

TEACHING CREATIVE WRITING OPPORTUNITIES

How can you earn money by teaching creative writing?

MY OWN JOURNEY: DIARMUID FITZGERALD

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- Poet, novelist, non-fiction
- Three books of poetry and haiku published
- Thames Way (2015)
- A Thousand Sparks (2018)
- The Singing Hollow (2021)
- Publisher www.albapublishing.com
- www.deewriter.com
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Diarmuid Fitzgerald April 2024 www.deewriter.com





AN CHOMHAIRLE MHÚINTEOIREACHTA
The Teaching Council

Diarmuid Fitzgerald
Maryville
Kilworth
Co Cork

7 July, 2011

CONFIRMATION OF REGISTRATION

The Teaching Council hereby certifies that:

Diarmuid Fitzgerald

Registration Number:


159216

has attained the required qualifications to satisfy the requirements of the Teaching Council for registration as a teacher in recognised schools in the Republic of Ireland under Section 31(5) of the Teaching Council Act, 2001.

Sector(s)	Registration Level
Primary	Full

Condition(s)	Method/Status	Expiry Date	Completion Date
Irish Language Requirement	Aptitude Test - Completed	24-OCT-2012	10-JUN-2009
Probation	Probation Completed	31-AUG-2015	30-JUN-2011

Date of registration: 3 September, 2008


Colm O'Leary
Registration Officer

*See enclosed on Conditional Registration

To ascertain if this teacher is currently registered, please enter the registration number above into the online Register of Teachers on the website of the Teaching Council (www.teachingcouncil.ie).
It is the responsibility of employers to satisfy themselves that a teacher being considered for a post is suitable for the appointment.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Qualified primary school teacher in 2007
- Won the National Mentoring Panel bursary in 2021 and was accepted onto that in 2022
- Won the Bright Ideas Scheme from Poetry Ireland in 2022
- Taught poetry in one school in 2022
- Did a 4-week course at the Richmond Barracks in 2023
- Did a poetry workshop as part of the Red Line Festival in 2023
- Accepted onto the Teacher Artist Partnership Plus programme as a Tutor 2023/4

WHAT WILL I COVER?

