Ballinode Community College
DÉIS Plan 2022 - 2025

1. **Retention:** The retention improvement targets are:
   - To increase the number of Junior Cycle students completing the Junior Cycle (within an educational setting) from 96% to 97% by the end of Year 1, 98% by the end of Year 2 and 99% by the end of Year 3
   - To reduce the number of students leaving before they complete Senior Cycle (within an educational setting) from 95% to 96% by the end of Year 1, 97% by the end of Year 2 and 98% by the end of Year 3

   To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

   - All Junior Cycle students will complete JCSP
   - Subject departments will apply for, implement and evaluate JCSP initiatives to improve academic attainment and success
   - Improve relationships between:
     - Staff and Students: Establish Year Head and Class Tutor role
     - Students and Students: Mentoring Programme, Student Council, Green Schools, extra-curricular activities, sports day and school trips
   - Continue to implement 'Check and Connect' programme and SCP mentoring programme
   - Roll out coffee mornings for parents and guardians with input from Guidance Counsellor on various topics
   - Home visits to all first year parents and target students at risk of early school leaving

2. **Attendance:** The attendance improvement targets are:
   - To reduce the overall absenteeism rate from 19% to 17% by the end of Year 1, 15% by the end of Year 2 and 13% by the end of Year 3
   - To decrease the percentage of students absent for more than 20 days from 38% to 36% by the end of Year 1, 34% by the end of Year 2 and 32% by the end of Year 3
   - To reduce the number of students that arrive late to school from 10% to 8% by the end of Year 1, 6% by the end of Year 2 and 4% by the end of Year 3

   To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

   - Review and update attendance policy
   - In conjunction with the student council develop and implement an attendance policy
   - Acknowledge at tutor meetings each term students with good attendance by giving out certificates to students who have no unexplained absences and students who have had 2 days or less unexplained absences are entered in a draw

3. **Literacy:** The literacy improvement targets are:
   - To reduce the percentage of Junior Cycle students with reading ages of below 8 from 13% to 11% by the end of Year 1, 9% by the end of Year 2 and 7% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the number of students taking Higher Level English at Junior Cycle from 30% to 32% by the end of Year 1, 35% by the end of Year 2 and 38% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the number of students taking Higher Level English at Senior Cycle from 26% to 28% by the end of Year 1, 30% by the end of Year 2 and 32% by the end of Year 3

   To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

   - Targeted interventions such as catch up literacy, JCSP literacy initiatives eg. DEAR and Wordle
   - Word of the week: Using JCSP keywords the working group will decide on the word for the week. This will be communicated with staff through staff update. Teachers will then highlight this word in class, explain its meaning and show its application during the topic been covered
   - Literacy week: All subject teachers to engage in literacy activities during this week
   - Digital literacy: Students keep track of usernames and passwords in journal on the appropriate page

4. **Numeracy:** The numeracy improvement targets are:
   - To increase the number of students taking Higher Level Maths at Junior Cycle from 25% to 27% by the end of Year 1, 29% by the end of Year 2 and 31% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the number of students taking Higher Level Maths at Senior Cycle from 21% to 23% by the end of Year 1, 24% by the end of Year 2 and 25% by the end of Year 3

   To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

   - All teachers use the progress carts in the school journal to track progress in their subject area
   - Students mark in their attendance into their journal every day and count attendance over the year to track their own attendance
   - Sign students up to Mangahigh at Junior Level and themathstutor at Senior Higher Level
   - Maths initiatives eg. Nerdle, Drop Everything and Do Maths and Mental Maths Week
   - Maths Week: All subject teachers to engage in numeracy activities during this week annually

5. **Attainment:** The attainment improvement targets are:
   - To increase the number of students achieving at least a Merit in 5 subjects at Junior Cycle from 50% to 53% by the end of Year 1, 56% by the end of Year 2 and 58% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the number of students sitting at least 4 Higher Level Leaving Certificate papers from 47% to 49% by the end of Year 1, 51% by the end of Year 2 and 53% by the end of Year 3

- To increase the number of LCA students achieving a Distinction from 20% to 21% by the end of Year 1, 22% by the end of Year 2 and 23% by the end of Year 3

