



Connecting secondary students to NCI: our school liaison officer, Karen Campbell



From September through to April, NCI's School Liaison Officer, Karen Campbell, is rarely at her desk in the office, because she is out and about: visiting colleges of further education, working with career guidance teachers in secondary schools, attending national and local fairs, open evenings and open days, talking directly to students about their college options.

Early Learning Initiative

Newsletter

College is Cool!

Over the last few months, so many cool educational activities have taken place here in NCI and across the community. February was our #LOVEducation month with Numeracy Week, Early Years STEM event; a Day in a Life and Educational Guidance Exhibition. We also had a Table Quiz, Language Café, Creative Event, Coding Clubs, Restorative Practice training as well as hosting a seminar for our EU partners in our Erasmus+ Literacy Project. Coming up is Zoom Ahead with Books, Discover University, Monopoly, ABC 0-3 Summer Programme, PCHP and Doodle Den Graduations and lots more.

All these programmes, along with our Home Visiting and Parent Support Groups, are designed to encourage a lifelong interest in education. Evaluations consistently show that the young people involved in ELI have high aspirations for their futures. ELI remains committed to helping them achieve their dreams.

To achieve success in education, you need to start early. ELI and its partners are proud to support parents across Dublin's Inner City who have high aspirations for their children and want to see them succeed in education. We are delighted that so many parents want to develop their children's social, language and thinking skills from an early age; thereby, ensuring that these children enter school ready to learn, with the skills they need to be successful throughout their education.



Mighty oaks from little acorns

ELI's logo, the acorn, reflects how ELI and its partners are nurturing and supporting the children and young people in the community to grow into strong individuals with the capacity and resolution to achieve their dreams. We would like to congratulate all our partners on their interest, enthusiasm, innovativeness and desire to ensure that local children and young people have the skills needed, not only for second level, but for third level and the world of work. Thank you for helping us make education and college cool.

TIPS FROM KAREN

"I'll sometimes meet students who know exactly what it is they want to do, which is brilliant – I wish I'd been so certain when I was at school! But they will only have that Plan A of getting their first choice course on the CAO form, and this isn't a good idea. No matter how clever you are and how hard you work, we can all have a bad day during exams, so make sure you use your CAO form wisely. Look at Plan B: explore the Level 6 courses that might lead directly on to your first choice degree course – it may take you a year longer, but you'll get there. I would even say, consider Plan C: a PLC course that might lead to advanced entry into a degree course. If you know what you want to do, give yourself as many chances as possible to get a start on the course you want to follow."

"It's a busy time for me, but I love it! I often meet students from families where no one has gone to third level, so they think college isn't for them either, and when I'm talking to them and showing them how it could be possible, you can actually see their faces change, as they suddenly have a whole other option open up to them for after school."

National College of Ireland is a first choice for many students because it is a smaller college, where you are more likely to get to know your classmates, and where you can easily catch up with your lecturers, if you have any questions. It is a supportive environment: tutors are available to assist with maths, computing and academic writing, and there is a strong student support team to help take care of student well-being. If you are curious about NCI and want to speak with a lecturer before **CAO Change of Mind** closes, you can come to one of our **Open Evenings, 5-7pm, Wednesday May 1st or June 12th.**

"Courses at National College of Ireland are very well-respected by employers, and our career services team is brilliant, so I find a lot of students who are keen to get to work and start earning - but know it is wise to invest in a degree - are interested in coming to NCI, particularly to study our accounting, HR, marketing, business and computing programmes. Psychology is always a hugely popular choice. We also get students who are thinking about setting up their own businesses, and the practical nature of our courses appeal to them, as well as the fact that the college supports entrepreneurs. At NCI, we are always revising our courses to keep them fresh, relevant and

Corporate, government and individual support is fundamental to our success. We wish to thank all of our socially minded corporate, government and individual supporters, including: Joseph E. Corcoran, Keith Ennis and The Winifred Garvin Fund, Colin and Niki Ryan who play such an active role in the advancement of ELI.

