



DCU in the Community

January 2013 www.dcu.ie/community www.facebook.com/dcuinthecommunity

Latest News:

- Congratulations to all students who completed our 6-week Bridge to Education Programme in December. The course covered areas such as Study Skills, Mathematics and Information Technology, and included a tour of DCU Campus. Graduation event will be held in the new year.
- Our 10-week FETAC Level 5 Multimedia course proved to be popular and successful with the participants looking forward to presenting their multimedia projects at an event on DCU Campus in January.
- In November and December DCU in the Community delivered 5 Learning to Learn sessions as a part of Boxing Clever programme coordinated by HSE Rehab Integration Service, Ballymun Youth Action Plan, Local Drugs Task Force and Urrus. The programme's emphasis is on rehabilitation and reintegration of the socially excluded into society by means of education, sports and fitness, addiction awareness, and counselling. Thank you to DCU Sports who have been delivering fitness classes and mentoring to participants.
- We are delighted to team up with Ballymun Community Law Centre who will offer a Housing Law and Policy course at DCU in the Community from January. The course has been designed in association with School of Law at NUI Galway and will be offered via videolink. If you work in the area of housing law and would like to get involved please contact us.
- December saw the launch of our Study Skills workshop series for 1st Year secondary students, established jointly with youngballymun. The first session was a great success with 27 students attending from a number of secondary schools in Ballymun, Finglas and Glasnevin. A follow-up workshop is planned for the end of January.
- Community Maths: Drop in Well centre in Ballymun hosted our Maths for Parents course in November. We are also happy to support and contribute to BITE's Higher Level Maths Tuition programme for 5th Years at Trinity Comprehensive school.

DCU Links:

- In December, DCU hosted an Actioning Engagement conference jointly with the HEA and Campus Engage to discuss how best to promote community based learning and research, and student engagement and volunteering. Speakers included Muirís O'Connor of the HEA and Paul Manners of the Beacons for Public Engagement in the UK, and representatives from a wide range of University and Institute of Technology engagement projects.
- Thank you to Susan Hawkins and DCU Access for co-organising a series of events for local secondary school parents in Axis Ballymun. In October and November the topics included supporting your child through 6th year, CAO application process and HEAR scheme.
- School of Communications: 2nd Year Journalism students were out and about our neighbourhood again working on their radio assignments that were aired on DCUfm.
- DCU Community Knowledge Exchange was launched in November to promote community based research. DCU in the Community is committed to supporting the initiative and spread the word among local community groups.
- Thank you to Mary Farrelly from DCU School of Nursing who visited us again to deliver a workshop on mental health as a part of Boxing Clever course.



Bridge to Education students at work

Community Partner News

- * Ballymun Job Centre have started a new European project *Networking for QA* promoting local interagency approach to quality assurance in vocational education and training. DCU in the Community are happy to be a part of the network.
- * A 10-week College Preparation course will start at CDVEC Adult Education Guidance Service in Ballymun on 15th January and will cater for mature learners returning to education.
- * Project FUTSAL course is underway, delivered jointly with the FAI, Whitehall College, DCU in the Community and DCU's School of Health and Human Performance.

Staff News

- * Thank you to Dr Helen McQuilán, Development Officer, who helped re-establish DCU in the Community and led and managed it for over 2 years. Helen has left a committed and focused team and remains an independent advisor and consultant.
- * Welcome to Lorna Ni Cheirín, our new Development Officer, who starts in January. Best of luck!
- * Myra Flynn, a student from National Learning Network, has interned with us as an administrator since November.
- * Yolanda McDonnell, CE participant from CAFTA, was based in our centre in the winter and assisted in administration and reception duties.

