

Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme Newsletter

Cross-Border Youth Art Programme

Our cross-border youth programme provided opportunities for participating students from Enniskillen Royal Grammar School (ERGS) & Ballinamore Community School (BCS) to explore their identities, histories and futures through the medium of art. Under the guidance of Darragh Slacke from Craic Integrated, the students have collaboratively produced a book, which features a range of art work, including poems, songs, pictures, and photographs.

The book represents the collective journey the young people have been on since joining the project and depicts their experiences, feelings and emotions as they explored their shared past, present and future together. The book will be used as a learning tool during our Peer Mentorship Conference later in the Spring. This is in partnership with Moat Primary School, Lisnaskea and Scoil Chlann Naofa, Ballinamore.

With QR code links to recorded songs from the students, the book provides the young participants with great opportunities to express their understanding of peace in ways most suitable to themselves.



Another highlight of the art programme was the creation of a “wall” - inspired by the students’ visit to the Peace Walls in Belfast, in which all students painted their names, representing their dedication to cross-border cross-community understanding and cooperation.

Facilitator Darragh Slacke said “Throughout human history the outcome of war always confounded it's futility. The island of Ireland, now a place of peace, was a land that has known unrest for hundreds and maybe even thousands of years.

“Now in a world of diminishing resources and increasing population, there has never been a more important time to learn from the mistakes of the past. Art speaks to us in a universal language holds a mirror to our nature. Where words fail art speaks. All we have in this world is each other and in order to find the right path to a peaceful shared humanity we need to keep working on inclusive, dynamic expressive art forms that easily communicate what's really important against the confusing times that lie ahead.”



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Leitrim Volunteer Awards 2024

Our Community Service Hub Volunteers were delighted to be awarded the 2024 Leitrim Volunteer Centre Outstanding Group Award for Environment, Diversity and Sustainability.

Our volunteers are a diverse group made up of individuals from a range of countries and backgrounds. They run the Community Services Hub, which provides a space for the community of Ballinamore to meet, socialise find information and signposting supports. The Hub also features a repair cafe and swap shop, both run by volunteers who share their skills in bike maintenance and sewing for the good of the planet.

We are always looking for more volunteers to get involved, please get in touch if you would like to join our award winning team.



Cross-Border Schools Visit Belfast

Students from Ballinamore Community School & Enniskillen Royal Grammar School enjoyed an enlightening trip to Belfast. As well as learning about decision making processes in Stormont, the pupils also visited Shankill and the Falls, learning from knowledgeable guides about the Troubles and the impact history has on present-day lives.

“It was a really valuable experience and I really enjoyed it!
Writing my name on the peace wall was a personal highlight.”
Charlotte - ERGS.

“The trip was very engaging. I learnt more about the differences
between the North and South, in terms of our histories.”
Clodagh - BCS.

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