

Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile Peace Impact Programme Newsletter

Peer Support Conferences

A highlight of our cross-border cross-community Youth Programme was our two-day Peer Support Conference. Bringing together primary and post-primary students from schools in Enniskillen, Lisnaskea and Ballinamore, the events provided space for peer led learning, art, story exchanges and conversation.

Held in the inspiring Share Discovery Village in Lisnaskea - a fantastic centre which promotes social-inclusion, education and the environment through its fantastic facilities and range of activities - the students first engaged in a day of art and creative activities led by Daragh Slacke of Craic Integrated.

This included the creation of a giant mandala fabricated with sourced materials from the grounds of the Village, a game of life-size snakes and ladders and the creation of a tree of life. These Tree of Life images were shared between the schools as a symbol of peace.

The aim of the day was to create safe and secure spaces for students to engage with each other and build connections.



On the second day, the 90 Students from Ballinamore Community School, Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, Moat Primary School and Scoil Chlann Naofa, Ballinamore took part in a story exchange facilitated by Jennie O'Hara.

The Story Exchange model is championed by the charity Narrative 4, who say "Stories break down barriers and shatter stereotypes. They foster empathy, kindness, compassion and curiosity."

The students built rapport and confidence through a range of drama games, discovered what they had in common and composed a story depicting an important day in their life, which was then presented to the group by their partner, allowing the participants a chance to 'walk in each others shoes'.

It was a fantastic day, students said:

- I spoke in front of people & enjoyed it;
- Everyone listened to each other. No one judged;
- It was a fun experience;
- I enjoyed it a lot because I sat next to new people;
- I enjoyed it as it was out of my comfort zone.



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Trip to Dublin

To round off our cross-border youth programme, participating students from Enniskillen Royal Grammar School & Ballinamore Community School enjoyed an educational trip to Dublin.

Alongside a guided tour of the General Post Office, students also found out about the history of migration from Ireland at EPIC - the Irish Emigration Museum. There was also, of course, a refuel stop at Supermac's.

We want to take this opportunity to thank all the students who participated in this programme for their openness, empathy and willingness to learn and build connections with others as well as their teachers for their support and enthusiasm.



Farewell to Michael

We end this newsletter with news that our Project Manager - Michael Mullin - is moving on to pastures new.

Since 2022, Michael has led this project from strength-to-strength, facilitating innumerable cross-border visits, talks, events and trips. His passion for building peace cross-border is evident in the success of this project and the connections he has fostered.

This is exemplified in the recent Cross-Border Schools Book which depicts the multitude of ways in which participating students have developed connections and built friendships.

Wishing Michael the best of luck in the future.

Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile

The Den, Swanlinbar Road, Ballinamore, N41 R522

Office: 0873835513 / Project Manager: 0894635009

Facebook: [bettertogetherballinamore](https://www.facebook.com/bettertogetherballinamore)

Instagram: [@bettertogetherprogramme](https://www.instagram.com/bettertogetherprogramme)