To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

- Drop Everything & Do Homework: Ten minutes at the end of every class is to be allocated for students to write their homework into their diary and start completing their homework
- Homework Club made available to 1st Year and Senior Cycle students
- Teachers share learning intentions in class and encourages students to reflect on their learning which is linked to learning intentions
- Implement 10 second wait time and 3-2-1 in all Junior Cycle classes
- Implement 10 second wait time and cheat sheet strategy in all Senior Cycle classes
- Introduction of Transition Year Programme

6. **Transitions:** The transitions improvement targets are:
   - To reduce the number of students with transfer anxiety in first year from 20% to 18% by the end of Year 1, 16% by the end of Year 2 and 14% by the end of Year 3
   - To ease transition between junior cycle and senior cycle from 20% of senior cycle feeling overwhelmed down to 18% by the end of Year 1, 16% by the end of Year 2 and 14% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the transition rate to further education from 52% to 54% by the end of Year 1, 55% by the end of Year 2 and 56% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the number of students who progress to ITs and Universities from 10% to 11% by the end of Year 1, 12% by the end of Year 2 and 13% by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the number of students participating in an apprenticeship from 0% to 1% by the end of Year 1, 2% by the end of Year 2 and 3% by the end of Year 3

To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

- Whole school Study Skills plan with 5th years (Retrieval method)
- All 1st year students participate in the Transition Programme and Mentoring Programme
- Introduction of Transition Year Programme
- Increase links with FE colleges, universities, MSLETB Training Centre, the National Learning Network and apprenticeships through visiting speakers
- Raise awareness of ACCESS, HEAR, DARE, SUSI with students in class and parents through an information session

7. **Partnership with Parents:** The partnership with parents improvement targets are:
   - To re-establish the Parents Association in 2022-2023 and increase the number of parents attending from 0 to 3 parents by the end of Year 1, a further 2 parents by the end of Year 2 and a further 2 parents by the end of Year 3
   - To increase the percentage of parents downloading the school app and engaging in their son/daughters activities on a day to day basis from 0% to 40% by the end of Year 1, 50% by the end of Year 2 and 60% by the end of Year 3

- To raise the number of parents attending specific night courses run from the school eg. literacy, numeracy and IT from 0 to 3 parents by the end of Year 1, a further 2 parents by the end of Year 2 and a further 2 parents by the end of Year 3
- To increase the parent participation rate at parent teacher meetings from 40% to 42% by the end of Year 1, 44% by the end of Year 2 and 46% by the end of Year 3

To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

- Set up a Parents Association
- Roll out coffee mornings for parents and guardians with input from Guidance Counsellor on various topics
- Assist parents on how the school app works on a day to day basis
- Promotion of night classes through social media and the school app
- Subject teachers to contact parents via postcards in relation to positive behaviour in their classroom or recognition of progress and achievement in individual subject areas
- A school newsletter will be sent out to parents twice a year
- Text alerts to be sent to all parents regarding parent teacher meetings and letters to be sent prior to meetings, activities and events where appropriate

8. **Partnership with Others:** The partnership with others improvement targets are:
   - To embed the school within the community in a more meaningful way by increasing the number of fundraising/volunteering events from 2 to 5 by the end of Year 3
   - To expand working relationships with trade standards and qualification bodies and local business from 0 to 1 qualification body/local business by the end of Year 1, a further 1 qualification body/local business by the end of Year 2 and a further 1 qualification body/local business by the end of Year 3
   - To increase employer engagement for work experience and beyond, linking school, parents and business community from 10 to 11 businesses by the end of Year 1, 12 businesses by the end of Year 2 and 13 businesses by the end of Year 3

To achieve these improvement targets the following actions will be implemented:

- Using website, social media platforms, school newsletter, letters to parents and guardians and local newspaper to publicise school activities, accomplishments and events
- Develop a working relationship with an outside agency each year of the plan eg. ATU, Sligo Library, AbbVie, National Learning Network
- Build relationships with local businesses providing work experience for students within the community
- LCA students organise cake sale and coffee morning in aid of North West Hospice