



BORD OIDEACHAIS AGUS OILIÚNA  
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**KILDARE AND WICKLOW**  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD



QUALITY ASSURANCE EZINE





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- Results Approvals
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# GOVERNANCE OF QUALITY

## New QA Governance groups

### Establishment of New Quality Council and Sub-groups

A key action for our annual Quality Action Plan for 2024 was the review of the Terms of Reference for the Quality Council and its Sub-groups and the review and refresh of membership for the new four year term. The review and refresh has allowed us to ensure we have continuity with serving members agreeing to continue for a second term and new members joining our governance groups; we also have some change where members who originally sat on one Sub-group have moved to another which will help bring a range of perspectives to our work. We are extremely grateful to all those who have agreed to participate in our Quality Council and its Sub-groups as it is an essential part of our work that enables us to continue to provide our high quality, responsive FET which centres our learners' needs. We will be focusing throughout 2025 on expanding the membership of our governance groups with Phase 2 prioritising the learner voice and external membership.



# GOVERNANCE OF QUALITY

Our new Quality Council and Sub-group members are as follows:

## Quality Council

Ken Seery (Chair)  
Gabriel Allen  
Garry Allen  
Catherine Byrne  
Caitriona Cullen  
Eileen Cullen  
Louise Fortune  
Lisa Harvey  
Susanne Kelly  
Brenda Lynch  
Annette Mangan

## Programme Governance Sub-group

Brenda Lynch (Chair)  
Una Burke  
Patricia Dalton  
Patrick Flanagan  
Olivia Knight  
Caroline McCabe  
Debbi Metcalfe

## Quality Assurance Sub-group

Caitriona Cullen (Chair)  
Eilis Clare  
Deirdre Curtin  
Karen Donegan  
Bernice McLaughlin  
Tracy O'Shaughnessy  
April White  
Christine Wray

## Stakeholder Engagement Sub-group

Eileen Cullen (Chair)  
Rory Clarke  
Olivia Deegan  
Niamh Fingleton  
Ruth McSherry  
Mary Mooty  
Ashley Stephens





# RESULTS APPROVALS

## KWETB FE CERTIFICATION 2024: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

As we approach the end of 2024, it is time to reflect on the incredible achievements of our learners and the support from our centres. This year has been remarkable for KWETB FE Certification, with a total of 8,051 portfolios submitted for certification across six certification periods.

- February – 359 portfolios presented for certification
- April – 867 portfolios presented for certification
- June – 4908 portfolios presented for certification
- August – 1594 portfolios presented for certification
- October – 291 portfolios presented for certification
- December – 32 portfolios presented for certification

These numbers are a testament to the hard work and dedication of our learners, who have shown commitment throughout the year. Each portfolio represents hours of study, practice and perseverance.

We extend our thanks to our schools and centres for their continuous support. Your efforts in providing quality education and adhering to KWETB quality assurance policies and procedures ensures that learners achieve their goals.

To all the learners, congratulations on your outstanding achievements and we wish you well on your progression, be it employment or further education.

We look forward to 2025 and the Quality Team are currently working on February 2025 certification.

