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## GOVERNMENT MUST LISTEN TO FAMILIES AND REFORM CAMHS

Mark Ward TD, has called for the urgent need to regulate Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, CAMHS. Deputy Ward was speaking following the report launch by Families for Reform of CAMHS recently, which highlighted the lack of services for children. Families for Reform of CAMHS are a group of 1200 families that was formed in May 2023.

Speaking recently Teachta Ward said "I have highlighted the need to reform youth mental health since I became the Sinn Féin spokesperson for mental health in 2020. "I have been contacted by hundreds of parents in my constituency and across the country who have either been denied services in CAMHS or who have not received the right

care when they have been accepted.

"Families for Reform of CAMHS are a group of more than 1200 members who have come together to highlight their stories. In just a year, they have presented in Leinster House, they have spoken before an Oireachtas Committee and today they launch a report of a survey from their members.

"I was happy to host Families for Reform of CAMHS in Leinster House in recent weeks where they gave a presentation on the main finding of the report. It was powerful, it was moving and it was necessary to bring about the changes needed in CAMHS. "One parent said: "We thought getting an

appointment with CAMHS was the beginning of getting help, how wrong we were." Another raised the issue of how dual diagnosis can affect the level of care: "Passed back and forth between services too autistic for one and too anxious for the other."

"92% of families have reported that their children deteriorated while waiting to get onto CAMHS lists. The have reported that early intervention is not a reality. "40% of children went to A&E while on the CAMHS waiting lists. "69% went for private supports while on CAMHS waiting lists.

"The system is not working and if children with mental health issues there is a dual diagnosis of an intellectual disability

or autism, or if they have a specialist mental health need of ADHD, eating disorders or those with suicidal ideation, then the specialist service is not being delivered. "We need a reform of our youth mental health services where children can reach their full potential, and for families to be able to live their lives.

"I brought legislation to regulate CAMHS under the Mental Health Act to bring about the necessary changes put forward by the Mental Health Commission in their review of CAMHS. Government kicked this down the road promising their own legislation. "This has still not materialised and families have been left waiting and children have not been receiving adequate care.

## LOCAL SCHOOLS HOSTS FITNESS VISIT



Fitness and healthy eating should start at a young age. That's the message pupils at St. Kilian's Junior National School, Kingswood (Pictured) and Holy Spirit Senior Primary School heard when they recently hosted the popular children's fitness initiative 'Fit Squad' just before breaking for the Summer holidays. Schools interested in receiving a similar visit can find details at www.fyffesfitsquad.ie.

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# SOD-TURNING CEREMONY FOR QUARRYVALE PARK UPGRADE

On the 31st May, Councillor Francis Timmons of South Dublin County Council officially turned the sod to mark the commencement of works on the Quarryvale Park upgrade project.

The Councillor was joined by Staff of South Dublin County Council, local Councillors and guests to celebrate this event. Speaking at the event Cllr. Francis Timmons said 'The works that are about to commence will include the upgrading of the main park entrances, new and

improved pathways, a new Playground as well as Teen Space, lighting, planting, seating, an informal kick-around area and areas for biodiversity. I would like to thank the Public Realm Section in South Dublin, who along with Nicholas de Jong Associates Landscape and Urban Design Consultants have carried out the planning and design work on this project to date.

Construction work on site will be carried out by Breffni Group and I wish

them every success during the construction stage. We acknowledge and thank the community for their

assistance and input during the preliminary design stage and their support for this project in general. We ask

them to kindly bear with us during this construction process. We will endeavour to cause as little

inconvenience to them as possible. I wish all involved a safe and successful delivery of the project.'



