

ELT



Ireland bulletin

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Email us to write for the next ELT Ireland Bulletin!

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Welcome to our 8th Bulletin!

by Laura O'Grady (President of ELT Ireland)

2021 saw ELT Ireland welcoming its new committee members, Amanda McGeer (Bulletin), Anna Maroutian (Membership) and the stepping down of Former ELT Ireland committee members Austin Brailey-Jones (Social Media) and Liam Tyrell (Membership).

I want to say a heartfelt thanks and admiration to our committee, 2021 saw ELT Ireland adapting to the challenge that is our 'New Norm' with all our committee stepping up to the plate and ensuring that our scheduled ELT Ireland events proceeded. It is due to their commitment that ELT Ireland were able to host a variety of events throughout the year. Throughout this pandemic we have been able to ensure that our members had access to our ELTed events, our Manager Meet-ups and our annual conference. Membership of ELT Ireland continues to grow gaining members from both within and outside the ELT community. Our 8th Annual Conference will be taking place in person on the 19th and 20th of February 2022. The theme this year is "A New Beginning?" and we are looking forward to welcoming our plenary speakers Michelle Hunter, Fiona Bonke and Debbie West. We will also be hosting a large number of speakers from home and abroad, along with sponsored talks, talks with our exhibitors and exciting networking opportunities in person! We are looking forward to having our face-to-face conference in February and it is important to us that this goes ahead. It means that we, as professionals, can network, reach out and interact with our peers after not having been able to do this in person for quite some time. We decided to go ahead with a face-to-face conference for that very reason. ELT professionals need to interact and share our ideas together, in person and with willing listeners. What is involved this year? In line with government guidelines, we planned the conference, liaised with our exhibitors, plenaries and speakers. Working with Griffith College to ensure that our 8th Annual ELT Ireland Conference will proceed.

As President of ELT Ireland, I would like to thank you all for continued support, commend the committee for working tirelessly throughout the year to bring you so many worthwhile events and, as always, I am looking forward to growing our membership in the year ahead.

Letter from the Editor

by Amanda McGeer (Bulletin Editor)

I joined the ELT Ireland committee as bulletin editor in 2021 after writing for the previous edition. The edition that you have in your hands or open in your browser did not happen overnight. I have had the privilege of working alongside ten creative and dedicated ELT professionals from Ireland and beyond in order to create this edition. Ahead of the call for articles, most contributors attended the annual ELT Ireland Article Writing Forum, an online event that looked at previous editions, the style sheet and allowed for small group brainstorming activities which proved to be incredibly useful for first-time writers. Once first draft articles were submitted, the contributors became part of the "Network of Reviewers". This was where they read and provided anonymous feedback on an article by a fellow contributor. While this meant that writers received a review from both myself and a member of the network, writing the reviews also helped them to reflect on their own article in preparation for final draft submission. I hope you enjoy reading this edition of the bulletin as much as I have enjoyed putting it together. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank and commend the hard work done by this year's bulletin contributors. If you would like to contribute to the next edition, please email your article idea to info.eltireland@gmail.com and keep an eye on our social media for everything bulletin related.



Slide from the Article Writing Forum

Pic by ELT Ireland

ELT Ireland Events

by Gabriele Pozza (Events Coordinator)

In what continued to be challenging times globally, the ELT Ireland community did not stop. We kicked off 2021 with the 7th Annual Conference, which was held online, and had David Fisher, Anna Nunan, and Peter Lahiff as plenaries, in addition to 30 talks by Irish-based and international passionate speakers. Additionally, we held 5 fantastic ELTed webinars last year, where we tackled teachers' emotional burnout, how to better work with the 4 skills in the classroom, and several other strategies to better connect and engage with our students. You can watch all of the talks from 2021 and previous years on the "ELTed Talks" section on our website. Last but not least, 3 manager meet-ups were held, and topics such as post-pandemic health and safety and dealing with uncertainty were discussed. We would like to once again thank our members who have made it all possible during these challenging times. You are the ones who keep ELT Ireland alive! ELT Ireland are looking forward to another year of great achievements.



ELTed Talks December 2021

Pic by ELT Ireland

ELT Ireland Manager Meet-Ups: Because managers need a “Staff Room” too.

by Peter Lahiff (Web Editor)

As any teacher will tell you, one of the resources they most rely on is their staff room. Being able to bounce lesson ideas off colleagues and get suggestions on how to deal with challenging situations in the classroom is really valuable. Managers, in contrast, don't have a peer group that they can call on in the same way and, especially in smaller institutions, the role can be quite isolating. We came up with the concept of the ELT Ireland Manager Meet-Up in response to this. The idea was to bring people involved in management together for a structured discussion about the common challenges they face. These are not seminars and the aim is not to tell people what they should be doing. Instead, we pick a topic and some prompts to spark conversation and share experiences.

With all the tasks that have to be juggled, the hectic role of the academic manager often leaves very little time for reflection and discussion, which is why dedicating time each quarter is beneficial. We originally scheduled the meet-ups on Wednesday evening, but people found it difficult to take part after work, so we have been doing them online on Friday afternoons (2:30pm - 4pm) for a year now. As we prepare to return to face to face events, this is one that we are planning to keep online so that managers wherever they are, can log in from their desks and take part in the discussion. The topics covered over the last year have been, Dealing with Uncertainty, Managing Visa Dependent Courses, Post-COVID Health & Safety and Recruitment. After each session we post the discussion points to our ELT Management Ireland LinkedIn Group. The Meet-Ups are held three times a year in January, March/April and November. We hope to see you at the next one!



Manager Meet-Up January 2021

Pic by ELT Ireland

Become a member of the ELT Management Ireland LinkedIn Group.



ELT Ireland on Social Media

by Dimitra Gkotosopoulou (Social Media Coordinator)



ELT Ireland Twitter profile

Pic by ELT Ireland

Be part of our growing online community on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter & LinkedIn - @ELTireland. You can take advantage of the opportunity to communicate with thousands of ELT professionals around the world, find professional development ideas, and get notified about ELT Ireland and other ELT events. Feel free to DM us if you would like us to share an ELT related post of interest on our social media.

Check out the back pages of the bulletin for links to all our social media channels.

ELT Ireland Newsletter

by Ben Dobbs (Newsletter Editor)

Throughout the past year, ELT Ireland's newsletter has been sent on a biweekly basis to both members and subscribers. Along with ELT Ireland's social media channels, the newsletter is one of our main ways of communicating events, news, calls for papers and more to anyone interested in ELT Ireland and its activities. The newsletter underwent a slight revamp in structure with the intention of making it more accessible. There are currently 300 subscribers to the newsletter. We are always looking for news, events both in Ireland and elsewhere, research requests, materials and more to share so continue to encourage members and readers to get in touch with anything of interest. If you are not already a subscriber, you can sign up on our website.