The Quality Team



RESULTS  
APPROVALS

# KWETB FE CERTIFICATION 2024: CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

## Training Services

Feb – 112 Portfolios

Apr – 47 Portfolios

Jun – 407 Portfolios

Aug – 206 Portfolios

Oct – 413 Portfolios

Dec – 351 Portfolios

Total – 1536 Portfolios



IMPORTANT  
DATES

✦ KWETB Certification Schedule FET 2025 ✦

| Certification Period (FET) | Submission of Estimates (FE)   | Deadline for upload of Internal Verification Reports (FE)                            | Deadline for upload of documentation for online EA (FE)                                      | Latest date for packs to be returned to TSO (T) | EA Period (FE)                                           | RAP (FE)                      | RAP (T)                         | Latest date for TSO submission of approved results using the RCCRS for inclusion in file upload to QQI (T) | Deadline for submission of authenticated results to QBS/close invalid entries (FET) | Final statement of results available for download (FET) | Certificate s issues by QQI (FET) | Deadline for QQI External Appeals application (FET) |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Feb-25                     | 13 <sup>th</sup> December 2024 | 14 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                                                        | 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                                                                | 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                    | 21 <sup>st</sup> January – 7 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 | 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 | 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2025   | 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2025                                                                              | 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                                                      | 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2025                          | 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025       | 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025                      |
| Apr-25                     | 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025 | 7 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                                                           | 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                                                                  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025                    | 18 <sup>th</sup> March – 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025     | 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2025    | 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025     | 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025                                                                                | 12 <sup>th</sup> April 2025                                                         | 16 <sup>th</sup> April 2025                             | 12 <sup>th</sup> May 2025         | 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2025                         |
| Jun-25                     | 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2025    | 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025. Centers <u>must</u> request for late                       | 8 <sup>th</sup> May 2025. (19 <sup>th</sup> May - if late request granted for IV submission) | 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2025                        | 12 <sup>th</sup> May – 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2025     | 22 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025       | 28 <sup>th</sup> May 2025                                                                                  | 12 <sup>th</sup> June 2025                                                          | 16 <sup>th</sup> June 2025                              | 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2025        | 27 <sup>th</sup> June 2025                          |
|                            |                                | submission of IV – May 14 <sup>th</sup> - This will be depended on EA availability . |                                                                                              |                                                 |                                                          |                               |                                 |                                                                                                            |                                                                                     |                                                         |                                   |                                                     |
| Aug-25                     | 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2025     | 3 <sup>rd</sup> July 2025                                                            | 10 <sup>th</sup> July 2025                                                                   | 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2025                       | 14 <sup>th</sup> – 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2025            | 29 <sup>th</sup> July 2025    | 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2025      | 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2025                                                                                 | 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2025                                                        | 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2025                            | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025   | 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2025                        |
| Oct-25                     | 10 <sup>th</sup> September     | 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                      | 18 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                              | 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025                  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 3 <sup>rd</sup> September 2025        | 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2025  | 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2025 | 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                                            | 12 <sup>th</sup> October 2025                                                       | 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2025                           | 10 <sup>th</sup> November 2025    | 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024                       |
| Dec-25                     | 14 <sup>th</sup> October 2024  | 7 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                                                        | 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2024                                                               | 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2025                   | 17 <sup>th</sup> – 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025        | 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025 | 24 <sup>th</sup> November 2025  | 28 <sup>th</sup> November 2025                                                                             | 12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025                                                      | 16 <sup>th</sup> December 2025                          | 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2026     | 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2024                      |

Download  
a copy here



# Launch of the ETBI FET RPL Network

The new **ETBI Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)** Network was launched at an event at DDLETB's offices in Tallaght, County Dublin.

This national network, which will meet quarterly, offers a great opportunity to bring ETB RPL practitioners together to share expertise, resources and information about development in this policy area, and about practice in the recognition and validation of learning.

To keep up to date on national and international developments about recognition and validation of learning, here are some social media links:

**RPL Practitioner Network, Ireland:**  
[RPL Practitioner Network Ireland | LinkedIn](#)  
[RPL Practitioner Network on X](#)  
**RPL in HEIs: [Recognition of Prior Learning | LinkedIn](#)**

European Guidelines for Validating Non-formal and Informal Learning:  
[European guidelines for validating non-formal and informal learning.](#)  
[CEDEFOP](#)



With thanks to Angela Higgins



Erasmus participants would like to take a moment to express our sincere appreciation for the incredible opportunity to participate in the Erasmus program.

Through the Erasmus trip, we have gained invaluable knowledge, and made lasting connections with people from Eduko Kouvola Finland.

The exposure to different cultures, perspectives, and academic environments has deepened our understanding of the world and enriched our personal and professional growth in many ways.

Sincere thank you to Angela Higgins and Aisling Foran for making this trip possible.





