of pursuing Hospitality and Tourism programmes with Failte Ireland.

We ask you to immediately alter this new policy to include continued access for Leaving Certificate Applied students to Hospitality and Tourism Programmes.

Yours truly,  
Mary Farrell,  
Hon. Secretary

**Air your views  
on our blog**  
[www.lcaassociation.blogspot.com](http://www.lcaassociation.blogspot.com)  
NALCAC aims to support LCA teachers  
and coordinators nationally.



Cloe Bysouth with family members and Ms. Martina Holden

## Update from Failte Ireland

### UPDATE ON STUDENT APPLICATIONS FOR INTAKE 2010

We received a number of calls from concerned teachers and Guidance Counsellors regarding the Institutes of Technology application procedure for courses in Culinary Arts, Hospitality Studies, Tourism and Bar Supervision. Principally the queries were raised with regard to Leaving Cert Applied students and early school leavers who are ineligible to apply directly through the CAO.

#### To clarify the situation with regard to student applications:

Each Institute of Technology is an autonomous admitting authority and they decide their own minimum entry requirements. They have set out the following entry options for this cohort of students.

- Applicants with the Leaving Cert Applied who have a post LCA qualification at level 5 In any discipline can apply via the CAO.
- Early School leavers and Leaving Cert Applied students with sufficient work experience (minimum 1 year) can be considered by Institutes under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPI) route.
- Mature applicants, EU nationals aged 23 on or before January in the year of entry can apply via the CAO.
- Leaving Certificate Applied students are still eligible to apply to the colleges directly for the work based, FETAC level 6 programmes, i.e. the National Apprenticeship programme in Professional Cookery and Professional Restaurant and Bar Service Programme
- Mainstream students with Five D3's (including english) or equivalent apply through the CAO

Although Failte Ireland is no longer in a situation to pay Individual student grants, we are continuing to pay Capitation and Tuition fees for students despite an increase in the capitation fee of €600 per student annually. The total the tuition and capitation fees paid per student per year amount to €2500 and students are now eligible to apply for mainstream Higher Education grants.

We would like to ask for your continued support and co-operation as we endeavour to accommodate both you and your students.

Please do not hesitate our People In Tourism Centre on 1850 256 256 or your local Institute of Technology if you would like further clarification.



Saorcha Fitzgerald with family members and Ms. Caroline Reynolds

## Leaving Certificate Applied Destination Study/Graduates 2008

A special thank you to all who promoted and completed the national Destination Study of Leaving Certificate Applied Graduates. 267 Post Primary schools were selected for participation in this study. Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators with the help of their Guidance Counsellors were asked to follow up on 2 graduates and complete a questionnaire on their destinations. The data returned will give a national profile of what these graduates did on completing the programme and will also give information on their current status.

Questionnaires are still being returned to the office in Shannon so if it is still on your 'To-Do List' please return completed surveys as soon as possible.

The data generated by this study will be collated and returned to you for use in marketing and promoting the programme with current and future students, parents, teachers and the wider community.

In addition, the information is of immense importance in negotiating progression opportunities for Leaving Certificate Applied Graduates both now and in the future.

Your urgent attention to following up on this would be very much appreciated.

## Cutbacks: Proposed changes to in-service for the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The chairman of NALCAC has written to the Teacher Education section of the Department of Education and Science to protest at the proposed changes to in-service for the Leaving Certificate Applied. He wrote:

As chairperson of NALCAC (National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators), our members have requested that I write to express our very deep concern at the apparent downgrading of the Second Level Support Service to be offered in relation to Leaving Certificate Applied. We are led to believe that in the very near future the Leaving Certificate Applied Support Service is to be amalgamated with that of Transition Year. Let me hasten to add that I think that both are excellent innovative programmes, both are doing tremendous good work and both are benefiting and catering for two very distinct cohorts of students. Students gain a lot of valuable and worthwhile competencies from each course, but there the similarities end.

As I stated in the previous paragraph these Programmes cater for two distinct groups. Transition Year students by and large are high achievers who move on to sit the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme or the Existing Leaving Certificate. Most come from the middle and upper social classes, they are articulate and well versed in social and educational networks. They would have taken Examination Papers at Higher or Ordinary Level at Junior Certificate.

The majority of Leaving Certificate Applied students on the other hand come from the lower social classes, many have multiple social disadvantages and are just one step away from leaving school altogether. High proportions have been granted reasonable accommodations in their Junior Certificate Examination and will retain these Accommodations for their Leaving Certificate Applied Examination.

They have struggled with the basics and consequently opt for Foundation or Ordinary Level at Junior Certificate. If the Leaving



Tom Rodgers, Chairman of NALCAC opens the Awards Ceremony.

Certificate Applied Programme was not there where would these students go?

The nature of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme necessitates a high level of teacher involvement and commitment, different teaching methodologies and learning strategies have to be deployed to maintain interest and achieve success. To enable teachers to keep abreast of modern developments and thinking in teaching and learning a wide variety of in-service is required on a continual basis. Regrettably there has been a high turnover of teachers assigned to the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme within many schools. This may be the result of school policies, turn over of staff within schools, promotions, more recently the Educational cutbacks, and the premature retirement of many teachers.

In-service for the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme not only must be maintained at present levels but it must be expanded because of the huge number of teachers new to the Programme. The current in-service team has served our students, school and teachers extremely well. Nobody knows the course, the needs, better. Their expertise, professionalism, commitment and enthusiasm are second to none and nobody more so than the National co-ordinator Ms Shelia O'Driscoll. She has been the driving force behind the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. Her involvement stretches back to the earliest days of the Programme when plans were being

formulated about the Programme. It would be a serious retrograde step if this level and standard of in-service were not to continue. It has been my personal experience that the Leaving Certificate Applied in-service is the best I've had the pleasure of attending.

Our members are afraid that the expertise, dedication, and uniqueness of Leaving Certificate Applied inservice will be lost in the expected changes. They are surprised with the proposed amalgamation of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme and Transition Year in-service as the two programmes have so little in common due to social background, educational attainments, teaching and learning methodologies required.

We want to impress on you our concern at this juncture. We are of the opinion that what is in place is as good as it can be. For the future of the Leaving Certificate Applied students we would respectively ask that this amalgamation does not go ahead.

### STOP PRESS...

WE HAVE JUST LEARNED THAT THE PROPOSED CHANGES WILL NOT TAKE PLACE AND THAT THE LCA ND TY WILL CONTINUE WITH INDIVIDUAL COORDINATORS AS AT PRESENT.

This is a great relief to all involved in the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.

### MEMBERSHIP 2009/2010

For Your Information  
To contact the Association:  
**Tel: 087 2840 633**  
**or email: info@lca-association.com**  
**Web: www.lca-association.com**