



Support for Learners during COVID-19

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In this Session:

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- AONTAS
- Response during COVID-19
- Member Outreach
- Group Discussion
- Plenary Session



Warm-Up Activity



AONTAS the National Adult Learning Organisation

National Adult Learning Organisation in Ireland
(Celebrated 50 years in 2019)

Advocate on behalf of 500 members nationwide

- National Coordinator – European Agenda for Adult Learning (EAAL)
- Engaged in Erasmus+ KA1, KA2, KA3, and the European EaSI Programme

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- ‘The Coronavirus has caused the largest disruption to education in history impacting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries’ (OECD, 2020, p.2).
- Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, marginalised groups have unequivocally experienced an exacerbation of disadvantage.
- A significant reduction in disadvantaged adults participating in education, particularly accredited programmes at the early levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.
- Compared to 2019, in 2020 there was an average reduction of 50% in QQI Major Awards attainment at NFQ level 1-4.

52% of Travellers and Roma reported not having access to a laptop to complete their coursework. 68% also indicated they relied on a mobile phone for their learning. (AONTAS, 2020)

AONTAS' Response

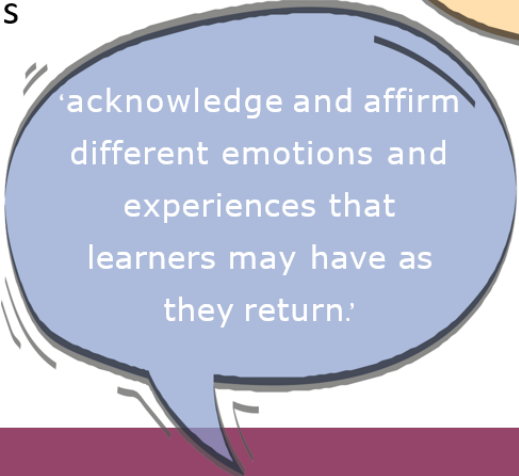
- Learners as Leaders
- Weekly webinars
- National FET Learner Forum – ‘COVID-19 Learner Survey’
- Mitigating Educational Disadvantage Working Group
- Communication Campaigns



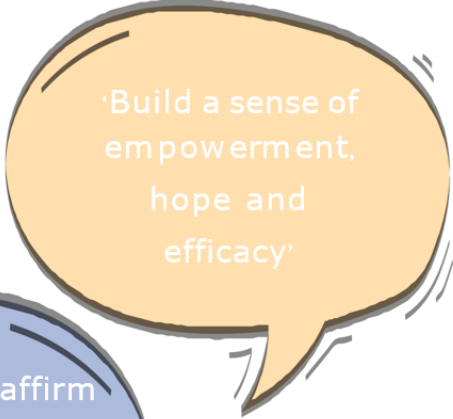
Weekly Webinars

5 Wellbeing Key Messages


1. A sense of safety
2. Calming
3. Self and community efficacy
4. Social connectedness
5. Hope



'acknowledge and affirm different emotions and experiences that learners may have as they return.'



'Build a sense of empowerment, hope and efficacy'



'Re-establish and build connections, relationships and a sense of belonging with peers, tutors and the centre'

Weekly Webinars

10 Principles of Learner Engagement during COVID-19

1. Empathy

4. Learner-Centred

7. Plain English

2. Not Business as Usual

5. Listening to Learner
Voice in Learner
Communities

8. Follow Up

10. Learning from
the Crisis

3. Sustain Educational
Relationships

6. Peer
Communication
between Learners

9. Streamlined

Learners as Leaders

Part of the European Agenda for Adult Learning (EAAL)

Non-formal learner centred programme

- 'Have a cup of Tea with AONTAS'
- 'Black Lives Matter and Anti-Racism: What Does it Mean and What Can I Do?'
- Peer Mentoring programme
- Advocacy and Public Speaking
- Learner Stories





#LearnersAsLeaders

What makes a good peer mentor?