# ERASMUS



#Erasmus4FET  
#ThisisFET #SeoéFET

KWETB became an Accredited Erasmus organisation in 2024.

The first phase of our Erasmus Plus has completed. 17 staff across KWETB FET services visited host partner organisations in Finland, Latvia, and Czechia. Applications for phase two of our programme opened in November, and staff had the opportunity to apply for mobilities in Latvia, Finland, Italy, and Réunion.

As part of our reciprocal relationships with other Erasmus Accredited organisations we host visitors to come to experience the Irish VET system. In November a delegation of Principals from Germany visited KWETB. Guests from MBO Utrecht will visit in January, and April will look forward to our friends from Latvia to visit our centres.



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# NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Digital Skills @ Your Library Programme



Greystones library



Arklow library



Blessington library

# Launch days



Wicklow Town library



# NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Digital Skills @ Your Library Programme

Digital Literacy isn't just about using technology; it is about understanding it – The online world can be hard to navigate and understanding digital literacy can pose a challenge to many in society. The ability to find, evaluate, and communicate information using a device can be overwhelming at the best of times.

Daily tasks can seem impossible or frightening to some, when engaging in the digital world. Some people have never had to use online banking, book concert tickets, or pay for parking using their phones and the digital world can feel very different than what people have experienced before. Security and sharing personal information can frighten some and impacts on how users share and interact with their digital device.



The success of this projects demonstrates the great demand for one-to-one digital literacy support in our communities. The partnership between the library and the KWETB is innovative, providing a tailored digital literacy service free of charge.

The project is a safe, non-judgemental space for people to talk to the tutor about their unmet digital literacy issues and creates an opportunity to connect individuals with other services and programmes in KWETB and the community. The library will measure the benefits through pre and post engagement surveys and use the data to inform future projects.



# NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Digital Literacy

Wicklow Library Service and KWETB partnered to provide one to one digital literacy clinics in four library locations across County Wicklow, in Arklow, Blessington, Greystones and Wicklow Town. The DigiLit programme is funded through the ALL Collaboration and Innovation fund and organised by the Adult Basic Education service. The project is a free service offered in libraries across the county and works on a one-to-one model of tuition. It is staffed by KWETB tutors and offers one-to-one help with digital skills, such as accessing information, online forms, setting up an email account, e-government services, online shopping and resources



The aim is to increase and empower participants' digital literacy skills by offering free one-to-one tuition.

Bookings for the sessions are managed by library staff and each session is 45 minutes. The target groups for this project includes individuals from groups identified in the ALL strategy, with many aged 55+.

DigiLit offers many benefits to the citizens of County Wicklow with personalised support, focused learning, skills development and confidentiality being the key benefits. The clinics were promoted through local media channels, and the KWETB's and library service network.

Stay tuned for more updates on  
our creative journey with  
Creative Schools!

# CREATIVE SCHOOLS YOUTHREACH CREATIVE JOURNEY



## Leixlip Youthreach

At Youthreach Leixlip, we are thrilled to be part of the Creative Schools Initiative. Creative Schools is a flagship of the Creative Youth Plan – led by the Arts Council in partnership with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media, Education & Skills and Children & Youth Affairs.

Our Youthreach Creative Schools Coordinator, Tara Carroll, is delighted to embark on this exciting adventure and is looking forward to seeing our Youthreach students express their creativity and imagination while also promoting the importance of their student voice within our Centre.

Recently, we had the pleasure of welcoming the talented artist Valerie Haslam (our Creative Schools Associate) who conducted an engaging felting workshop which our Youthreach student really enjoyed. Each student had the opportunity to create their own individual felt piece, resulting in a collection of beautiful and highly creative pieces. Each work contributed to a patchwork piece that reflects their Youthreach environment.

We look forward to working with Creative Schools over the next two years as these experiences are invaluable, offering our Youthreach students the opportunity to explore new artistic techniques, express themselves, and nurturing their artistic talents and skills.

