

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

### PÁIRIC CLERKIN, IPPN CEO

Páiric is the Chief Executive Officer of IPPN. He was educated in St. Vincent's CBS Primary and Secondary Schools, Glasnevin, and obtained his teaching degree from St. Patrick's College. His first teaching post was in St. Francis Xavier SNS, Dublin 15. In 2001, Páiric was appointed as the founding Principal of St. Patrick's National School, Diswellstown in Dublin 15. He served initially as a teaching principal, and in 2003 became an administrative principal, following rapid expansion of the school. His sixteen years of experience as principal, close collaboration with his principal colleagues in Dublin 15 and his engagement with IPPN over a number of years heightened his appreciation and understanding of the complex challenges faced by school leaders in their diverse educational settings.



Páiric was an active member of IPPN Dublin for several years and served as chairperson from 2007 to 2010. In 2009, he was elected to the IPPN Board of Directors, and was appointed Treasurer in 2015. He presented a number of workshops at IPPN annual conferences and delivered CPD modules at IPPN County Network meetings, also representing IPPN on the 'Education Matters' editorial team. During his tenure on the Board, Páiric initiated a pilot project to ascertain the feasibility of remote full-time administrative support for a cluster of teaching principals of small schools. He has also contributed to IPPN publications and submissions to the DES and Joint Oireachtas Committee on Education and Social Protection on a number of topics. Páiric was appointed as CEO of IPPN in 2017.

### DAMIAN WHITE, IPPN PRESIDENT



Damian is president of IPPN. He has been principal of Scoil Shinchill, Killeigh, Co. Offaly since 1994 and is a native of the neighbouring parish of Kilcormac-Killoughey. He graduated from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick in 1987 and taught in Scoil Cholmcille, Kells, Co Meath, Scoil Treasa, Donore Avenue and St. Brigid's Castleknock before returning to Offaly to take up his present position.

He is a founder member of IPPN and was a member of the IPPN Board of Directors until he began his role as IPPN President in September 2019, having been elected IPPN Deputy President in June 2017.

Damian has held numerous positions in IPPN, including National Treasurer and, for many years, he was an advisor with the Leadership Support service as well as Editor of Leadership+. His regular article for the publication provides a colourful and insightful perspective on life as a school principal. His articles have been published in principals' magazines in a number of countries, as well as in the programme for the International Confederation of Principals (ICP) in Toronto.

His play 'A Triumph of Allsorts', based on the events surrounding The 1916 Easter Rising, was produced in several schools across the country in 2016. He had co-responsibility for the development of the Trade Exhibition at the annual IPPN conference for many years. He is a trained mentor with CSL, the Centre for School Leadership. His wife Marguerite is also a school principal. They have three children - Emily, Sarah and Liam.

## BRIAN O'DOHERTY, IPPN DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Brian qualified as a primary school teacher in 1988. He began his teaching career in St. Patrick's Loreto PS and served there as a mainstream class teacher for 13 years. He completed his M. Ed during this time, specialising in the areas of Education Management & Administration and Educational Psychology. He was appointed to his first principalship in 2001 in Loreto College Junior School where he worked for five years. He returned to St. Patrick's Loreto PS in 2006 as principal. The school currently has an enrolment of just under 800 pupils and has 63 members of staff.



Brian has been a member of IPPN since 2001 and is a former member of the National Council. He was elected to the IPPN Board of Directors in 2016 and served as Treasurer from 2017 to 2019. He was elected as IPPN Deputy President/President-elect in June 2019 and will serve as President from September 2021 to August 2023.

## DR. JOLANTA BURKE, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY



Dr Burke is a Chartered Psychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Education in Maynooth University. She is a programme leader for *Masters in Educational Leadership and Management*. Her research interests include positive leadership, wellbeing in schools, and pedagogies for wellbeing.

Dr Burke's latest book is "*The Ultimate Guide to Implementing Wellbeing Programmes for School*" published by Routledge. For more information, please go to [www.jolantaburke.com](http://www.jolantaburke.com).

## DR. MAJELLA DEMPSEY, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

Majella Dempsey, Ed.D. is Associate Professor in the Department of Education in Maynooth University where she lectures on curriculum studies and STEM education. Her research interests include curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment. Prior to joining Maynooth University Majella work with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment.



## TERESA GRIFFIN, NCSE CEO



Teresa has been the CEO of the National Council for Special Education since 2011. Prior to that, she was the Principal Officer in the Special Education Section in the Department of Education. Teresa has worked in special education policy and operational matters for over 20 years.

## MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, NORMA FOLEY TD

Norma Foley is the Minister for Education. She was appointed to this role in June 2020.

Norma was elected to represent the Kerry constituency in the 2020 general election.