**NEWS GROUP**

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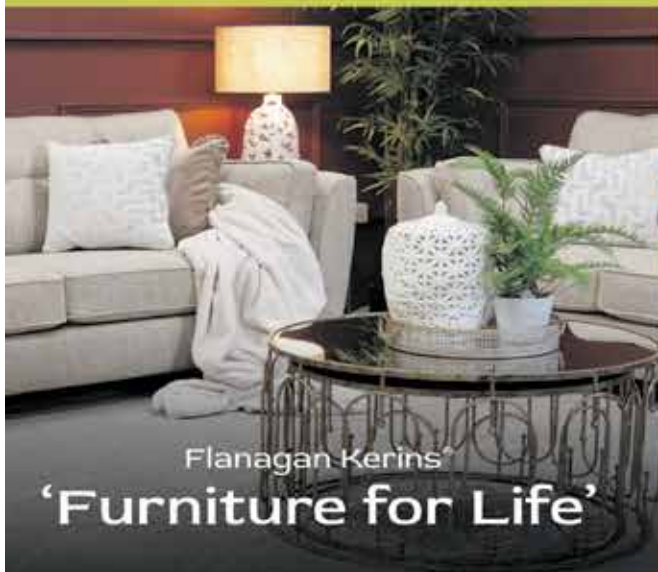
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# LDA SEEKS APPLICATIONS FOR OVER 180 COST RENTAL APARTMENTS IN COOKSTOWN

The Land Development Agency (LDA) has announced the launch of 184 cost rental apartments in Cookstown in Tallaght. An online application portal for the new homes opened on June 20th. The high-quality development has

been delivered through the LDA's Project Tosaigh initiative and will provide eligible households with the opportunity to secure a new A-rated home at rents that are on average least 25% lower than comparable market rates as enabled

by the Government's STAR scheme.

The available homes are located at Cookstown Gateway and include a mix of studios, 1 and 2-bed apartments. The development overlooks

Cookstown Luas Stop on the Red Luas Line and is within walking distance of Tallaght University Hospital and The Square Shopping Centre. A new grocery retailer is due to open in the complex shortly, which is also close to a host of local amenities, shops and services. The location is well-served by Dublin Bus. It's close to the M50 and near to a number of employment hubs including Citywest Business Campus and Grange Castle Business Park.

The rents are set at €1,000 for a studio apartment and €1,225 for a 1-bed. Rents for a 2-bed apartment start at €1,425.

The homes at Cookstown Gateway were delivered in partnership with Stranwill Ltd. Would-be applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the eligibility criteria and to prepare the documentation they will need if selected through the lottery

application process. Project Tosaigh is a Government initiative being delivered by the LDA in which the Agency steps in to facilitate the completion of housing projects and then makes the new homes available to renters on a cost rental basis or to purchasers at an affordable price.

Created under the Affordable Housing Act 2021, cost rental offers a long-term secure rental option at below comparable market rates for would-be tenants who do not qualify for social housing but who cannot access the private market without support. Applicants for cost rental homes must have a net household income of below €66,000 in Dublin and €59,000 outside Dublin.

The Cookstown Gateway announcement follows the recent launch of over 600 cost rental Project Tosaigh apartments at four separate developments in Dublin and Leixlip in Kildare. In total,

more than 900 cost rental homes have been delivered by the LDA in the past year, with almost 500 tenants now living in LDA homes across Dublin, Wicklow and Kildare. The average rent of an LDA cost rental home in Dublin now stands at €1,409 per month compared to the €2,098 in the private rental sector.

John Coleman, Chief Executive Officer of the LDA said "The LDA is delighted to bring much needed cost rental homes onto the market in Dublin. These are high quality, A-rated apartments in a great location at below market rents with security of tenure. It's a really excellent opportunity for people looking to live in a well-connected and established community. "I would strongly urge potential applicants to familiarise themselves with the application process and the qualifying criteria to give themselves the best chance of securing one of these great homes."



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# WELCOME NEWS FOR SPECIAL CLASSES IN LOCAL SCHOOLS

Minister for Business, Employment and Retail and Local TD Emer Higgins has welcomed news that 8 new special classes have been given the green light locally, starting in September 2024.

in September 2024. This is a significant step towards providing inclusive education and ensuring that every child has access to the support they need.

Minister Higgins said "I really welcome the recent news that Minister Hildegard Naughton and the National Council for Special Education have sanctioned new special classes for several schools in Dublin Mid West, 7 primary and 1 post primary, starting

"The schools receiving new special classes are Scoil Mhuire, Scoil Nano Nagle, St Bernadette's Junior in Clondalkin, St Thomas, Scoil Áine Naofa, Scoil Mhuire, Gaelscoil Naomh Pádraig in Lucan and St Aidan's Community School in Tallaght. "New classes

are still being approved, so schools awaiting approval shouldn't worry. Additionally, schools like Lucan Community College, Coláiste Pobail Fóla, Holy Family Community School, and Griffeen Community College have been approved for new Special Education Needs (SEN) classes.

