



NALCACC



National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators

Newsletter

2012

Issue No 7 April 2012



**Feargal Quinn LCA Awards 2011
NALCACC AGM report**

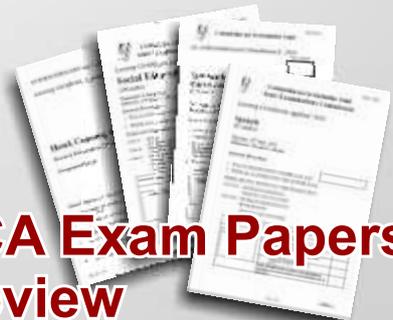
**NALCACC
namechange**



**Liam Deaton
-an appreciation**



**Dublin VEC
success in LCA**



**LCA Exam Papers
Review**

LIAM DEATON

by John Linehan



It was a great loss to The Association that Liam Deaton decided to retire as Treasurer and as Council member at this year's AGM.

Back in 2003, Liam was one of the people who got involved in 'The Association' when it was about to go out of existence due to lack of support. The Association had been formed in 2002 in Cork by John Kearney supported by myself. The first year was a struggle as we tried to get it off the ground. The crunch came in late 2003 when it seemed the venture was doomed. An EGM was held in Kildare Education Centre in a final effort to keep things going. It was at this meeting that a number of people gave us their support including Liam and Mary Farrell, who also retired as Secretary last year though still thankfully a member of The Council.

Liam threw himself wholeheartedly and unselfishly into the work of the LCA Association. He served as Chairman for a number of years and was one of the key people in organising our first National Conference in 2006. I can still remember how Liam as Chairman that day kept the conference flowing and despite a jovial attitude managed to ensure everything ran smoothly.

Liam took over as our Treasurer from the late Patricia Burke. This was just following the setting up of TPN. Liam efficiently ensured that The Association received funding from TPN that first

year and in subsequent years. This was not an easy task and Liam's understanding of the finer details of the system along with his dedication to having all things accurate and transparent resulted in him building up a great relationship with TPN.

Liam's planning ability and his careful management of The Association's Purse strings ensured we always had money at our disposal for our various activities. When the conferences and meetings were over and people had gone home it was Liam who was left paying the bills and ensuring loose ends were tidied up.

Behind all the work that Liam did for The Association was a strong belief and commitment to The Leaving Certificate Applied and the students who took part in the programme. At council meetings Liam was always ready to run with new ideas and plans if he thought it would be of assistance to co teachers, students and the Leaving Certificate Applied.

Liam has moved on to new ventures and I am certain he will apply the same dedication and willingness to serve as he did with The LCA Association.

His wit and jovial manner along with his knowledge of procedure and ability to always end meetings on time will be missed.

We wish him well in his new endeavours.



LCA EXAM PAPERS' REVIEW

by Mary Farrell

A meeting was held in June 2011 to review the Leaving Certificate Applied exam papers and the following points arose from it:

It was suggested that a reading age test should be done on sample exam papers to determine the reading level of the papers.

Social Education

Overall this was a very suitable paper that covered the topics that most interest the students during the course.

Question 3 on the aural test was difficult.

Multiple Choice: Question 4 and question 15 were difficult. The pictures that accompanied the questions were helpful for students.

Section C - The passage on Bullying was too long for some Leaving Certificate Applied students who have literacy difficulties.

My Community question 1 c and question 2 would have been difficult for some students. It would have been better if the pie chart had been drawn and students asked to write in figures

Contemporary Issues Question 2 was an ideal question.

Taking Charge

The passage here was very long for some Leaving Certificate Applied students.

Gaeilge Chumarsaide:

This paper had good graphics

and a good lay out. Piosa 1 was very suitable. It was felt by some teachers that the new weighting for the oral exam was difficult for students, some of whom had an exemption in Irish up to Junior Certificate. Concern was expressed at the high number of students who are exempted from Irish.