LEARNER STORY

"Don't let that voice in your head tell you 'I've got a disability': you can do it"

Name: Gillian

Place of Learning: Maynooth University



“ The mere thought of not being able to pay for education can make you abandon your dreams. But that seems not to be the case. ”
- Innocent Umezuruike Iroaganachi,
Adult Learner

LEARNER STORY

"Anything is possible once you do not give up on yourself"

Name: Avril

Place of Learning: An Cosán, Ronanstown CDP

Visit www.onestepup.ie today to
#FindYourLearningPathway

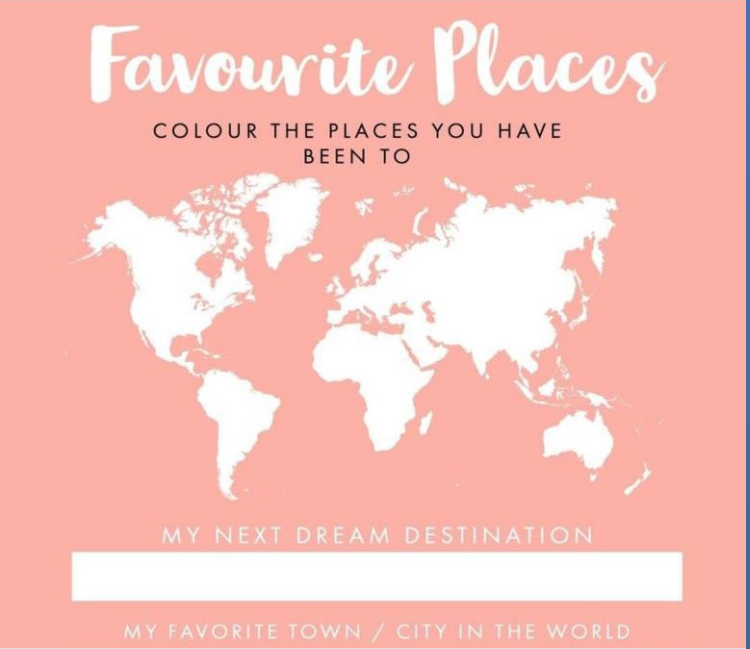
#DidYouKnow



Innovative Practice from AONTAS Members

Dublin Adult Learning Centre 13 Jun • 🌐

If you're writing in your journal today, why not write a few lines about your favourite city or town in the world. Here in Ireland, we're so lucky th... See more



Reflective Journals with Dublin Adult Learning Centre



Postcards with WWETB Adult & Community Education

Dublin Adult Learning Centre April 6 at 7:30 PM • 🌐

With lockdown, many of us are experiencing free unstructured time that we're just not used to. Our schedules have changed dramatically (or completely disappeared) and the days of the week have just merged into a single mass of time.

However, some of our students are still working (many working as care staff, cleaners, retail staff) and it can be really tough to stay on track with your training and learning goals.

This could be a good time to look at what you're doing / studying, where you'd like to end up and take stock of what you need to do to either stay on track or make a change.

Here's a good short YouTube video that will hopefully help you:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA53yhiOe04&feature=youtu.be>

SMART goals

FLIKR

YOUTUBE.COM
Achieve More by Setting Smart Goals
Want to be a quarter more productive and get a positive boost while you're...

AONTAS April 3 at 10:45 AM • 🌐

A great example of unique learning opportunities during COVID-19. Well done to all involved in the production of these interesting activity videos from Laois and Offaly ETB Community Education. Thank you for bringing them to our attention.

If your group or organisation continues to provide learning opportunities please send us a PM and we will help to promote your activities.
#ETBCommunityEducation #CommunityEducation #COVID19

4,364 Views

Laois and Offaly ETB Community Education April 3 at 9:22 AM • 🌐 Like Page

One of our new Community Education Tutors, Sean, has put together a very practical grading tutorial full of tips. The first part is on reporting plants (5min... See More

Learning during COVID-19

Working as a Collective: The importance of including and listening to voices across the whole sector.

Evidence for Advocacy: The importance of an evidence base in advocating for the needs of adult learners and the adult learning sector

Building Understanding: What do you mean by learner centred? What is your understanding of educational disadvantage?

Building Capacity: Continuing to learn and grow. Share knowledge and resources.

Group Discussions

1. What are the experiences of the participants when it comes to learner support?
2. How do these experiences relate to the Irish examples?
3. What is needed to ensure learners support?
4. What can improve it? What are the barriers?

Please select a representative to present your feedback to the main group



Plenary Session

Learner Support during
COVID-19

- Presentations from each group
- Conclusions and recommendations