- General Parameters
- Supports
- Advice
- Q and A

Photo by Hannah Olinger from Unsplash

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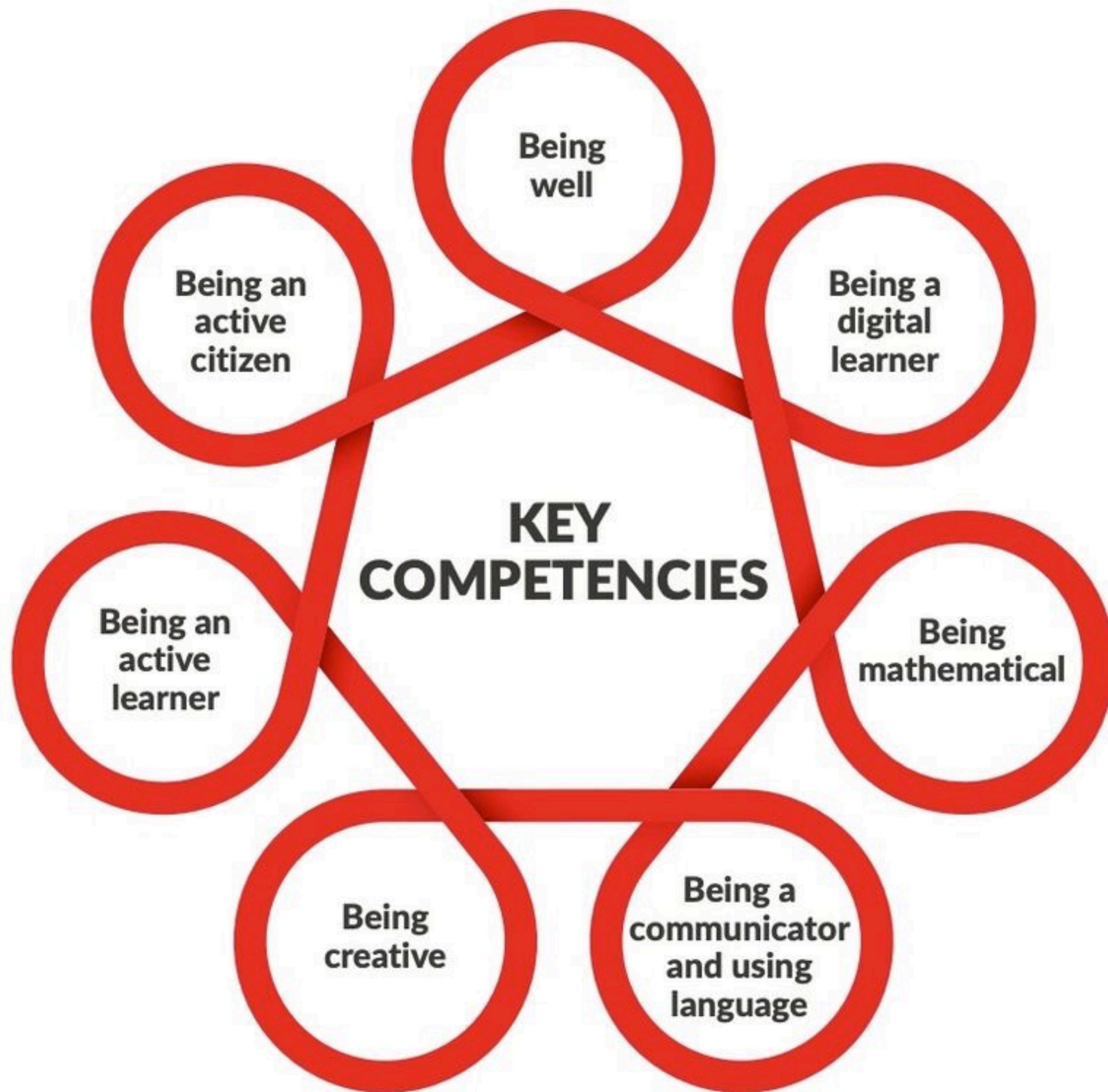


GENERAL PARAMETERS: WARNING

- Not an arts administrator
- In education, the administrators don't always understand what it's like to be a writer
- Based on my own experience
- This relates to Ireland only
- The advice applies to secondary and primary mainly to adult education with adaptation
- Universities and Technological Universities do their own thing
- I touch on other opportunities outside the education system as well
- Rules on these schemes and supports change all the time, so do your research

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CREATIVITY IN THE CURRICULUM

- The primary curriculum is changing to incorporate more creativity.
- There will be a Primary Curriculum Framework which underpins what teachers must teach in the classroom.
- ‘Being Creative’ will be a key competency.
- With the rise of AI and the potential automation of jobs
- ‘Creativity’ can’t be automated. It is and will become a key skill.
- Junior Cert was reformed.
- The Leaving Cert is due to be reformed.

ARTS IN EDUCATION

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- You can join the Arts-in-Education newsletter
- Look up their portal
- <https://artsineducation.ie/en/home/>
- Lots of information on the arts and education



FIGHTING WORDS

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- This is an organisation set up by Roddy Doyle that provides writing opportunities for children.
- They attend a workshop where adults help them write a story. It is volunteer-run, so you generally won't get paid.
- However, it is an excellent way to start, and you can put your name down for festival tickets such as Electric Picnic and Kaleidoscope.
- You will have to be garda vetted.
- This is a good way to build up experience in your writing CV
- Deadline: seemingly anytime

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SCHOOLS I: WRITER IN SCHOOLS

- Writer-in-Schools
- Run through Poetry Ireland
- Not just for poets
- Your name goes on a list
- A day visit or half a day
- Expect to get between €100 to €200
- Apply through Poetry Ireland
- Deadline: Seemingly anytime
- Approach schools directly
- Must be garda vetted

