

# PRESS RELEASE

02/02/15

## Together we are Stronger

### A Longford Schools Photography Programme Publication

The Longford Schools Photography Programme is an initiative of Longford County Arts Services that has been in place of five years. The Programme is run in partnership with all the secondary schools in County Longford and is facilitated by local professional photographer Shelley Corcoran.

The objective of the programme is to teach the skills of photography to a whole generation of Longford youth, to develop their visual awareness, to give them an outlet to express their creativity and perhaps a hobby for the rest of their lives.

Arguably the greatest achievement of the Longford Schools Photography Programme is the number of publications it has produced to-date. “Bang, Bang...She Shot Me” (A Students Introductory to Digital Art Photography) was written by Shelley Corcoran and Fergus Kennedy based on the experiences of running the Programme over the first couple of years and is the only publication of its kind in the country. Subsequently the students produced a book on drug awareness in association with Longford Drugs Awareness Committee and in the following year the students produced a book on the subject of mental health; ‘**Moments in Time**’ along with the County Longford Mental Health Association.

The 2015 project is: ‘**Together we are Stronger**’ the publication will be produced in partnership with St Christopher’s Training Centre Longford. According to the Programme Facilitator Shelley Corcoran:” The publications is a 64 page A5 photographic book and there are 7 schools involved. They are; Mean Scoil Mhuire Longford, Templemichael College, St Mel's College, Ballymahon Vocational School, Ballymahon Mercy, Cnoc Mhuire, Granard, and Moyne Community School.

The proceeds of the book will go to St Christopher's Services, Longford. And this is why we chose this theme. We wanted to portray, visually through art photography, that working together and being together will make each and every one of us stronger, better and enrich our lives.

All art work in the book has been created by the students in the schools and is of an exceptional standard both technically and conceptually.”

**Together we are Stronger** will be launched by the Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council Cllr. Mark Casey MCC, in the Backstage Theatre Longford on Wednesday February 11 at 1.30pm. The event will also be a showcase for the wider artistic talents of the participating students as each school will put on a small music, dance or dramatic performance to create some fun, colour and sound to enliven the occasion.

**Ends**



### Notes to the Editor

1. The Longford Schools Photography Programme is the largest educational programme of its kind in the country.”
  2. It includes every secondary school in the county has trained over five hundred young Longford photographers since the Programme began.
  3. The Programme has facilitated numerous trips to art galleries and photography galleries throughout the country as well as photography field trips.
  4. Each year Longford Schools Photography Award and Exhibition project recognise the best photographers in the particular year.
  5. A number of past participants of the Programme have gone on to study photography at third level.
  6. The participating students, the Programme Facilitator Shelley Corcoran and Sheila Healy of St Christopher’s can all be available for interview with some advance notice
- Fergus Kennedy County Arts Officer can be contacted at **086 8517595**
  - Shelley Corcoran Programme Facilitator can be contacted at **086 8320052**
  - Jean Healy St. Christopher’s Art teacher can be contacted at **086 1727112**