These additions will greatly benefit our community, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have on our children's education." "For the 2024/25 school year, there are expected to be a total of 3,289 active special classes. Among these, 2,299 will be at the primary level, and 990 will be at the post-primary level. Out of the 3,289 special classes, 362 are new for the 2024/25 school year" concluded Higgins.

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# GILLIGAN CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY SINCE HIS FIRST ELECTION

At 40 years old, Gilligan is now the longest serving elected rep in South Dublin County Council.

The recent local elections saw Cllr Trevor Gilligan elected for a fifth time to South Dublin County Council. First elected at 20 years old, this month marks Gilligan's 20th year on SDCC. To date, Gilligan has received just under 6,000 first preference votes from supporters, residents and community groups.

The Clondalkin Councillor commented "I remember my first time like it was yesterday, I was just out of college, friends were celebrating finishing exams, whilst I went straight over after the exams to the mill centre to campaign. My late Father Martin Gilligan was so helpful, really went out of his way to help. My Mam and siblings all got behind me too. Gilligan was re-elected earlier this month in the Clondalkin LEA. It is a pinch me moment and it feels so surreal. On the one hand

it went so fast, but each election is nerve wracking in its own way. I would like to pay homage to my former colleagues Charlie O'Connor, Gus O'Connell and Cathal King who have dedicated

a lot of time and effort to our community. It is truly an honour and a privilege to continue to represent the area where I was reared and where I now rear my children."



# RELAY FOR LIFE CORKKAGH PARK



On Saturday, June 1st, Relay For Life South County Dublin took place in Corkkagh Park, in aid of the Irish Cancer Society. This 24-hour relay event was centered on remembering those who've lost their lives to cancer and celebrating survivors, all while raising funds for the Irish Cancer Society. The day featured multiple musical performances, including RAMS in Rhythm, as well as various dance performances and was joined by Cllr. Shirley O'Hara and Minister Emer Higgins.

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# OFFICIAL OPENING OF RATHCOOLE OLD COURTHOUSE

The Old Courthouse in Rathcoole was officially opened by Cllr Francis Timmins, deputising for the Mayor, on the 24th May, following the completion of major capital upgrade works by South Dublin County

Council, to conserve and protect the original Old Courthouse building and add a new extension to provide for additional community space.

The Old Courthouse, a

historically significant and conserved structure, located on the Main Steet of the Village has played a key role in the life of the local community since before the turn of the 1900s, performing a variety of roles throughout

the years. Originally a court of petty sessions up until 1924; the old courthouse became the site of a local library until the early 1970s and then a key community hall facility and home to a variety of local community

groups under the stewardship of the Rathcoole Community Council right up to the early 2000s.

Consultations with the local community around the future usage of the building commenced in 2018 and plans developed to both conserve and upgrade the fabric of original courthouse but also to build an extension to the rear of the building to accommodate an additional meeting room, additional toilets, a kitchen/café area and outdoor courtyard. Funding for the works was allocated from the Council's Capital Programme Budget and in addition funding was also secured to support the project from the Department of Rural and Community Development under their Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Speaking at the official opening Cllr Timmins stated that 'The Old Courthouse upgrade project again provides another example of South Dublin County Council working hand in hand and in partnership with the local community, in a focused

effort, to conserve a key historic community building and to achieve a significant positive community benefitting project'.

The Old Courthouse will be managed by a local management committee, made up of local community reps, reps from Rathcoole Community Council and members of the Council's local Community Department Team.




Chairperson of the management committee Alan Fairman speaking at the official opening thanked the various local community volunteers involved in the many different aspects of the Old Courthouse project and thanked the Council for the huge support and work completed by many different council departments to make the project a huge success. Alan commented that the local management committee 'aims for the Old Courthouse to become vibrant Community Hub and a key venue to host a wide range of events in the fields of Arts, Culture, Literature, History and Heritage'.



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# OFFICIAL OPENING OF SAGGART SCHOOLHOUSE COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre was officially opened by the Mayor, Councillor Alan Edge on Thursday 30th May, following the completion of major capital upgrade works, transforming the former old St Mary's National School into a multi-purpose community centre, to help provide for the social and recreational needs of the local community in the growing Saggart Village area.