Hotel Catering and Tourism

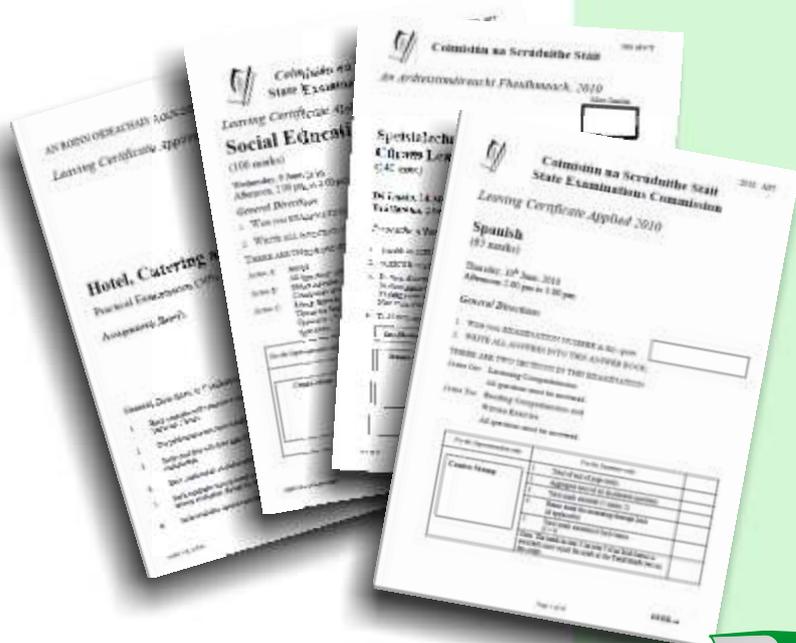
This is a practical subject, there were not enough graphics or diagrams. There was some very difficult language used. The paper was not very inviting.

Child Care

This was a good paper. Question 3 which included an explanation of the term used was a good example of how to assist students with literacy difficulties.

Spanish

The aural piece was spoken too quickly



DUBLIN VEC SUCCESS IN LCA

by Mary Farrell

County Dublin VEC celebrates the success of the Leaving Certificate Applied programme in eleven of their schools.

Dr Marie Rooney, Education Officer with County Dublin VEC coordinated a day of celebration to mark the success of the Leaving Certificate Applied in eleven County Dublin VEC schools in March. The County Dublin VEC LCA coordinators network keenly supported this event by organising displays of work from their individual schools.

The atmosphere at the event was electric as the students proudly displayed their work. There was lots of interesting task work on display that included some delicious treats especially organised for this event.

Kevin Nolan, a member of the ALL Ireland winning Dublin Team in September 2011 was present to speak to the students and acknowledge their fantastic work. Kevin is a teacher in Adamstown



Community School. Dr Marie Griffin, CEO of County Dublin VEC expressed her delight at the quality of the work and the commitment of the students. Each participating school received a certificate which marked the commitment of their school to the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.

Other speakers on the day included Clare Timmons, LCA Coordinator, a current pupil and a past pupil from Firhouse Community College. He explained how he completed a PLC course in Sports Management after the LCA. He has worked all around the world and constantly updated his qualifications. He is currently a full-time GAA coach in St Annes GAA Club in Bohernabreena.

Tom Rodgers, Chairman of NALCAC was also present at this event.

This is a very good idea which should be replicated by VECs all around Ireland.



NAME CHANGE

by Nina Doyle

Please note that it has been decided to change the name of our association from NALCAC, the National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Co-ordinators to

LCANA, the Leaving Certificate Applied National Association.

The rationale behind our decision was to broaden the focus of our association to support and include all Leaving Certificate Teachers and co-ordinators.

Our stationery, web graphics and brand identity will shortly reflect this changeover.



MICHAEL O'LEARY



As most of you already know Ms. Sheila O'Driscoll has retired as National Co-ordinator of the Leaving Certificate Applied

Programme. Sheila was always very helpful to our association and supported our every effort. We will miss her support and contribution.

On a brighter note, Sheila's role has been filled by Mr. Michael O'Leary, a native of Co. Cork. Michael previously worked as a teacher in the Christian Brothers School in Kilkenny city. He has held the position of National Co-ordinator of Transition Year Programme for

the last number of years. Leaving Certificate Applied has now also been added to his brief.

Members of the LCANA executive travelled to Cork to meet Michael in early February this year. The meeting was both positive and productive. We discussed on the ground issues facing the programme like the amalgamation of year 1 and 2. Also discussed was the need to refresh elements of the programme to lend more currency to the LCA Certificate. Overall, we agreed that we share common goals regarding the future of the LCA Programme and look forward to supporting one another's efforts in the future.



