

COUNCIL MEMBERS

THE CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Chairperson Liam Deaton,
Killester College
Of Further Education, Dublin

Hon Secretary Mary Farrell,
Greenhills College Dublin

Hon Treasurer Patricia Burke,
James Street C.B.S. Dublin

Vice Chairperson John Linehan,
Nagle Rice Secondary School,
Doneraile Co Cork

John Kearney
Cavan V.E.C.
Claire Timmons
Jobstown Community School,
Dublin
Janet Hinchion
Rice College,
Westport, Co Mayo

MEMBERSHIP

If you wish to support the work of The Association why not join us? Membership costs just €20 per year. Membership runs from September to September. It is most important that The Association has a strong membership hand in order to be able to continue to support you the Co Coordinator and the programme.

All correspondence including membership and subscriptions can be sent to:

**LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED
CO ORDINATORS (L.C.A.C)
DUBLIN WEST EDUCATION CENTRE,
TALLAGHT,
DUBLIN 24**

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION

With more and more schools having whole school evaluations many co coordinators are concerned about the need for a Leaving Certificate Applied plan that would be part of the larger school plan. Indeed a plan for the L.C.A in each school is a necessity in its own right regardless of W.S.E. The Association is planning a meeting with the S.D.P.I to discuss assistance (templates etc) that can be given to co coordinators in this regard.

The numbers taking the LCA programme over the past three years and the grades awarded are shown in the following table.

**For
your
information**

Year	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Record of Credits	TOTAL
2003	593	1629	569	508	3,299
2004	506	1784	720	519	3,529
2005	450	1725	656	522	3,353

Table 1. LCA results (State Examinations Commission August 2005).

Thank You

Finally, I would like to thank you sincerely for all your hard work as Coordinator of the LCA in your school and for any help and support you have given us in the past.

We are looking forward to hearing from you. Liam Deaton, Chairman.

Contact: maryfarrell1@ireland.com

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED COORDINATORS

NEWS BULLETIN

T.P.N. Teachers Professional Network

As your elected Council we meet approximately eight times a year on Saturdays in the Dublin West Education Centre. One Council member travels from Cork, one from Mayo, one from Cavan and the other four are from Dublin.

On December 16th 2005 we received a letter informing us that we had been registered as a network organisation with TPN (Teachers Professional Network) and had been awarded a grant of €15,000 as follows:

- €10,000 sum to support the activities of the LCA Coordinators generally.
- € 5,000 sum to support the work and development of the LCA National Association.

The speed with which this grant was awarded to us and the amount involved is a testimony to the hard work of your Association and to the esteem and respect with which the LCA Coordinators Association is now held at this time.

THE OTHER NEWS is that we have to justify our prominence and our funding and for this we need your support, professional and financial.

We have met the following on your behalf with a prepared agenda in the last two years:

The Department of Education and Science (State Examination Commission),
Athlone
(2 meetings – Nov.2004 and 2005).

The Second Level Support Service (SLSS) (4 meetings).

The Guidance Councillors Association (1 meeting).

The NCCA (1 meeting).

We also organised Regional Meetings over the last two years in all six Education Regions, Dublin, Meath, Donegal, Mayo, Cork and Waterford. The turn-out for these meetings was a little disappointing, but the input of those present proved very useful for the work we are doing on your behalf.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Our priority in 2003 was to restore the LCA In-Service and this has been achieved. Our second objective was to make important Organisations aware of our existence and our aims. The successful meetings listed above and the grant we have received indicates that we are making progress here as well. One of the main issues we pursued was the necessity for an up to date Destination Survey of LCA students. The last survey was carried out in 2000!

Inside this issue...