The old St Mary's National School, a historically significant and much cherished local building, built in the 1940's, served as the village primary school up until 2014, when the new St Mary's National School was constructed and opened on the grounds behind the local Church.

Following a series of consultations with local residents and key stakeholders, the old St Mary's National School site was purchased by the Council in 2018, a local voluntary management committee was formed, and plans commenced to develop the old school property into a multi-purpose community centre for the area. The schoolhouse building with the four former classrooms were

conserved and transformed into three multi-activity rooms and fourth designed to accommodate childcare provision, a new extension constructed to accommodate a multi-purpose hall, reception area, toilets, kitchen and community café area.

The delivery of the Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre represents a capital investment in the region of €3 million, with funding allocated from the Council's Capital Programme Budget and funding of €500,000 secured to support the project from the Leader Programme administered by Rural Dublin Leader.

Speaking at the Official Opening the Mayor stated, 'that he was absolutely delighted to officiate at the Schoolhouse Official Opening, in what is a hugely special day for the village of Saggart.' The Mayor acknowledged both the passion and dedication of the local community reps and the commitment of South Dublin County Council, working together with local communities, to deliver key community facilities to assist in meeting local community needs and was again evidence of the

Council's aim of building Sustainable Communities across the County.

Amanda Crone, Chairperson of the Saggart Schoolhouse Community Centre, Board of Management, stated that 'Today marks a truly momentous day, when the community of Saggart get their very own Schoolhouse

Community Centre, that is the culmination of many years of hard work, dedication and commitment.'

Amanda went on to sincerely thank the local community, the Council and Rural Dublin Leader for believing in and working tirelessly to deliver the new Schoolhouse project, despite external

and unimaginable external factors such as Brexit and the Covid 19 Pandemic, bringing a range of challenges to get the project to the completion stage.

Amanda also stated, 'As a Board our hope is that the Schoolhouse will bring people together by offering a central hub for our community to

congregate. The centre will provide the opportunity for this generation and future generations, to create a new set of memories and build on the many special memories from the school days on this site. Whether you'd like to meet new people, catch up with old friends, or simply explore, our plan is there will be something for everyone.'



Pic credit: Ben Ryan



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# BALLYMOUNT ELECTRICAL WHOLESALER WINS AT IRELAND'S SECOND AEW AWARDS

Eastern Electrical Ballymount scooped the award for 'Most Improved Branch' for lighting recycling at Ireland's second Association of Electrical Wholesalers (AEW) awards in Dublin recently.

Sponsored by Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Ireland, the awards celebrated the best performers in lighting recycling across AEW's 130 members in Ireland last year. Eastern Electrical Ballymount was recognised for its green, sustainable business practices for recycling waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) in 2023.

"We are thrilled to be recognised for our commitment to recycling waste lighting from our customers," said Fergus Pierce of Eastern Electrical Ballymount. "This award is a significant morale boost for our team and reaffirms our dedication to making a positive environmental impact, no matter how small."

A total of 14 lighting recycling recognition awards were handed out across the

six wholesale trade buying groups that form the AEW - CEF, EWL Electric, Fegime, IEBG, Kelliher's and the Independents - with two awards presented per group for Best Performing Branch and Most Improved Branch. An additional two new awards were handed out for Best Performing Group, which went to IEBG, and Best Performing Branch for "WEEE Handling and Presentation", awarded by WEEE Ireland's recycling partner, Irish Lamps Recycling.

Twelve staff training awards were also presented along with two special recognition awards for individuals who have dedicated significant time and energy to the AEW and the electrical industry, serving as longstanding electrical wholesaler sector lighting recycling partners of WEEE Ireland.

Tony Cullen of Euro Sales received the first special recognition award for his 13-year tenure as AEW Treasurer, his involvement in setting up the WEEE Recycling scheme, and his strong advocacy for the AEW Staff Training Programme. The second special recognition award

was given to Noel Simpson of NJ Simpson Ltd, who has been a prominent figure in the AEW for many years, serving as both President and Chairman.

"A big well done to all our winners whose recycling efforts are delivering a positive impact on the environment over the long term," said Leo Donovan, CEO, WEEE Ireland, as he presented the awards. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to the AEW and its chair, Ken Legros, for their longstanding support of lighting recycling as well as Tony and Noel for their energy and commitment. "WEEE Ireland is proud to continue its partnership with the lighting industry, particularly AEW members, to provide environmentally positive solutions for the takeback and recycling of waste lighting materials."