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SCHOOLS II:TAP+/BLAST

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- TAP+ (Teacher-Artists Partnership Plus)
- A 20-hour residency in a school. 6 hours of preparation and 14 hours of face-to-face contact.
- A 5-day training course will be held in July. You will receive a €750 payment for the training.
- If there is enough interest, you can be matched with a school. However, being matched is not guaranteed.
- You will receive about €1,100 for each residency.
- You will usually work with one class only, maybe two, per school
- The teachers must attend the training for their school to be eligible for TAP+
- Deadline: 7th June
- Check out the Tralee Education Support Service
- <https://www.edcentretralee.ie/teacher-artist-partnership.html>



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BLAST SCHEME

- BLAST (Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers)
- Your name goes on a list.
- Similar to TAP+ but without training.
- Run through the local education support centre.
- Deadline: April/May. Apply soon. Email your local education support centre
- The deadline for schools for BLAST is the 10th of May
- <https://artsineducation.ie/en/2024/04/18/deadline-closing-for-arts-in-education-initiatives/>



CREATIVE
CLUSTERS

CREATIVE SCHOOLS CLUSTER

- I don't know much about this, but it appears to involve schools pooling their resources and sharing an artist.
- Various amounts, such as €3,000, appear to be available to schools over a two-year period to spend between the schools.
- You can become a creative school cluster facilitator. I don't know how but get in touch with the local education support centre or Tralee Education Support Centre
- <https://artsineducation.ie/en/2024/04/18/deadline-closing-for-arts-in-education-initiatives/>



SCHOOLS III: CREATIVE SCHOOLS

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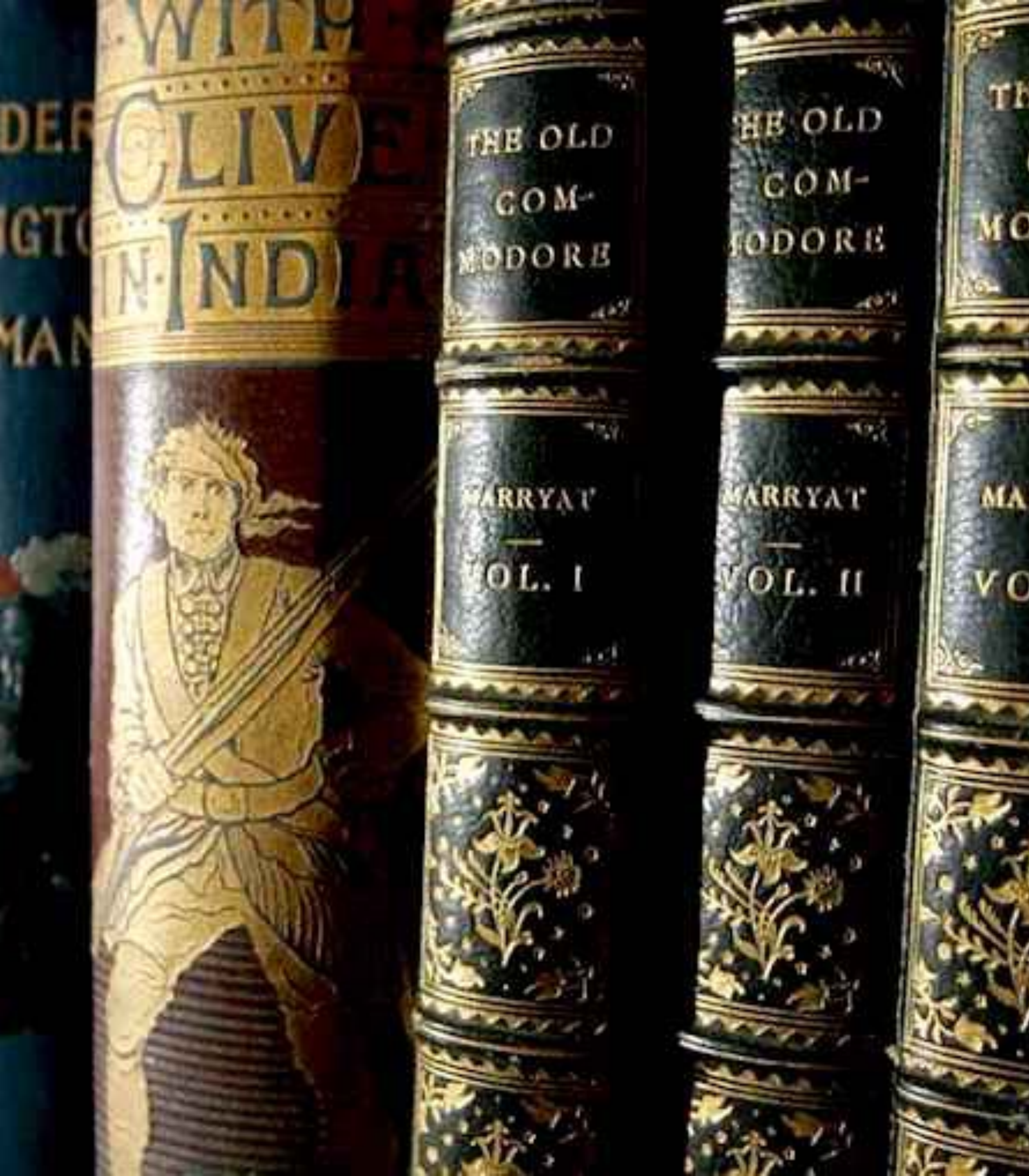
- Creative Schools Programme (Creative Associate)
- Run by the Arts Council.
- A school applies to this scheme, and if successful, they get a budget of €4,000 over a two-year period. The school decides how to spend the money
- The idea is that the whole school will be involved
- You are an advisor with a school, and you help them prepare an arts plan for their school. You are not the artist.
- Apply via the Arts Council to become a Creative Associate.
- Deadline: Call comes out from the Arts Council. Sign up for their newsletter.
- <https://www.artscouncil.ie/creative-schools/>