- What are we planning
- Celebrating 10 Years of LCA
- Members Council
- Membership
- Whole School Evaluation
- For your information

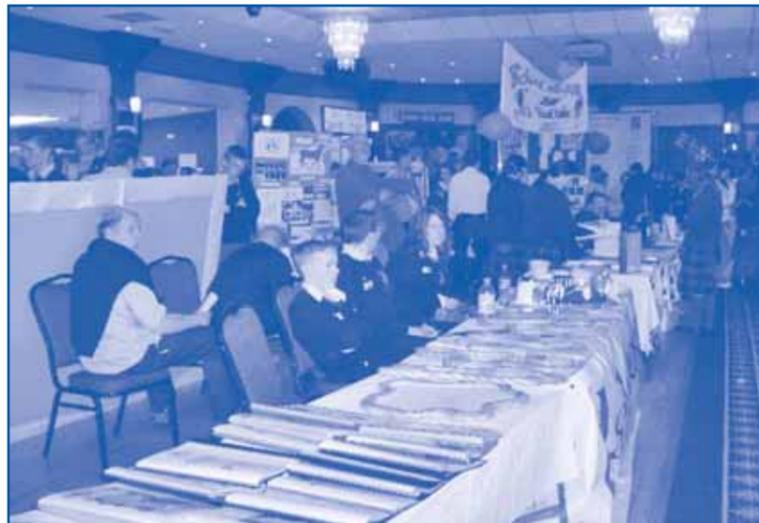
WHAT ARE WE PLANNING?

- Further Regional Meetings with a view to setting up Regional Committees to help us address local difficulties and administer the General Grant.
- To establish our meeting in November with the Department of Education and Science (State Examination Commission) in Athlone as an annual event.
- Further meetings with the SLSS.
- A meeting with the NAPD
- A meeting with the Minister of Education, Mary Hanafin.
- The creation of our own Website. This Website will contain information which, hopefully, will enable you and your colleagues to do your job in reasonable comfort. It will contain information such as the following:
 - “Whole School Evaluation and Inspection”. Resource materials. Guidelines on the marking of Tasks.
 - Access to parts of this Website will be available only to Association members.
- A regular Newsletter
- Organisation of an LCA Coordinators Conference/Seminar
- A celebration to mark the tenth anniversary of the LCA programme.

Celebrating Ten Years of the LCA



Congratulations to all the students and teachers who took part in the regional task fairs in May to mark the tenth anniversary of the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.



New Resource Material

A new resource to assist students with their task work will be available in September. ‘The Golden Key’, a workbook for Leaving Certificate Applied Year 1 is produced by Jane Landy and published by Golden Key. For further information

Telephone: 84905908.

Website: goldenkey.ie

TEN YEARS OF THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

It’s ten years since the L.C.A programme was set up in about forty schools around the country. There was great excitement at the time among teachers and others, as students who had been largely excluded from the educational system had their needs met. Today with over three hundred schools and centres offering the L.C.A the aims of the programme are the same “To serve the needs of those students who are not catered for by the traditional leaving cert or other programmes”. Thousands of students have benefited over the last ten years, many would without doubt not have completed second level school at all, were it not for the L.C.A. The skills, confidence and self esteem acquired by these young people are now benefitting the wider community as well. The success of the last ten years is due to the enormous help and support teachers got from the Support Service. The professional inservice, the high quality cluster meetings as well as the patience and availability of the team in dealing with any difficulties teachers and schools had. Many of the members of the Support Service are now involved in other areas of education but will be fondly remembered by teachers of L.C.A. Success is also due to the enormous work put in by teachers.

The L.C.A involved a completely different approach in and outside the classroom. Teachers responded to this challenge magnificently often giving up their own time to ensure the programme ran smoothly. This dedication of teachers is still one of the great hallmarks of the L.C.A. The section of the Department of Education and Science and the Exams Commission dealing with the L.C.A are also to be congratulated. They too adapted to the new programme and have been a great support for students and teachers. I have been careful not to name anyone in case I left somebody out. However three exceptions must be made. Diarmaid O’Donnabhain who was the driving force in the setting up of the L.C.A., Sheila O’ Driscoll National Coordinator of the L.C.A. who continues to work tirelessly for the programme, and Michael Garvey Director of the S.L.S.S. who gives enormous support to the Leaving Cert Applied. The future is as exciting as it was ten years ago. In other parts of this newsletter some of the plans for the future are set out. You can be part of this too, do consider joining the Co Coordinators Association. We would also be delighted if more people got actively involved in the Association. Contact us at the address given in this newsletter.