Chairman of the AEW, Ken Legros, commended all the winners and thanked WEEE Ireland along with key AEW member groups and sponsors. "I'd like to thank the AEW and its 130 members as well as Leo Donovan of WEEE Ireland

who work closely to improve WEEE recycling performance in the industry, by driving lighting take back and recycling awareness across the electrical wholesale and trade sector," he said.

"The awards are a great way to celebrate, recognise and reward the businesses and the individuals who have excelled in both lighting recycling and our specialised staff training

programmes over the last year. "All of these awards have been hotly contested over the last 12 months and winners should be very proud of their achievements."

WEEE Ireland works in partnership with AEW to facilitate the return and recycling of waste lighting across all 26 counties. Recycling partner, Irish Lamps Recycling, works with electrical wholesalers

and contractors to collect waste lighting directly from their premises for processing at their EN 50625 certified facilities in Athy, Co Kildare.

Recycling lighting waste ensures that any harmful substances are removed safely and the valuable raw materials used in the production of these items can be recycled and given a new lease of life, supporting the circular economy.

## SIRO'S FULL FIBRE BROADBAND EXPANDS TO LUCAN

SIRO, a leading broadband operator, has announced that it is expanding its full fibre broadband network to Lucan. Work on expanding SIRO's network in the Lucan area has already commenced with the first Lucan customers able to connect from September. The rollout in the town will provide access to full fibre broadband to a total 1,600 premises - homes and businesses in the area. The areas benefiting from this rollout within Lucan include Laraghcon, Rokeby Park, Lucan Main Street, Sarsfield Park, Lucan Heights, and Ardeevin Estate, amongst others. This latest expansion enhances SIRO's significant presence in the wider west Dublin area. With an established footprint in nearby locations such as Tallaght, Rathcoole, and Saggart, SIRO is adding 1,600 extra premises in Lucan. Overall, more than 100,000 premises in Dublin can now access SIRO's network, including nearly 11,000 businesses and homes in the South Dublin County Council area.

announce the expansion of our full fibre broadband network to Lucan. This area is an expanding and thriving community but access to essential infrastructure and services is critical to its long-term growth and success overall".

"SIRO's full fibre rollout will provide high-speed, high-quality reliable broadband to individuals, families and businesses. Access to a fast, resilient and trusted broadband service allows all communities to live more sustainably, such as through working from home; running their businesses more productively; or, accessing services such as education or healthcare online. At its core SIRO's fibre network unlocks multiple opportunities for end users, allowing them to deploy it in ways that best meet their needs and lifestyles," added Mr. Keaney.

Find out more about SIRO or register your interest for SIRO's fibre broadband at <https://siro.ie/register-your-interest/>

The deployment of a full fibre broadband network in Lucan is part of SIRO's ongoing strategy to expand its network right across Ireland. SIRO is on track to reach 700,000 premises in towns and cities across Ireland by 2026. Currently, more than 585,000 premises in 135 towns across the country have access to the SIRO network. Overall, SIRO is investing over €1 billion to deliver high-speed, future-proofed broadband throughout Ireland.

Commenting on SIRO's network rollout in Lucan, SIRO Chief Executive Officer John Keaney said: "We are pleased to



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# NEW KIA EV9 DESIGNED TO OPEN NEW HORIZONS

By Breda Corrigan

The new Kia EV9 is a fully-electric, 6 or 7-seat SUV that boasts near-Range Rover proportions and an impressive array of standard equipment. Although it is large and imposing, the EV9 has a creditable aerodynamic drag coefficient of just 0.28, thereby aiding energy efficiency and refinement at motorway speeds. The EV9 embodies the Korean marque's current 'Opposites United' design philosophy, which involves combining contrasting qualities and finding synergies between opposing concepts. Opposites United helps Kia to stand out from the crowd and heralds a new era as Kia adapts to the changing world we live in.