EDUCATION SUPPORT CENTRES

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- There are many education support centres throughout the country
- Not to be confused with adult education
- The main purpose is to upskill teachers in CPD and to cover other schemes
- Put on a creative writing course or address a skill shortage in the curriculum (arts, drama, science, etc.)
- Address a need not met
- Must apply by the 1st of March to host a CPD summer course in those centres (does not TAP+/BLAST)
- <https://www.esci.ie/>



WRITE-A-BOOK

- This is a scheme done by the classroom teacher.
- They don't need an artist/writer to help them as such.
- You may be able to offer help to lead the children in creating a book.
- The children write and create a book. The books are then swapped with another school and the children judge and comment on the books.
- This is run by the local education support centre for teachers.

OTHER INSTITUTIONS

- Writer in Prison Scheme
- Writer-in-Residence: Universities
- Teach at Adult or Further education
- Pay works out at €41 per hour
- Work with other state-funded institutions
- Work with private schools



Writing Poetry workshop with Diarmuid Fitzgerald



LIBRARIES & FESTIVALS

- Teach creative writing
- Become a facilitator
- Approach them directly or through the main library office
- Approach your local arts office
- Build networks
- Volunteer at a festival
- Pitch an idea
- Look up Poetry Ireland or the IWC for festivals and links to events.
- Look up your local county council for facilitator calls or talk to them

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BRIGHT IDEAS SCHEME

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- Done through Poetry Ireland.
- The focus must be on poetry.
- You can pitch them an idea about doing a one-off event or workshop on the theme.
- Usually, 4 ideas are picked if they fit the theme and are different.
- I did a workshop on poetry and tarot on the theme 'Written in the Stars'.
- I got €800 for a 3-hour workshop. I hired a hotel room. Expenses amounted to about €200, so I got €600.
- Deadline: In February for Poetry Day in April

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BECOME A MENTOR

- Become a mentor to a writer
- A writing class of one for one person
- One-to-one mentoring at the IWC
- National Mentoring Programme
- Your name goes on a list
- Mentees have a 1/10 chance of being accepted onto this programme
- Run through the IWC, which used to be run through Word Ireland



