

Localise Launches Community Service Learning Schools' Action Project Pack

Peace Corps - Localise launched Ireland's first Community Service Learning Schools' Initiative on May the 5th, at 11 a.m. from the Italian Room in Government Buildings. The Localise Schools Pack was launched by Minister of State John Curran together with third year students from Larkin Community College who participated in one of our schools pilot programme in 2008.

The Localise Community Service Learning Programme is a method of connecting classroom lessons with meaningful service to the community. This community service learning initiative has been piloted in a number of secondary schools in Dublin since 2007. With the development of the School's Action Project Pack in 2009, the programme will be now rolled in a number of schools in Dublin and throughout the country. "We aim to be in every school in Ireland by the end of 2012"- said Derek Cleary, Director of Services of Localise.



In the present economic climate the Localise Community Service Learning Programme can provide a practical solution to local community needs. Ireland has the potential to become a centre of excellence in developing meaningful and engaging community service learning programmes within Europe.



"The Localise programme looks to your students for ideas and to your community for resources and makes the connection. It was ideal for our CSPE action report"- said Nuala Sheridan, Larking College School Teacher.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Curran said "I hope that this initiative takes off on a national level. I have seen at first hand some excellent work done through a pilot of the programme in my own community, where young students carried out a variety of projects, including

visiting the sick and elderly, maintenance works on the grounds of the local church and raising money for charity".

Minister Curran continued by saying "the programme benefits everybody involved. Students gain real work experience and become involved in their own community. They become aware of things that could be done to improve the community for all residents and they are given the opportunity to see that by their decisions and actions, they can have a huge positive impact on the lives of those around them". He congratulated the students who have already taken



part in the programme and recognised the valuable contribution that teachers have towards the running of the programme. "I applaud the efforts of students who have already taken part in the Community Service Learning Schools Programme and urge schools around the country to make use of the action report pack and make a real difference to their local communities", he finished.



Minister Curran with 3yr
Larkin Community College
Students