#### Powertrain & Trim Options.

The EV9 is available in two electric powertrain variants and two trim variants. The entry-level version is the generously-equipped 7-seater 'Earth' model (in rear-wheel-drive format only), which comes with key features such as: 19" alloy wheels, triple panoramic display, heated front and second row seats, ventilated driver and passenger seats, head-up display, 360-degree surround-view monitor, premium Meridian sound system, blind-spot collision avoidance with blind spot view monitors, wide projection LED headlamps with high beam assist, and Highway Driving Assist 3. The flagship GT-line model comes with all-wheel-drive (AWD) as standard, and it offers buyers a choice of 6 or 7 seats. Additional standard equipment includes exclusive GT-line styling, 21" alloy wheels, dual sunroofs, intelligent adaptive front headlights, and remote smart parking assist 2. The 6-seater version adds extra comfort for the second-row occupants, and these two seats can be swivelled around to face the two rear seats when the vehicle is stationary.

Both versions of the EV9 come with a 99.8kW battery featuring Kia's fourth-generation battery

technology. The rear-wheel drive Earth model has a 150kW motor which produces 200bhp and 350Nm of torque, and this drivetrain variation can accelerate from 0-100km/h in 9.4-seconds. The all-wheel drive GT line is powered by twin 141kW electric motors which produce 378bhp and 700Nm of torque, and it can accelerate from 0-100km/h in a blistering 5.3-seconds. Not long ago that would be a figure only achieved by a sports car, but here we have a 2,600kg electric SUV managing it with ease. Just like its award-winning, big-selling EV6 sibling, the EV9 is underpinned by Kia's EV-specific Global Modular Platform (E-GMP), and it shares many powertrain components, along with its multi-link suspension system. The EV9 can accept 800V charging from a 350kW ultra-fast public charger, so drivers can add 240km of range in just 15 minutes, or achieve a 10%-80% charge in just 24 minutes. Additionally, a 10%-100% charge can be achieved in just over 9 hours via a domestic wall-box charger. The new high-voltage 99.8 kWh battery pack stores more energy, and allows for a long range of up to 563km, and its bi-directional charging function enables it to power electronic appliances, or even, in the future, your house.

#### Amazing Road Presence.

The exterior design of the EV9 is undeniably distinctive, with its strong road presence and rugged off-road look sure to turn heads on every journey. Inspired by nature and modernity, its futuristic lines and outstanding design features add to its unique character. At the front, the EV9 features the latest generation of Kia's Digital Tiger Face, and the distinctive, vertical headlamps are powered by LEDs that are characterised by a thin lens projection or small cube projection, depending on the model chosen. To the rear, a unique star map lamp graphic within

the signature LED taillights gives the EV9 an instantly recognisable look. Automatic flush door handles contribute to a modern, high-tech look, while active air flaps with 'Air Curtain' improve aerodynamic efficiency. To finish off the distinctive look, low-drag alloy wheels are fitted as standard.

#### Impressively Spacious.

With a length of over 5 metres, the EV9 is Kia's most spacious passenger vehicle yet. In addition to being impressively spacious for passengers, the EV9 also comes with a front trunk (often referred to as a 'frunk') that can accommodate the charging cables. As would be expected, the boot space is also a substantial size, and with all of the rear seats in place, there is still 333-litres of space available. With the two rearmost seats folded down, this increases to an even more practical 828-litres, while still providing accommodation for up to 5 occupants. However, fold down the back two rows of seats and you will be left with a flat floor, along with a van-rivalling 2,318-litres of space. The high-quality dash is dominated by a super-wide infotainment and instrument cluster that is neatly integrated into one display, and the centre console is equipped with a fast, wireless phone charger. Various ambient mood lights are applied inside the cabin, providing different lighting functions such as speed linkage and car camping mode. The EV9's touchscreen navigation system offers a wide range of features such as Bluetooth multi-connection as standard, enabling occupants to connect two mobile devices at once, while Android Auto and Apple CarPlay functionality is also standard. With Google Fast Pair Service, it is even easier for Android users to connect their phone to the vehicle's infotainment system. As with other Kia models, EV9 owners can benefit from Kia Connect Live Services, which



include online navigation as well as real-time information on traffic, parking availability and parking costs, locations and pricing for EV charging points, and much more besides. The spacious passenger compartment comes with its own connectivity ports, storage bins, air vents and controls, all of which are neatly designed and cleverly located. The EV9 is equipped with a host of active driver-assist and safety features for maximum convenience and safety on the road, and it is the first Kia model to feature Kia's Highway Driving Pilot (HDP), which offers Level 3 autonomous driving, where local regulations and driving conditions permit.

