

# Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM Newsletter

September 2024



## Welcome to Our Autumn Newsletter!

It is hard to believe two years have passed since we began the [Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM](#) project. Funded by the Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Education to support teachers and learners with the skills and competencies required for the 21st Century.

MCSS, was built on previous research, (McKeown et al, 2022) that clearly showed the challenges our state education faces as the challenges of the 21c become increasingly apparent. The need for Futures Literacy (UNESCO, 2012) and the transition to facilitating learning rather than teaching content and 21c skills and competencies are increasingly cited by key actors in the need for educational reform (OECD, 2022, 2024, UNESCO, 2021).

In our final MCSS newsletter, we share some of our initial findings and learners' perspectives.

### STEAM Space Day of Learning South West Kerry

In May, Coláiste na Sceilge Transition Year students from the Space Messengers and STEM Girls Programmes had an out-of-this-world experience with us on all things space science!

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### Exploring Teacher Engagement with Transition Year Programmes in Ireland: Insights from a Recent Survey

Transition Year (TY) in Ireland offers students a unique, exam-free year focused on personal development, practical learning, and exploration...

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### Transition Year STEAM Challenge Taster Programme

In the 2024/25 school year, we facilitated a STEAM Challenge Programme with Transition Year (TY) students at Coláiste na Sceilge in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry. This innovative programme...

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### Futures Literacy and Climate Resilience: Preparing for the Future

Read more about our relaunched resource platform, [Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM](#) and Futures...

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## STEAM SPACE DAY OF LEARNING IN SOUTH WEST KERRY

In May, Coláiste na Sceilge Transition Year students from the Space Messengers and STEM Girls Programmes had an out-of-this-world experience with us on all things space science! From virtually visiting the Hadron Collider control room in CERN, chatting with particle physicist Dr Steven Goldfarb, to exploring the International Space Station through VR, and participating in discussion and debate around their understanding of the possibilities and ethical considerations on the future of space, it was a day filled with STEAM and space exploration! Hear from Sarah, one of the young people who joined us on the day..

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## EXPLORING TEACHER ENGAGEMENT WITH TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMMES IN IRELAND: INSIGHTS FROM A RECENT SURVEY

Transition Year (TY) in Ireland offers students a unique, exam-free year focused on personal development, practical learning, and exploration. However, implementing effective TY programmes requires significant teacher involvement and resources. To understand the challenges and opportunities within this educational phase, we conducted a comprehensive survey targeting all TY teachers in Ireland. The survey ran from February 29th to March 22nd, 2024, and gathered responses from 57 teachers...

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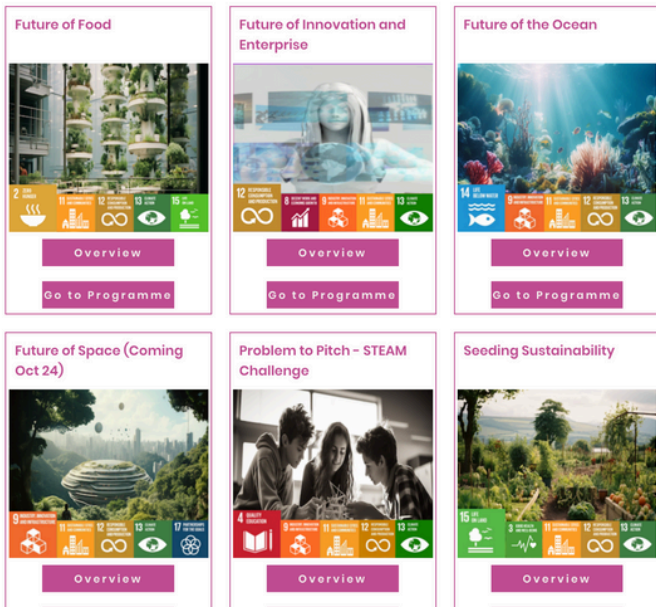
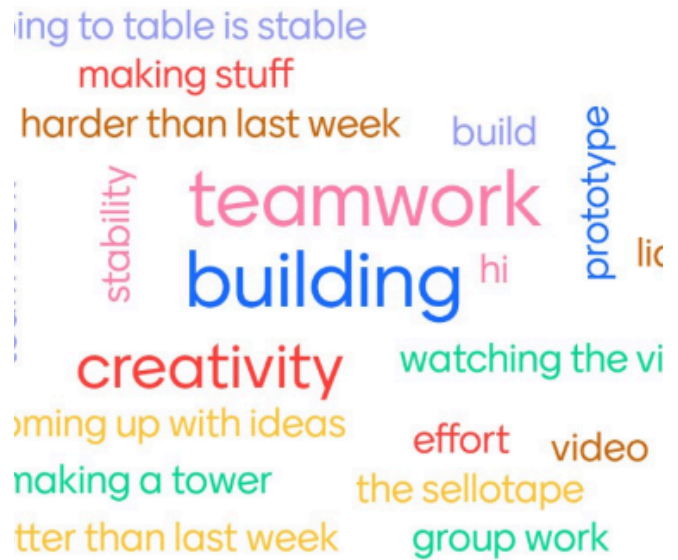
## Latest News

- ESD - 2030 Future Focus21c awarded €25K from the Department of Education to support Continuing Professional Development in Education for Sustainable Development and Futures Literacy
- Re-launch of Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM Education for Sustainable Development and Futures Literacy with over FREE 800 lessons and activity sheets
- MCSS co-programme leads both presented at Edulearn, Mallorca 2024
- MCSS co-programme leads both presented at EASE 2024, the 3rd Summit of the European Network of STEAM Educators
- Rebecca White, Future Focus21c co-founder and director to be a judge in the 2024 QS Reimagine Education awards
- Future Focus21c awarded €6K from the Tomar Trust to develop Lego Robotics in Kerry

# TRANSITION YEAR STEAM CHALLENGE TASTER PROGRAMME

In the 2024/25 school year, we facilitated a STEAM Challenge Programme with Transition Year (TY) students at Coláiste na Sceilge in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry. This innovative programme, emerged from our Problem to Pitch module as a manageable taster to introduce STEAM and Challenge led learning to teachers and learners (2022-2024, co-funded by Science Foundation Ireland and the Department of Education). Our research has shown that with timetables, subject specific learning and different skills sets, transitioning to project and challenge led learning can seem overwhelming. It was designed to test a model to support educators in this transition...

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## FUTURES LITERACY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE: PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

We relaunched our resource platform, this month as we come to the end of the Muinín Catalyst Sustainable STEAM (MCSS) project, our 2-year Science Foundation Ireland and Department of Education joint-funded project, through the Discover Programme. Our aim from the beginning was to augment and transition the Irish Senior Cycle, in particular Transition Year, with 21st-century future-ready skills, towards a curriculum for all, both educators and learners will need.

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## In our next newsletter we will share exciting news about our new projects and programmes

- Read about our Key findings from our Muinín Catalyst STEAM Education for Sustainable Development and Futures Literacy and new CPD programmes
- Read about our 2024 / 25 First Lego League teams progress with this year's theme: Submerged
- Update: How we are building capacity in Robotics and Coding in South Kerry
- Find out about our new transatlantic partnership with STEMarts Lab, New Mexico USA
- Launch of our Future of Space programme for TY

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