SOME ADVICE: DO

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- Be prepared and know what the class is like. Some classes are well-behaved, and others are not.
- Do seek to appeal to the existing interests of the students.
- Do a survey of their needs.
- Talk to the class teacher well in advance before you arrive.
- Ask them to have any material ready some days before you arrive.
- Being back up material



SOME ADVICE: DON'T

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- Seek to undermine the teacher's role.
- They are in charge of behaviour; you are not their teacher.
- Be too ambitious about what you can achieve. Less is more.
- Impose too high a standard of all of the children. The children need a sense of ownership over what they write.
- Some children can write well; others cannot, and others may not be interested at all.
- If a child refuses to engage, then encourage them, but you can't force them.
- Vary the lesson and don't be afraid to mix in other areas like PE or Art etc.



WHAT HELPS

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- Have your Creative Writing CV ready
 - What have you published?* (No long list)
 - What prizes/grants did you win?
 - Name that you are a member of the IWU/IWC/other professional organisations
 - Have you taught in any experience before, such as a company presentation, Toastmasters, public speaking, mentoring, facilitating, actual teaching
- Show whoever you are going to apply to how you can deliver a lesson/workshop
- Start small and build up; you may need to volunteer to start off gaining experience
- You need to be flexible and adjust in real-time. If a lesson/workshop is not going down well, then pivot
- Teaching is like any skill; the more you do it, the better you get at it.

GARDA VETTING

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NOTICE: Re-vetting for the purpose of renewal of registration

Dear Teacher

In line with best practice as advised by the National Vetting Bureau, the Teaching Council is re-vetting registered teachers under Section 33 of the Teaching Council Acts, 2001 to 2015.

Re-vetting will ensure that all teachers will hold recent vetting when the Minister for Justice and Equality announces a cycle for re-vetting for all persons working with children or vulnerable persons.

According to our records, you are due to be vetted. We are now requiring you to update your vetting by logging into *My Registration* at www.teachingcouncil.ie

The requirement that you update your vetting is linked to your registration renewal date as outlined in Section 33(5)(a) of the Teaching Council Acts 2001 to 2015. You are required to complete the two stage NVB vetting application process in advance of renewing your registration. **You have 42 days from the date of issue of your re-vetting notice email to complete this process.** Please see page 2 for information on the vetting process and the legislation which governs it

It is important to note that if you are removed from the Register of Teachers for non-compliance with this notice, you will be required to complete the full registration application process to return to the Register. The process includes completion of a detailed application, providing evidence of qualifications, and undergoing the vetting process.

In order to ensure that your vetting is completed in a timely manner, we would appreciate it if you would commence the application process as soon as possible. If you do not intend renewing your registration please email vetting@teachingcouncil.ie. Thank you for your co-operation.

Yours sincerely

Maria Fitzgerald



Head of Registration

- What does this involve?
- In order to work with children to vulnerable adults you need to be Garda vetted.
- Garda vetting is where they check you criminal record and see if you are ‘a person of interest’.
- So crime writers are out and writers with spelling mistakes and bad grammar.
- You will have to be vetted for each scheme that involves children or schools. This does not apply to adults.
- Vulnerable adults are adults with special needs or live in an residential centre such as an “old folks home”.
- You approach the organisation and they should walk you through what is involved.
- You will need to know your previous addresses.
- You may need police clearance from abroad if you have lived abroad.
- Decide on what you want to put down on the form.
- For the Teaching Council registration I had to get police clearance from Japan because I lived there for 3 years.



SUMMARY OF THE SCHEMES

- You can apply for the following:
- Fighting Words
- Writer-in-Schools
- TAP+ Teacher Artist Partnership Plus
- BLAST Bringing Live Arts to Students and Teachers
- Creative Schools
- Education Support Centres
- Community colleges (Adult Education)
- Poetry Ireland: Bright Ideas Scheme
- Irish Writer's Centre
- Library facilitator
- Festival workshop leader
- Do your own online classes

QUESTIONS

- Any questions





Thank You

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- Thank you.
 - If you want a copy of this presentation, please email me at
 - deeinireland@gmail.com
 - The slides will be without picture