#### Test Car.

My 6-seat EV9 GT-line AWD test car cut quite a dash in its elegant Ocean Blue metallic paintwork with contrasting

21" black alloy wheels. The EV9's relatively-high driving position and deep windows provide excellent visibility and, when it comes to parking, the all-round vision is enhanced by standard-fit parking sensors and cameras. The EV9's long wheelbase (3,100mm) and completely flat EV architecture provide generous space for all occupants, with lounge-style comfort in all three rows of seats. The column-mounted gear selector is also home to the power-on and power-off button, and it is very straight forward in its operation. Despite the weight and size of the EV9, it accelerates with terrific urgency, and it has the ability to overtake slower-moving traffic with unwavering confidence. It feels reassuringly solid at all times, irrespective of the road surface, and it can safely negotiate sharp corners without negatively affecting the sense of

calm within the cabin. The steering is nicely weighted, and the cossetting suspension set-up handles road bumps effectively, while the EV9's strong natural braking performance can be adjusted via paddle-shift levers, and that means that you can choose to drive in one-pedal mode for maximum brake regeneration.

#### Verdict, Pricing & Warranty.

The amazing Kia EV9 is roomy, very well equipped, and is a real joy to drive. Its handling characteristics are impressive, and all occupants are treated to an outstanding combination of comfort and luxury. The EV9 Earth (7-seat) and GT-Line (6 or 7-seat) models are priced at €77,500 and €85,500 respectively (ex-delivery). All Kia passenger cars are covered by a 7-year/150,000km vehicle warranty as standard.



## WALKINSTOWN ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT AMONGST IRELAND'S & WORLD'S BEST

Walkinstown student, Fiona Rooney has reason to celebrate after ranking amongst the best in Ireland and the world in her accountancy exam.

An Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) student at Dublin-based online and blended learning college, Accountancy

School, Fiona finished first in Ireland, and 7th worldwide, in her Taxation (TX) exam.

Viewing her result in context, of the worldwide number of 500,000 ACCA students, approximately 8,000 of whom study in Ireland, Fiona was one of 30 Accountancy School students to finish first in Ireland. All

were recognised for their achievements at a ceremony in Dublin recently.

Congratulating Fiona on her result, Accountancy School managing director, Dave O'Donoghue said "ACCA is a globally recognised accountancy qualification, and the key to a hugely rewarding career in accountancy and financial management, here in Ireland and internationally."

Against the backdrop of what he terms 'an acute world-wide shortage of accountants', the ACCA programme and other linked courses provided by Accountancy School are "high amongst those that the School is proud to offer, not least for the fact that students consistently achieve high pass rates of up to 96 percent, and for the part the courses play in helping young people to achieve their ambitions," O'Donoghue added.

Further information can be viewed online at [www.accountancyschool.ie](http://www.accountancyschool.ie)



Pictured Accountancy School student, Fiona Rooney, from Walkinstown, has reason to celebrate after finishing first in Ireland in her ACCA exam. Fiona is pictured with her sons Craig (15) and Alexander (11) at a recent ceremony in Dublin, where her achievement was recognised.

## ST ANDREWS RAISES 3RD GREEN FLAG IN LUCAN



St. Andrew's National School Lucan celebrated a significant milestone on the 18th of June, with the raising of their 3rd Green Flag! This achievement reflects the school's outstanding commitment to environmental sustainability over the past two years. The Green School Committee, led by the dedicated teacher Ms. Jane Crawford, has worked tirelessly to implement eco-friendly practices and initiatives throughout the school. The ceremony was made even more special with a fantastic recreation of Taylor Swift's "Shake it Off," showcasing the students' creativity and enthusiasm for environmental causes. Principal Padraic Byrne welcomed local representatives Fine Gael TD and Minister Emer Higgins, Cllr Vicki Casserly, Cllr Caroline Brady, Cllr Liona O'Toole, Cllr Paul Gogarty, and Senator Emer Currie. Congratulations once again to everyone at St. Andrew's National School Lucan for this incredible accomplishment.

## BÍ GNÓTHACH STUDENT ENTERPRISE PROGRAMME FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Well done to all the South Dublin schools who took part in the Bí Gnóthach Primary School Student Enterprise Programme this year with South Dublin Local Enterprise Office! Bí Gnóthach Student Enterprise Programme gives 5th and 6th class pupils a taste of the world of business and entrepreneurship through free resources, educational enterprise workshops, and the chance to create and set up their very own businesses in their school. Over 555 primary school from 16 schools from around the County, participated in the programme.