Lisa Harvey, FET Programme Co-ordinator, Leixlip Youthreach



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# NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## Leixlip Youthreach



### Work Experience Success for Leixlip Youthreach Students

The Youthreach Leixlip students have excelled in their recent work placements, showcasing a remarkable range of skills, hard work, diligence, and an outstanding work ethic. Their resilience and determination have been rewarded in the form of excellent employer reports and references along with the offer of part-time employment. Students worked in a variety of settings including hospitality, early childhood education, motor mechanics, retail, and animal care. We are incredibly proud of their achievements.

Employers have been equally impressed, with one stating, "Without question, the best student we have had." Another employer noted, "An excellent student that will go far with her can-do attitude," while others mentioned that the students "are very capable of securing employment" and "a pleasure to work with." Additional praise included comments such as "very helpful and hardworking" and "displayed resilience and determination."

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the local employers who have supported our work experience programme, providing invaluable opportunities for these talented young individuals to thrive and grow.

Thanks to  
Sinead Baker Leixlip Youthreach.



Riley Duffy



Joe Whelan



Grace Lyons



## NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

# Leixlip Youthreach

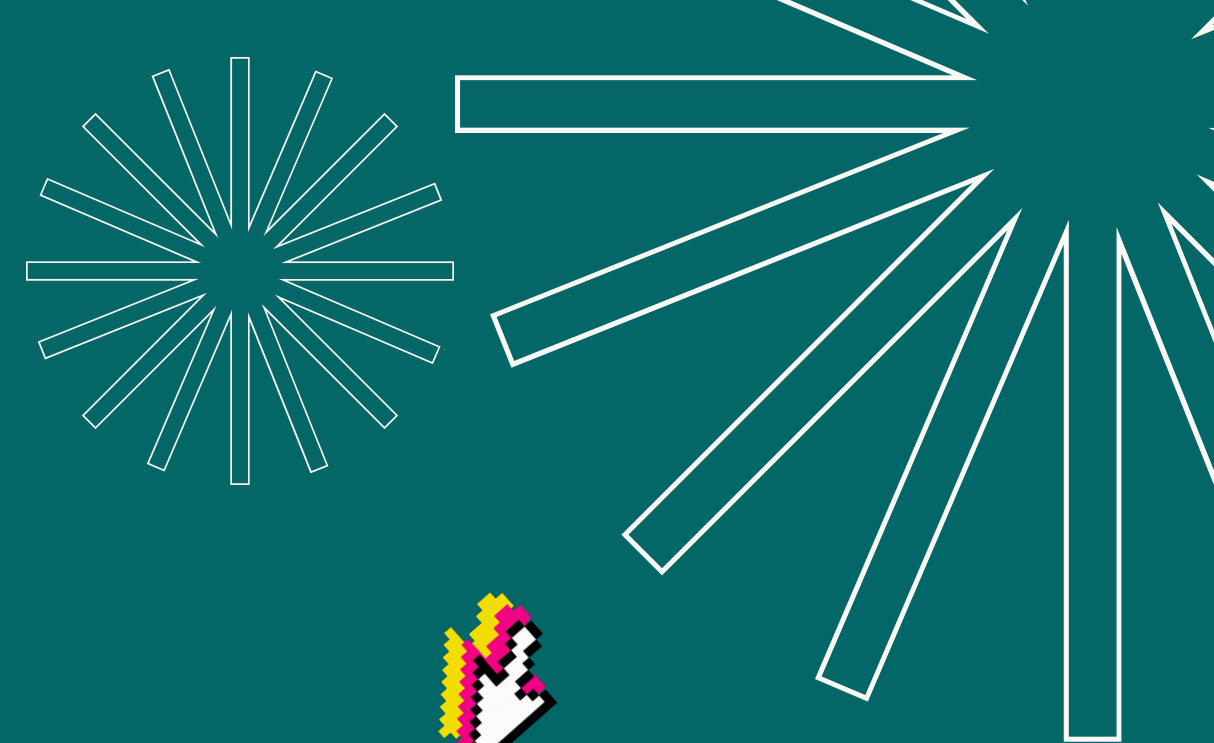
**ON AIR**



In this edition of the Youthreach Podcast students Erin, Riley and Lucy report on how a visit to Ballymun's Rediscovery Centre – The National Centre for the Circular Economy in Ireland – has inspired young people and staff in Leixlip to take action on sustainability.