ANNUAL AWARDS & AGM 2012

by Nina Doyle

Leaving Certificate Applied National Association (NALCAC) Annual Awards Day and AGM 2012

The Leaving Certificate Applied Annual Awards Day was held on the 3rd of December at The Moran Red Cow Inn Hotel. As always, the purpose of the day was two-fold- The Annual Feargal Quinn Awards followed our AGM and our guest speaker, Mr. Gerry Farrell. The day began at 10.00am with tea or coffee and registration of attendees.



Lecture/Workshop

Mr. Gerry Farrell delivered a highly entertaining lecture at 10.30am entitled "The Actualising

Teacher". Gerry is the former senior counsellor with the Probation and Welfare Service's centre. He has lectured on Psychiatry and Counselling at Trinity College Dublin along with being a tutor at Trinity on the Diploma in Counselling course. He has also lectured at the Institute of Technology Sligo in Applied Social Care and is tutor for NUI Maynooth on the Certificate in Addiction Studies. Gerry has provided numerous in-service workshops for SPHE teachers as well as for various schools nationwide.

The lecture acknowledged the negative energies faced by teachers from students heavily influenced by an irreverent culture. It described the organisational dynamic in the school where these energies can resonate to destroy goodwill and engender resentment and cynicism. It demonstrated how, instead of resisting these negative energies teachers and their managers can harness and recycle them by the use of practical interpersonal strategies to enhance the skills and facilitate the actualisation of both teachers and students.



ANNUAL AWARDS & AGM 2011

Welcome Guests

Chairperson, Mr. Tom Rodgers, welcomed the new National Co-ordinator of Leaving Certificate Applied, Mr. Michael O'Leary who was in attendance with Mr. Harry Freeman, another member of the LCA team. Michael took the opportunity to address the meeting with regard to his new role.

Also in our audience was Mr. Tony Collison, who has done great

association while Nina Doyle was proposed for the role and elected.

John Linehan expressed his wish to stand down as membership secretary. He explained that the association needed new officers who were actively involved in teaching the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. Sandra Joyce from Rockford Manor in Blackrock volunteered her services from the floor and was elected to the role. We welcome her on board, wish her well



work with the LCA Programme.

New Roles and New Officers

The annual AGM for the association began at 12 noon. The AGM was action packed for all the right reasons!

Tom briefly vacated the chair for the election of Chair person. Mary Farrell took the chair while Tom was proposed and elected for another year.

Mary Farrell retired as Honorary Secretary to the

and look forward to working with her.

Liam Deaton expressed his wish to retire as treasurer of the association after five years in the role. Tom then proposed Pat Cashman for the role. Pat was seconded and elected.

The association were also delighted to welcome on board Marie White from Youthreach on Parnell Square in Dublin, Siobhan Keogh from Sacred Heart School in Tullamore and Eleanor Lee from Colaiste Bhríde in Carnew.



ANNUAL AWARDS & AGM 2011

Annual Feargal Quinn Awards

As always, the Annual Feargal Quinn Awards were a very important part of our day. Organised with the valued support of Gill and Mac Millan and TPN, these were well attended. Our Chairperson, Tom Rodgers welcomed the recipients of the awards:-

Jade Graham from the Presentation in Mitchelstown, Co. Cork

Teresa Mc Carthy from the Sacred Heart in Clonakilty, Co. Cork

Karen O'Leary and Nicole Murphy from St. Mary's in Mallow, Co. Cork

Sarah Cummins and Adam Posik from Limerick Youthreach.

The Award winners were presented with their awards and posed for photographs with Senator Quinn and Peter Thew of Gill and Mac Millan who sponsored the event. Also on hand for the photographs was Michael O' Leary of PDST whose niece, incidentally, was an award recipient !



HOTEL CATERING & TOURISM TASK

Pop up restaurant in Sacred Heart School for a day!