The County Final was held in the Maldrón Hotel, Tallaght on the 13th June 2024 with over 155 pupils in attendance. The pupils displayed their business projects and explained to the judges how they come up with their business idea and how they made their products and sold them to their fellow students and within their communities. The students all made a profit to which they gave to local and national charities. The event included an award ceremony where the winners received certificates presented by the Mayor Cllr Alan Edge.

The overall winning project on the day was Jar Dropping Cakes, from the students in St. Anne's National School, Fettercairn, Tallaght. Other winners on the day were Most Creative: Loreto National School - Blossom Bookmarks, Endeavour Award 1 Cheeverstown Special School - Greeting Cards, Endeavour Award 2 Scoil Mhuire - Zest, Most Innovative: Loreto National School - Kool Keychains, Best Sales 1 Loreto National School - Jupiter Jars and Best Sales 2 St. Colmcille's Custom Key Rings.

There was lots of fun activities singing and dancing at the event including some tricks from a magician!



Pictured above Mayor Alan Edge, LEO South Dublin representatives, staff and pupils from Cheeverstown School.



Pictured Mayor Alan Edge LEO South Dublin representatives, staff and pupils from St. Anne's National School, Fettercairn.

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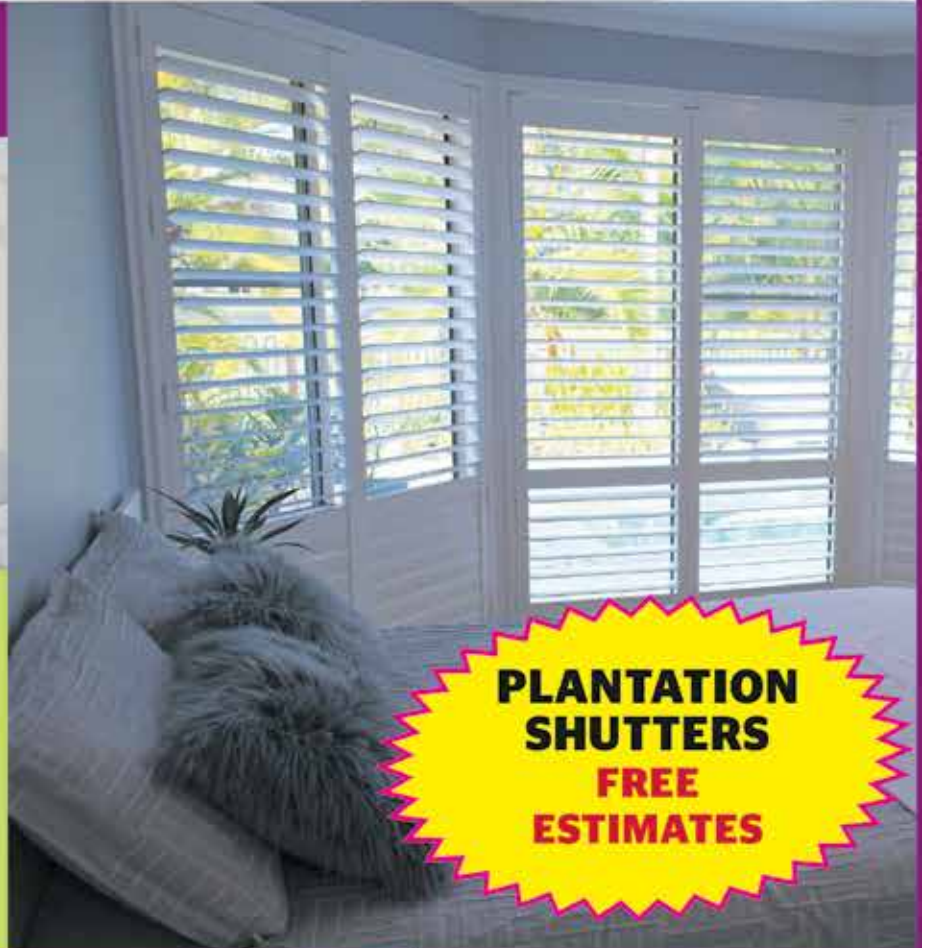
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