With thanks to  
Derek O'Halloran

*The music used in the podcast is by Vlad Krotov from Pixabay*





# NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Blessington & Baltinglass FETC

Baltinglass and Dunlavin students visited the libraries in their localities with tutor Claire over the last few weeks. Now all are registered and are using the library on a weekly basis.



On Friday 25 October, students brought in dishes using different cooking styles and shared with all in the Centre. There was discussion on recipes, ingredients, amounts and cost. It was a fun learning experience (the food was nice!).

With thanks to Karen Balfe  
Baltinglass and Blessington  
FETC



# NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

## Blessington FETC



We recently held our Show Racism the Red Card (SRTRC) day here in Blessington FETC on 24 October 2024, where €200 was raised. Staff and students alike were asked to show their support by wearing red – some would have seen managers wearing red at the strategy statement day in support of SRTRC.

SRTRC was founded in the UK in 1995 by footballer Shaka Hislop, and has been operating in Ireland since 2007. In 2001, the programme was re-launched under the leadership of the Immigrant Council of Ireland.

The SRTRC programme aims to harness the high profile of sportspeople to combat racism. The programme provides educational resources, workshops, trainings and awareness-raising activities for primary and secondary schools, youth groups, workplaces and sporting stakeholders nationwide.

Please see some photos from the day and SRTRC YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/@theredcardire>



With thanks to Anne McGrath



# NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

## WEST WICKLOW ABE STUDENT DAY OUT

Baltinglass and Blessington ABE students visited Beyond The Trees, Avondale on the 23 October for their student day out.

This was funded by ALL funding (Adult Literacy for Life).



AVONDALE



The day started bright and sunny, with tea and scones in Blessington FETC with students from Baltinglass and Dunlavin travelling up by bus. There was much laughing and interaction between the 35 students. We departed Blessington FETC at 11am to arrive two n Avondale for 12 noon. We had two and a half hours to wander around Avondale and do the treetop walk, followed by lunch. We departed Avondale at 3.30 and students were dropped to Baltinglass, Dunlavin and Blessington. For the last few student outings they have been held in Wicklow – Glendalough, Russborough, Kilmaccuragh so as to encourage students to discover and enjoy other parts of Wicklow. The staff in Avondale were so helpful and welcoming to each and everyone.

It was a most enjoyable day out where students mixed and chatted. The feedback was that it was fabulous, very enjoyable, peaceful, relaxing, nice time, good to meet new people and all want to know when is the next day out!!



# NEWS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Staff in Bray Adult Learning Centre were delighted to have their collaborative and innovative project win a national Media Literacy Ireland Award. Questions Matter, an educational project funded by the ALL Collaboration and Innovation Fund 2023 was shortlisted for the Best Community Based Media Literacy Initiative Award. Questions Matter was an educational collaboration project between 80:20, NALA, Bray Area Partnership and Bray Adult Learning Centre. An awards ceremony, attended by Bray Adult Learning Centre Coordinator Christine Wray took place on 21 November Virgin Media Studios, Dublin.

Questions Matter an initiative devised for adult education tutors and literacy educators seeking to develop critical thinking and digital citizenship skills to assess and challenge news and information. The micro learning short-course uses WhatsApp to embed active citizenship and digital literacy learning outcomes. After engaging on the course participants felt more prepared to spot and deal with any misleading or false information in an increasingly polarised digital world. It covers topics like: misinformation, how and why it spreads, what tools you can use as part of digital literacy and how you can protect both yourself and your students as part of active citizenship.

