

## Keynote Speaker Biographies

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### Dr John Lydon, KC\*HS, SFHEA, BA, PGCE, MA, PhD

Dr John Lydon holds degrees from the Universities of Durham, Liverpool and Surrey. His doctorate focused on teaching as a vocation in a contemporary context. He is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. He is the Director of the MA in Catholic School Leadership Programme and Associate Director of the Centre for Research and Development in Catholic Education, St Mary's University London. He is a member of the Executives of the World Union of Catholic Teachers and the Catholic Association of Teachers, Schools and Colleges of England & Wales. He is also an Adjunct Associate Professor and Co-Director of an undergraduate programme of the University of Notre Dame in London.



Lydon was appointed Multidisciplinary Expert of the Catholic-Inspired NGO Forum for education working in partnership with the Vatican Secretariat of State. He regularly gives lectures in the United States, especially at NCEA, but also Europe, Africa, Asia and Australia. Most recently he gave a keynote addresses on Christian Humanism at the University of Jaffna, Sri Lanka and on The English Education System: An Overview, at the St Louis University. Lydon's research interests focus on spiritual capital, Catholic school leadership and the maintenance of distinctive religious charisms. Some notable publications include *Transmission of a Charism* (2009) and *The Contemporary Catholic Teacher: A Reappraisal of the Concept of Teaching as a Vocation* (2011). His latest book just published by Gracewing is an edited volume entitled *Contemporary Perspectives on Catholic Education* (2018).

### Dr Lorna Gold

Dr Lorna Gold is Head of Policy and Advocacy in Trócaire. She has worked in international development in an academic and NGO policy context for almost 20 years. She currently manages a team of policy specialists pursuing Trócaire's advocacy agenda on climate justice, business and human rights and development finance. She has a particular interest in the relationship between Catholic Social Thought and public policy development. She has written and spoken extensively on Pope Francis' teaching in *Laudato Sí*. She holds a PhD in Geography from Glasgow University and is a former holder of ESRC and Joseph Rowntree fellowships. She regularly contributes to public debates on climate justice issues and has a blog about development perspectives – [www.charityandjustice.net](http://www.charityandjustice.net) – which she produces in a personal capacity. She is originally from Scotland and is married with two children.



Dr Gold is the author of *Climate Generation: Awakening to Our Children's Future*, published by Veritas.

## Workshop Presenters

### Tom Gunning

Tom Gunning is currently on secondment to Veritas from Loreto Secondary School, Wexford to work on the *Soul Seekers* series. He is the author of the Senior Cycle textbooks *The Inner Place* and *Into the Deep*, along with being a contributing author to the *Faith Seeking Understanding* series. Tom studied at the Gregorian University in Rome and received his Masters in Religious Education from the Pontifical University of Maynooth. He is the co-author of *A Sacramental People, Vols 1 & 2* published by Columba Press, and has lectured at the Mater Dei institute of Education on sacramental theology. Tom is the co-founder with Fr Michael Drumm of the Parable Garden Education Project.



### Jonathan Tiernan

Director, ACE Ireland at University of Notre Dame

Jonathan Tiernan leads the efforts of the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) in Ireland. The core focus of ACE in Ireland is to be of service to Catholic schools by identifying and developing leaders, working with schools to enrich school culture, and contributing to the research and policy debates around Irish Catholic education. As part of his role he partners with CEIST schools on the School Culture Initiative, a project that is now in its third year. Jonathan is a former primary school teacher and holds a B.A. in Humanities from St. Patrick's College, and a Masters in Education from Notre Dame.



This workshop will highlight the important role of school culture, as it pertains to a Catholic School. A framework for attending to school culture at a local level, currently being implemented in 6 CEIST schools, will be showcased and a number of tools from the framework will be modelled.

### Robert McCarthy

Interactive session facilitated by Robert McCarthy. Robert was Principal of both Mount Sion C.B.S, Waterford and Stella Maris Tramore. He was then appointed as Chairperson of the BOM in Scoil Mhuire, Carrick on Suir and is now Chairperson of the BOM in Ard Scoil na nDeise, Dungarvan. Robert also facilitated the Year Head Training Programme for the JMB for a number of years.



## Workshop Presenters

### Seamus Ryan

Seamus is a founding Director of “Tara 365 Learning Ltd.” which provides specialised ICT services and training for school leaders and teachers. The company specialises in the use of cloud computing in education for both teaching and learning and school administration (GDPR). Seamus and his colleagues (all experienced teachers and school leaders) work in over 150 Post Primary schools across Ireland. Previously a Post Primary Teacher of Geography, English and ICT he later worked in the private sector in the computer industry and on return to school has worked as Deputy Principal, Principal at Dunshaughlin CC and later as Education Officer for Meath VEC. In 2007 the Minister for Education appointed him to the National Strategy Group for ICT In Education which reported in 2008. The same year Dunshaughlin Community College was chosen as one of 12 Microsoft “Worldwide Innovative Schools”. Since that time Seamus has visited schools in many parts of the world and taken part in international conferences with world renowned educational leaders. Since 2012, Seamus with his team have focused on the application of cloud based technologies to reduce the costs of local ICT infrastructure and to applying cloud services to support teaching and learning. Seamus will co-present with Richard Galvin.



### Current Research on Catholic Schools

**Dr Gillian Sullivan** is a teacher working in Our Lady’s College, Greenhills, Drogheda. Gillian recently completed research on RE and Inclusion in a Catholic School in DCU.

**Dr Orla Walsh** is Deputy Principal of Mount Sackville Secondary School, Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny, Chapelizod and formerly Deputy Principal of St Vincent’s Secondary School, Dundalk, Co. Louth.

**Linda Rainsberry** is a solicitor by training and a full-time mother for the last twenty years. Linda chairs the Board of Governors of Kilkenny College, a co-educational, voluntary day and boarding school, with a Church of Ireland ethos. Linda has just completed the Masters in Christian Leadership in Education in Mary Immaculate College.