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## Project e-Hope- Environmental Health Outcomes Through Peer Education

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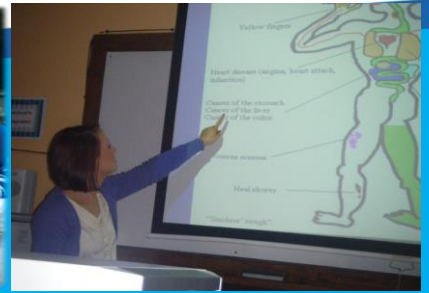


students learning with communities



Students Learning with Communities

# Project e-HOPE - environmental Health Outcomes through Peer Education



## e-HOPE

e-HOPE is a project aimed at improving environmental Health Outcomes through Peer Education. As part of the BSc Environmental Health (DT 491) 3rd year students carry out a needs assessment with community partners to deliver an educational programme to upper second level pupils. They present on topics of relevance to the pupils tackling such issues as food and health, smoking, body image incorporating recent trends in obesity, alcohol and cyber safety.

Students work in teams to contact and confirm arrangements with the appropriate school, design and make a presentation of about 40 mins with time for a reflective period and write up a brief report at the end

## What do students get from it?

The project is a way to impart Environmental Health professional guidelines in a meaningful manner which has an added bonus of being of benefit to the community. It enables students to contribute directly to the health and social development of these pupils. Through their presentations they develop key skills in communication, listening and explaining. They also develop key skills in communicating with each other, with lecturers and with the transition year co-ordinator in the school as they make the appropriate arrangements for their visit. All these skills are vital as they emerge from their degree course and enter their professional careers.

## What do the community get from it?

The school pupils benefit from having contact with third level students, who assisted them to confront pertinent issues in their lives and encouraged them to challenge existing attitudes. Also through contact with third level students the pupils encounter representatives of higher and further education particularly in the subject of Environmental Health.

### Seed Funding

The project has attracted seed funding from the Teaching, Learning and Assessment centre where it is hoped to evaluate information gathered over a three year period and in particular to identify key trends between the urban and rural divide. The project has also attracted funding from SLC this year. To date 1500 pupils have benefited from the programme along with 150 BSc students.

### Community Partners.

Mount Carmel Secondary, Dublin.  
Portmarknock Community College, Dublin  
Loreto Convent, Foxrock, Dublin  
Larkin Community College, Dublin  
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal, Roscommon.

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