## Bray ALC





## NEWS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

# Congratulations to Athy Student Alice Dempsey on Winning the Uiversity Scholarship!

We are thrilled to congratulate Alice Dempsey a talented Applied Social Studies student from Athy Further Education and Training Centre (Athy FETC), on being awarded the prestigious Uiversity Scholarship! This outstanding achievement is a testament to Alice's hard work, dedication, and passion for social studies, and it marks a significant milestone in her academic journey. This year, she will join three of her classmates at Carlow College, each pursuing their studies in social studies, psychology and humanities subjects.

The Uiversity Scholarship is an wonderful program designed to support adult learners in Ireland and Northern Ireland as they transition to higher education. It provides financial assistance to students who may have faced barriers to accessing college, helping them overcome challenges and fulfill their potential. Uiversity's support enables students to focus on their studies, alleviating some of the financial burden associated with higher education and empowering them to make the most of their college experience.

This marks the second time an Athy FETC VTOS student has earned this remarkable scholarship. In the 2019/2020 academic year, Laura Mahon, an Art student from Athy FETC, was also awarded the Uiversity Scholarship. This recognition of two Athy FETC students within such a short span highlights the center's commitment to nurturing talented learners and fostering pathways to higher education.

Once again, congratulations to Alice on this well-deserved award! We wish her and her classmates a fantastic year ahead at Carlow College, filled with growth, learning, and success.



[www.athyfetc.ie](http://www.athyfetc.ie)

Thanks to  
Una Burke Athy FETC



# Farewell to our colleague Angela Higgins on her retirement!



Thank you for everything!  
From all in KWETB!



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# SUBMISSION DATES FOR 2025



Read back over 2024



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## KWETB FET!

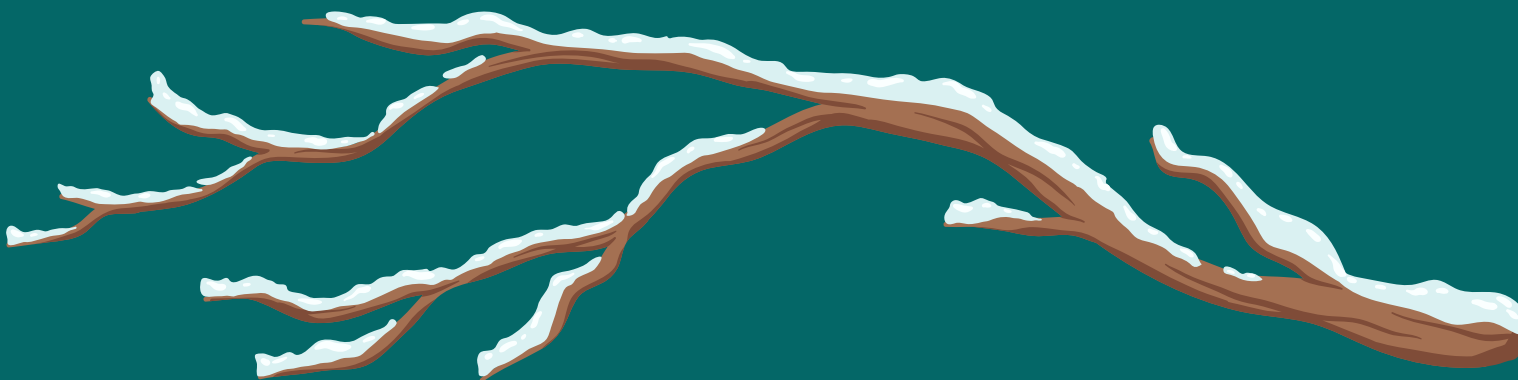
**THE QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM  
WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU  
SUBMIT YOUR E-ZINE ARTICLE HERE**

**2025 submission deadlines**  
Spring 7th February  
Summer 2nd May  
Autumn 12th September  
Winter 14th November



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# THANK *YOU*



*for your contributions in 2024!*



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