



## Moate Community School RSE Workshop for Transition Year students, 2010

Moate Community School's TY relationships and sexuality education workshop was held again this year, and as always was a huge success. The TY students themselves were unsure of what the day was all about but the facilitators, Mr. Dolan, Ms. Kennedy, Mr. Hatton and Ms. Prendergast were all highly prepared and made it an enjoyable and informative day.

Divided into groups, the students began the day with an icebreaker game to get them into the swing of things and to create a more relaxed atmosphere. Each leader was given a folder and a list of tasks to do with their group throughout the day. These tasks were all based around self-esteem, building self-confidence and building relationships with others. As certain issues arose, interesting discussions and debates broke out with each person feeling comfortable and confident to give their own opinion, with some interesting views and results.

Students were given an hour for their lunch-break and the school provided a delicious lunch free of charge to keep energy levels up for the rest of the school day. Everybody returned to their groups after their socialising with a fresh mind and a full belly. They were all brimming with anticipation for some more fun, games and debates in the afternoon. The students filled out an evaluation sheet at the end of the day and the results were very positive. Students and teachers alike enjoyed the day.

The next day at school everybody shared how much they enjoyed the workshop, the third year students were very inquisitive about the workshop; the topic developed and the methodologies employed throughout the day. Clearly they were very excited about the RSE workshop 2011 which they will be taking part this time next year.

Moate Community School has won a National award for its 'ECDL Centre: Best practice in Automated Testing System'. The school became an independent ECDL test centre in September 2009. Soon afterwards the school started using the new system of automated testing. Automated testing is a system where ECDL examinations are completed on a secure website and the test results are generated instantly. To win this award within one year of its establishment is a fantastic achievement. The Teacher involved, Ms Aoife Halligan was invited to give a presentation to the delegates at the annual conference of the Irish Computer Society in Dublin last week to explaining the new elements of this testing system and the benefits from a school's point of view. In her speech she outlined how the Automated System of Testing ECDL is a remarkable breakthrough for ECDL centres. This is the first year the system has been in operation and is being used by over 50% of candidates in Ireland, with over 1000 ECDL centres in the country, Moate Community School is leading the way for the development of this area.

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Moate Community School, Church St. Moate, Co. Westmeath (c) 2010