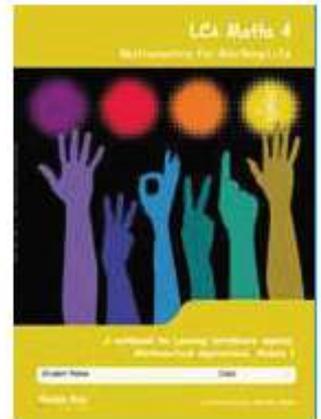
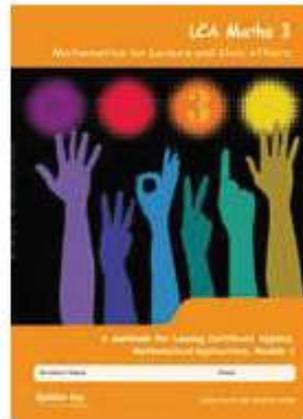
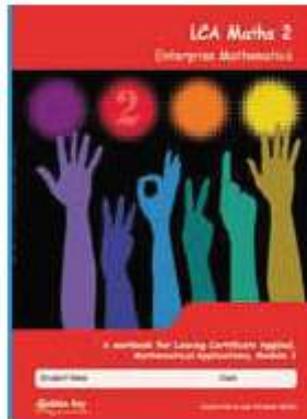
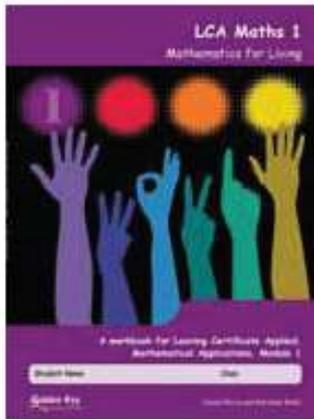
The 5V girls opened Valentino's restaurant for one day on the 1 March 2012. This event was a great success due to their preparations which began in January as they embarked on Module 2 of the Hotel tourism and catering subject which is a vocational specialism in the Leaving Cert Applied Course. It involved the planning of the menus, shopping for ingredients, setting up of dining room, preparation, cooking, serving and of course cleaning up. In the course of this students were also able to complete two key assignments and the photographs below are a testament to the professionalism that they carried out this task.

The students were indebted to the guests who visited their restaurant and would like to thank all their teachers who attended. The musicians from the school orchestra provided background music in the form of a string quartet which greatly enhanced the atmosphere in the restaurant. The girls also invited these musicians to join them to a meal after all other guests left the restaurant.

The girls in 5V then took a well deserved rest and sat down to enjoy their culinary feast. Now as they return from their work experience they will attempt to write up their report which will form the basis of their interview as carried out by DES examiners in May 2012.



LCA MATHS WORKBOOKS



Golden Key Educational Publishing, based in Skerries, has recently produced a new series of workbooks for LCA Mathematical Applications. Each workbook corresponds to the relevant module of the course and is approximately 100 pages long.

The workbooks were written by experienced LCA Maths teachers, Jackie Pierce and Adrienne Webb of St Michael's Holy Faith Secondary School in Finglas, Dublin and have been very well received.

Carol Doyle of Coláiste Chill Mhantáin speaks highly of the new materials:

"It was my first year teaching LCA Mathematical Applications. I was surprised at the lack of resources and current books available for the subject. When the flyer came from Golden Key Publishing I was delighted. I approached the principal for annual funding for the workbooks. He agreed that they would be a great asset.

LCAMaths3 kept my students busy from September to January. They have enjoyed the practical exercises and clearly laid out Key Assignments. I found having the workbook projected onto my whiteboard really helped the students focus and work with me as we completed the exercises.

We started LCA Maths4 in February and are flying through it. Students are used to the unit format and can complete exercises far more quickly and with greater ease.

The students enjoy using the workbooks; they can see a start and end line. Planning the year's scheme of work and ensuring the contents of the course are

covered is made easier through use of the workbooks.

If I were to find a fault, the only one is that some of my students have found a jump in level of difficulty when it comes to exam questions. Perhaps a special exam booklet (focusing on exam style questions) in addition to the books would be of benefit.

If I teach LCA Mathematical Applications in the future I fully intend to purchase these workbooks again. I thank Jane Landy of Golden Key for her help throughout the year."

The workbooks are also proving popular with Youthreach and adult education programmes. Marina Collins of Fealeside Training Centre comments:

"As a tutor of Adult Education dealing with a variety of students from LCA to FETAC level 3 & 4, I must say I find the new LCA workbooks of great benefit. The layout and design is very appealing and the material is easy to understand and use. I not only use them for LCA but also for FETAC Level 3 & 4. I find the staff of Golden Key very helpful and friendly. It can be hard to find suitable material but these new workbooks are a pleasure.

This book can reach a wider audience - not only LCA, but Adult Education programmes where Mathematics is a subject - the FETAC modules 3 & 4 can benefit from this material."