She was previously a member of Kerry County Council for the Tralee area, serving from 1994 until her election to the Dáil in 2020. She also served as a member of Tralee Urban District Council until its abolition in 2014.

You can contact Ms Foley at [norma.foley@oireachtas.ie](mailto:norma.foley@oireachtas.ie)



## MARY NIHILL, CSL NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Mary is National Director of the Centre for School Leadership (CSL). She started her career in education as a post primary Science and Maths teacher. She coordinated the Transition Year programme in St Paul's Secondary School Oughterard Galway for a number of years. She completed a Masters in Education in 1993 and was appointed Principal of St Pauls in 1994.

In 2005 she was seconded as Assistant National Coordination to the Leadership Development for Schools (LDS) team and coordinated programmes such as Misneach - the programme for newly-appointed principals, and Forbairt –a development programme for established Principals and Deputy Principals. She was appointed as Principal of Calasanctius College in Oranmore Galway in 2010.

Mary was elected as President of The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals in October 2014 and, since 2015, has been seconded as the National Director of CSL. Her role within CSL requires Mary to engage on an ongoing basis with leadership in primary schools and she has a particular interest in exploring how leadership can be better distributed within all schools and including within schools led by principals with teaching responsibility in the primary sector. Mary is currently undertaking PhD study with the National University of Ireland, Galway.

## JOHN KIELY, LIMERICK SENIOR HURLING MANAGER

John is manager of the Limerick Senior Hurling Team.

He has been Principal of The Abbey School, Tipperary since 2013, having taught Maths, Business and Computers there since 1997. As a player, John was a member of the Limerick Senior Hurling Panel - they were beaten in the finals, by Offaly in 1994 and Wexford in 1996.

He coached many teams in The Abbey winning a number of Munster and All-Ireland titles in hurling and Football, and several club teams locally including his own Galbally and Garryspillane before becoming Manager of the Limerick Intermediate Hurling Team in 2010.



John joined the Limerick U21 Hurling management team in 2011, winning a Munster title. In 2012, he was appointed as a selector to John Allen of Cork, a primary school principal himself and, in 2013, Limerick went on to win a Munster Senior Hurling title for the first time since 1996.

He served as U21 manager for 3 years and, in 2016, was appointed Manager of the Limerick Senior Hurling Team. In 2018 they won the Munster League, Division 1B Title and the coveted All Ireland Senior Hurling Title after a 45-year wait. They have since added titles including 2019 & 2020 Munster League, 2019 National Hurling League, 2019 & 2020 Munster and the All-Ireland of 2020. In 2020 the team won every game in a remarkable season.

He was named Munster GAA Manager of the year in 2015 and 2018 and named 2020 RTÉ Sports Manager of the Year.

## PROFESSOR STEVE MUNBY



Steve is a self-employed consultant and speaker on leadership and on system reform. Based in the UK, he works with governments and with groups of schools around the world. He has spent his whole career in education, commencing as a secondary school teacher in Birmingham, England and later becoming Director of Education for Knowsley Local Education Authority in Merseyside.

Steve was Chief Executive of the National College for School Leadership in England for eight years and then Chief Executive of Education Development Trust, an international education charity working in Asia, India, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. Steve is also the facilitator for the ARC summits (education systems from around the world committed to equity, excellence, well-being and social justice).

He is Visiting Professor at University College London Centre for Educational Leadership and is Chair of the Teaching Awards Trust. He has written several articles and think-pieces. His book "*Imperfect Leadership – A book for leaders who know they don't know it all*" was published by Crown House in July 2019.

Twitter: @steve\_munby

## DR NORAH PATTEN

Norah has been on a mission since the age of 11 to become Ireland's first person in space. She is passionate about using her experience to encourage both young and old to shoot for the stars.

Norah grew up in the west of Ireland, but a family trip to NASA in Cleveland aged 11 became the start of a lifelong dream to travel to space. Today she is a faculty member at the International Space University, and in 2017 became Ireland's first citizen scientist-astronaut candidate with Project PoSSUM (Polar Suborbital Science in the Upper Mesosphere).



Norah has participated in several citizen science campaigns including microgravity research flight, spacesuit testing and evaluation, high-g flights and spacecraft egress. In 2019, she released her children's book *Shooting for the Stars* (O'Brien Press), which won An Post Children's Book of the Year (senior category). Through a partnership with U.S. company NanoRacks, the leading provider of commercial access to space, Norah initiated and managed 'The Only Way is Up' project, which launched Ireland's first student experiment to the International Space Station in 2014. She also participated in the International Space University Space Studies Program in 2010. She holds a PhD in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Limerick and has industrial experience from The Boeing Company and Bells Labs Alcatel Lucent.