The Area Based Childhood Programme
An Pobail Leabail agus Ghníothaí Oige
Department of Children and Youth Affairs
TUSLA
An Ghníomhaireacht um Leanaí agus an Teachlábhair
Child and Family Agency

FIRST FIVE MATTER IF YOU WANT TO GO TO COLLEGE



Did you know that what you do in the first five years of your child's life might influence whether or not they go to college? During these early years, the activities you do with your child in your home have an impact on many areas of your child's development, from learning to speak, following a simple direction, understanding people's feelings making decisions to developing relationships. All these abilities need to be nurtured.

Through both the ABC 0-2 Programme and The Parent Child Home Programme, parents across the Dublin's Inner City are being supported to develop these skills with their children. This is important, as knowing how to do all these things before your child starts school will allow them to continue to develop the skills and knowledge, they need to gain a place in college.

Children absorb their parent's attitudes and expectations towards them, so by you showing a positive attitude towards education, and high expectations of your child, you will encourage them to want to go to college. Talk openly to your child about school and future careers. Let them make their own decision about what they would like to become when they grow up and help them discover what they need to do to achieve it. So, whether your child wants to become a fireman, a doctor, a professional footballer, a lawyer or a hairdresser, with the right support from you - their parent - your child will have the best start on their journey towards achieving their potential.

A Really Cool, if Messy, College

In March, PCHP children and their families experienced a fun-filled morning at our Creative Event. Our play space contained colourful, educational areas where everyone could explore their creative skills and discover the joy of messy play. The children had a wonderful morning engaging in painting, drawing, planting seeds in their very own plant pot and making angels in a pool of shredded paper. All involved enjoyed the messy play along with making their own gloop and playdough. We're not sure who had the most fun doing this - the children or the adults! For many of these families it was their first event within the National College of Ireland. Well done to everyone involved, it was a great success and we can't wait for the next one!



A Day in the Life



Throughout the year ELI held a series of careers events for young people called A Day in the Life. This wasn't your normal, run-of-the-mill career fair though – make no mistake! We turned the table (literally!) by hosting an informal, speed-dating style event, where students and professionals sat at tables and chatted to each other for 10 minutes at a time, before switching tables. This was just enough time for students to get an idea of what A Day in the Life looked like for the professional, without things getting boring! At the events, we had volunteers from all walks of life, representing sectors as diverse as HR, Accountancy, Youth work, An Garda Síochána, Banking, Law and Community Development. Our friends in Central Bank were kind enough to host another event in April.

ELI will be running more of these events next year, so stay tuned and contact **Aine Kavanagh (086-4666413)** to book in a group!



Is College Worth It? Absolutely!

It might not be something you're thinking about just yet, but pretty soon you might be considering what the next step could be on your educational journey. Whether you're in 5th year in secondary school and thinking about your CAO application, or you're returning to education after taking some time out...we're here to tell you that college is cool!

Between applications, interviews, costs, meeting new people, being in different environments, it's an exciting new chapter in your life where you experience lots of different emotions – both comfortable and uncomfortable.

What might start as feeling **nervous** or **insecure** in your first few days will soon turn into feeling **optimistic** and about what's ahead.

Before long, feeling **self-conscious** and **dazed** about lectures and assignments will be replaced by **confidence** and **inspiration** in everything you're learning and all of the new friends you've made. And when you graduate, all of your hard work and determination will be rewarded with feelings of **joy** and **pride!**

We hope you will join us for a rollercoaster of wonderful sensations and discover that college is cool!



Discover University

Discover University is back this June to get the message out that College IS, in fact, COOL! It runs in NCI from Wednesday June 19th to Friday 28th June 2019 (excluding the weekend). This 8-day college taster programme is for you - if you are a 14-17-year-old secondary school students. You can choose one of the following third-level subjects to study: Business, Psychology, Computing or Early Childhood Education. Throughout the programme, you will complete a group project for presentation to the public at the end of week 2. Expect a jam-packed 8 days of visits to exciting Docklands companies, workshops, activities and of course, the famous DJ Graduation & BBQ on Friday 28th (parents and siblings welcome, caps and gowns essential!).

For more information and to book your place, please contact **Aine Kavanagh (086-4666413)**