

Press release (to issue on 4 November)

Minister “turns the sod” for major new education and training campus in Carlow

On 4 November 2015, the Minister for Education, Jan O’Sullivan TD, performed the ‘Turning the sod’ ceremony for the advance works preceding the start of a major educational building project in Carlow town.

When the Public Private Partnership (PPP) building project is completed in 2017, the **Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board (KCETB) Carlow Campus** will include

- a new post-primary school for 1000 pupils
- a new 1000 place facility for Carlow Institute of Further Education and Training
- a sports hall and fitness suites to serve the students in both post-primary school and FET college.

This is a huge project costing around €25-30 million, one of a number of new schools being built for the Department of Education and Skills under public-private partnership in 2016.



The site for the KCETB Carlow Campus is at Mortarstown, on the Kilkenny Road. The Minister turned the sod for the advance works which have started this week, to include building a roundabout, providing a footpath, lighting and signage for the new campus. The contractor for the advance works is SIAC.

The contractor for the main building works will be appointed later this year; building will start in Spring 2016, and will be completed by September 2017.

This important development represents very positive collaboration between the ETB and IT Carlow: the new KCETB Carlow Campus is to be built on a site which IT Carlow is transferring to the ETB in exchange for the old ETB school building. This exchange works well for both IT Carlow and KCETB – it enables the IT to expand its teaching facilities on its main campus, while the ETB gains the benefit of a larger site to accommodate its new multi-level campus and create a new education and training hub for the Carlow area.

In arriving at a decision to make this major investment in Carlow town, the Department of Education and Skills looked at the population growth in the area and determined that there would be a need for an extra 800 places at post-primary level by 2018-20. It was decided to expand the ETB school to cater for the increase in student numbers. This is a very significant

development for the school and the ETB, based on their past record and their proven capacity to meet the needs of wide range of students. In coming to this decision, the Department considered the school's excellent inspection and whole-school evaluation reports and its performance on school completion and other measures.

The new post-primary school for Carlow gives a unique opportunity for Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board to build on the 90-year legacy of Carlow Vocational School and to create a state of the art school for the 21st century.

The new school is to be named Tyndall College, to honour the world-renowned Carlow-born scientist, John Tyndall, who was responsible in the nineteenth century for (among other things) being the first to describe the greenhouse effect and to discover why the sky appears blue.

By September 2017, Carlow will have two brand new state of the art modern buildings, with first class education and training facilities, offering the very best environment for high quality teaching and learning. Tyndall College will have an inclusive ethos, offering a wide range of subject options, catering for all students' interests and abilities, respecting the cultural and religious backgrounds of all families, and educating their children together in a caring atmosphere that encourages everyone to reach their full potential.

KCETB will shortly take over the training functions for counties Carlow and Kilkenny that were formerly undertaken by FÁS. The new building for Carlow Institute of Further Education and Training will serve as a hub for Further Education and Training (FET) in Carlow, offering high-quality full-time and part-time programmes that are directly linked to opportunities in the labour market.

For further information, contact

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