For more information about the workbooks and other LCA resources, go to www.goldenkey.ie



ROCKFORD MANOR SECONDARY SCHOOL

by Sandra Joyce

Rockford Manor, Blackrock, Co. Dublin

ICT Task- Claymation and Movie Making:

In February 2012 the LCA class did Claymation and movie making as their IT task. The class began the task by making 'Alice in Wonderland' figurines. They then took photos of the figurines while moving them. They photo shopped the pictures and put them on movie maker. They then added music to their movie and each student added their own ending to the story. Anchored by Fiona Mooney and Nikki Cheevers, the task was thoroughly enjoyed with five students receiving 10 credits for their task.



Trip To Viking Splash And Waxworks Museum:

On March 12th the LCA group went on their HCT trip to the Viking Splash tour in Dublin city centre and the Waxworks Museum. The Viking Splash gave the girls a humorous history of Dublin and the girls enjoyed roaring at the natives while wearing Viking helmets. The Wax museum gave a history of Ireland from the Stone Age to the present 'Hall of Fame'. The girls also used their recording studio to record their first single!! (Available on YouTube)

The National Career Skills Competition 2012:

Ciara Turner and Emma Fitzsimmons took part in the National Career Skills Competition in April 2012. Ciara did her investigation on becoming a childcare assistant. She felt that LCA gave her the opportunities to work with



children with Special Needs, in Creches, In Sunbeam House and in a Primary School. Ciara found that the credit system in LCA and the ongoing task work really suited her learning style. She felt that LCA "changed her life". Ciara came 2nd overall in the competition and will be presented with a Nikon coolpix camera and a shield by the Minister for Training and Skills Mr. Ciaran Cannon T.D. on Tuesday May 22nd. Emma did her investigation on working in the culinary Arts industry. She received a Certificate of Merit for her work.

STUDENT PROFILE:

NAME: Emma Fitzsimmons AGE: 18 LCA: Year 2
My name is Emma. I am completing my Leaving Certificate Applied in 3 weeks time. I have had great experiences in LCA. I chose to do LCA as I am a very practical person. I have been running my own business since I was 15 making and decorating occasion and Celebration Cakes. I went to many different work experiences over the 2 years; 'Country Bake', Dalkey, working in a gluten - free bakery, working in 'The Sweetest Thing Bakery', DunLaoghaire (I now have a summer job there when I finish my exams) and my last experience was in Ballymaloe Cookery School, Shanagarry, Co. Cork. I really enjoyed working in the Ballymaloe Restaurant and Kitchens and learned lots of new skills from Darina and Rachael Allen. I hope to attend the Culinary Arts course in DIT Cathal Brugha St. when I complete my LCA.



ABOUT US

The National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Co-ordinators was set up in early 2002. The aims of the Association are to promote and support the role of the Co-ordinator, assist communication and cooperation between members of the Association and interested bodies and contribute to the ongoing growth and development of the Leaving Certificate Applied. It is a national association with members from all parts of the country.

The day-to-day running of the Association is carried out by the Council, which consists of seven voluntary members. The council meets about six times during the school year. In addition, members are involved in organising regional meetings and meetings with interested bodies from time to time.

Council Members 2010/2011

Chairperson:

Tom Rodgers, 14 Newtown, Grange, Co. Sligo
Email: thomrodgers@eircom.net

Hon. Secretary:

Nina Doyle, New Ross Vocational College, New Ross, Co. Wexford.
Email: doylenina@eircom.net

Hon. Treasurer:

Pat Cashman, St. Colman's College, Fermoy, Co. Cork.
Email: CashmanPat66@eircom.net

Membership Secretary

Sandra Joyce, Rockford Manor Secondary School, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Email: Sandrafeely@gmail.com

Council Members

Mary Farrell, Greenhills College, Dublin.
Email: maryfarrell1@ireland.com

John Linehan, Nagle Rice Secondary School, Doneraile, Co. Cork.
Email: jflinehan@yahoo.com

Sandra Joyce, Rockford Manor Secondary School, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.
Email: Sandrafeely@gmail.com

Claire Freeman, CBS Secondary School, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.
Email: freemanclaire@eircom.net

Siobhan Keogh, Sacred Heart School, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.
Email: Keoghsm@eircom.net

Eleanor Lee, Colaiste Bhríde, Carnew, Co. Wicklow
Email: eleanorlee4@gmail.com

Maria White, Youthreach Transition Centre, Parnell Square 1, Dublin 1.
Email: Whitemaria@gmail.com

National Association of Leaving Certificate Applied Coordinators
Dublin West Education Centre,
Old Blessington Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24
T: 086 235 8638 info@lca-association.com
www.lca-association.com

