

## Centre for School Leadership Update -February 2019

### Mentoring

**320** principals (266 primary and 54 post-primary) are currently being supported by CSL mentors.

The final CSL Mentoring Information session is due to take place in **Athlone Education Centre on Thursday March 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4-30pm**. This is the final opportunity this academic year for newly appointed principals to access a CSL mentor.

Upcoming Professional Learning Days for CSL mentors are planned for Tuesday and Wednesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday and Friday, March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Participants on March 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> will be privileged to meet with Professor Christian Van Nieuwerburgh from the University of East London. He will present two workshops:

***Practical Strategies for Motivating and Inspiring Others*** and

***Using a Conversational Framework to Support Change.***

Ms Viv Grant from Integrity Coaching, based in the UK, will present two workshops on:

***Keeping Hope Alive: How successful school leaders keep themselves and others connected to their vision, passion and purpose*** and

***Keeping the Connection to what matters most in Headship***

Participants on March 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> will attend presentations and workshops with Dr. Joe O'Connell, Dr. Tony Bates and Adam Harris.



## Coaching

550 school principals have accessed the CSL coaching service to date.

Principals who have accessed four coaching sessions themselves can now expand this coaching supports to other members of their leadership teams. Four coaching sessions are available for up to six members of the team, including the principal.

The **focus for this team coaching service** is the development of leadership capacity through collaboration and distributed leadership.

Further information on the service is available on the CSL website.

## The Post Graduate Diploma in School Leadership (PDSL)

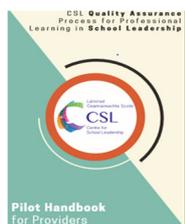
**Applications for Cohort Three are now open.** The link to the application form is available on the PDSL page of the CSL or UL websites. The new course will begin in September.

This **level 9** course is aimed at those aspiring to senior leadership, and is an 18 month blended course with three semesters, ending in **December 2020**. The cost of the cost is €2,000 to applicants, with the remainder covered by the DES.



## Quality Assurance

The CSL QA Pilot was completed in December. The team is currently developing a revised and streamlined version of the QA Process. Providers will be asked to submit professional learning for quality assurance from next September.



## A Shared Calendar

CSL is working collaboratively with all stakeholders to develop a shared calendar of professional learning for principals and deputy principals for the **2019/2020 school year**.

It is hoped that this calendar will be available to stakeholders to test during the month of March and that stakeholders will begin populating the calendar with their professional learning provision as soon as this testing period is completed.

## Collaborative Provision

CSL is working with stakeholders to develop collaborative practice in the provision of professional learning in the system.

It is hoped that this work will produce exemplars of good practice in the next school year.

## Leadership Clusters

101 schools are involved in the CSL Leadership Clusters Initiative with 24 innovative projects beginning in March. The **Opening Seminar** takes place on **February 28<sup>th</sup> in Athlone**. Presentations will be made on communication, collaboration, distributed leadership and project management, and schools will have the opportunity to meet with their CSL facilitator and to access support from third level institutions and business.

This is a demonstration model of collaborative learning through creative and innovative practice, and it is expected that the learning from it will inform future opportunities for schools in this area.



***“Excellence through Collaborative Leadership and Management”***

**Outline of Information Session**

## Learning to be a School Leader in Ireland

The Graphic below represents the essential elements of school leadership in Irish schools.

At the centre of the graphic is the moral imperative of school leadership – that of improving learning experiences, outcomes and wellbeing for students and school communities. CSL believes that learning to be a school leader must impact on both the person and the practice of the leader. The variety of school leaders that exist in schools are represented by the grey octagons and they are arranged cyclically emphasising the non-hierarchical nature of leadership in today's schools.

The circles outline the team's research findings with regard to the essential elements that are necessary for effective professional learning for school leaders. CSL will be engaging with providers of professional learning with a view to exploring how best they can use the model as a framework for the development of their programmes/activities.

