

Numeracy Report to date:

The Numeracy team in Coláiste na Toirbhirte consists of

Bernice O Leary (Maths and English)

Eileen O'Brien (Career Guidance)

Lisa McCarthy (Business studies and Accounting)

Margaret Barrett (Maths, Geography and CSPE)

Eimear Whyte (Maths, Business)

Lorna O'Farrell (Maths, Science and Physics)

Declan Cronin (Maths, Science, Biology and Chemistry)

Numeracy began its implementation in September 2015 so we are on year 2.

The following are the strategies we implemented together as a staff and student body during the academic year. The main aim for us, as you will see from the attached Report was to focus on the improvement of Problem Solving.

Problem of the Month:

The problem of the month was designed to include all students in the school. The problem solving questions aimed to all levels entertain students on a monthly basis while teaching them different problem solving strategies. Students can enter through the school app or through the Numeracy team and prizes are awarded to the winning student/group of students.

Feedback from all students has been very positive and we hope to continue to develop this.

Numeracy Nina

We decided to develop a Numeracy mascot to bring an element of fun to Numeracy. The idea of Numeracy Nina was agreed on and this will be printed on all Numeracy notices and when students see it they will know it is Numeracy related.



Percentages Posters

From surveying the staff and students we found that a common approach to teaching percentages was necessary. So we decided to get the students, with guidance, to design the percentages poster that would be in all the classrooms.

Percentages posters should be ready to be printed early next year and will be put in all rooms so that we all have a common approach to teaching percentages.

Numeracy Board:

The Numeracy Board was an initiative to let students know the “Numeracy News” that was going on around the school. Each department took it for a month and designed the board with Numeracy in their subject for that month. The students helped the teachers to design it so it incorporated both staff and students.

Focus Group:

On the advice of PDST Numeracy Co-ordinators, we are in the process of setting up a Focus group of three 3rd years and four 5th years to help us to promote Numeracy and in particular Problem Solving. We will meet the Focus group regularly and brainstorm and implement ideas to promote Numeracy in Coláiste na Toirbhirte. The students will bring ideas from the student body and take ideas back.

Maths Counts:

Bernice O Leary and Margaret Barrett attended the weekend Problem Solving lectures by Professor Akihiko Takahashi where they learned good problem solving skills. They hope to introduce these problem solving skills to the staff.

Numeracy Club

Numeracy Club was a lunchtime club set up to promote Numeracy mainly with our target group in mind. It was a huge success last year and we hope to continue running it this year with the help of the focus group.