



The Comp Careers Fair – Press Release

The Comp Careers Fair was held in St. Patrick's Comprehensive School on April 3rd from 4pm to 7pm. The running of a careers fair had been a tradition in The Comp in the past and this was a welcome revival and extension of that original idea. This week's fair proved to be the biggest one to date and will ensure that the event is here to stay. Over 30 exhibitors made their way to St. Patrick's Comprehensive School from near and far. It included a mix of third level institutes, training centres, companies and recruitment agencies. It continues the legacy of The Comp in its centrality in delivering educational opportunities and innovation for the people of Shannon and its' environs. It highlights the wealth of local opportunities for apprenticeships and careers in the Shannon area and indeed, further afield. It was a wonderful opportunity to have so many choices under the one roof and it was well received by all those who attended.

A large number of people attended the fair from the very start and the crowds maintained and strengthened throughout the evening. People and the exhibitors themselves were impressed by the variety of exhibitors available on the day. The attendees were not only students in 5th and 6th year in The Comp and from other schools but also included past pupils, parents and of course, the general public. There was a wonderful atmosphere in the general purpose area as people discussed and questioned their future choices. There were many big decisions and debates on the night including what to choose from the food served by Hell's BBQ. Our exhibitors really appreciated their exclusive green room with complimentary food and refreshments. Spin South West also joined the exhibitors and intermingled with stallholders and attendees while distributing goodies. Many links have already been developed between the school and members of the local business community that are going to lead to some exciting developments at The Comp – watch this space for our next exciting release. The overwhelming positive reaction and praise for the event has led to plans already being put into place for a continuation of The Comp Careers Fair for some time to come with many exhibitors already signed up. The number of past pupils who came as exhibitors highlight the strong link the school already has in the community and local industry. We hope that the continuation of The Comp Careers Fair will further foster and encourage those links to progress.

Allia-Jai Marren O'Callaghan (student and Student Council member): *The Careers Fair was invaluable to me personally and I am sure to other students as it provided us with a fantastic opportunity to discover and explore options we may not have had the chance to otherwise.*

Ciarán Semahedi (student): *An excellent day to explore all options and courses available to me after my Leaving Cert. The Careers Fair gave me an amazing opportunity to see what I'll need to aim for in order to achieve my goals.*

Áine Sweeney (student): *The Careers Fair was brilliantly organised and it really helped me to clarify and refine my options for the future. Another thing I really liked about it was that there was such a wide range of exhibitors there which allowed us to explore all of the choices available to me in the future.*

Mary Costello (Principal): *The success of The Comp Careers Fair is a testament to the hard work and commitment of all staff in the school and a tribute to the energy, engagement and enthusiasm of Comp students. I'm extremely proud to be part of a school community with such a student centred focus and a strong and enduring commitment to links with our local community.*

Siobhan Hickey (Teacher and member of the organising committee): *One of the major aims of the fair was to further develop links between the school and local industry that will be beneficial to both stakeholders for years to come.*

John Flannery (Salesian Agricultural College): *We had lots of genuine interest from students about the courses we offer. The assistance your TY students gave to exhibitors was a nice touch. Please pass on our thanks to your colleagues and students in what was a very well organised event.*

Ann McBride (LIT): *From our perspective, it was a great event & we were delighted with the interest & enthusiasm from students & parents alike.*

Mary McGarry (UL): *We appreciated the welcome, the TY student help and the food/refreshments on offer. UL will be delighted to attend again in 2020.*

EI Electronics tweeted: *Congratulations to everyone involved! It was a pleasure to exhibit and get to meet even more students and members of the community. Looking forward to the next one already!*

CareerWise Recruitment posted on Facebook: *What a fantastic event organised by St. Patrick's Comprehensive yesterday. We were delighted to take part and to meet so many fantastic young ambitious students. We are already looking forward to the next Careers Fair. Well done all involved!*

Photos courtesy of Eugene McCafferty



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The Comp Careers Fair
Wednesday April 2nd
St. Patrick's Comprehensive School