

## A Tale of Two Newspapers...

- The Irish Times, January 2003

*Ireland ranked as the most globalised of 63 countries*

- The Wall St. Journal, May 2007

*Ireland; knowledge is our nature...*

QuickTime™ and a  
DV - PAL decompressor  
are needed to see this picture.

## Citizens in action....

- political engagement
- collaborative working
- mobilisation
- use of technology
- School as a civic site, where citizenship is transacted as well as studied

In a national examination for certification.....

## Pressures and principles....

- The press for quality
- The end of certainty
- From innovative schools to innovative students
- From inclusion to engagement

## **In changing contexts, young people need**

- skills in critically assessing information and its sources, in gathering, and processing information, in learning how to learn
- skills to work effectively within such a new environment – skills that are often intercultural as much as vocational
- understanding of the processes of globalisation and individualisation and their opportunities and challenges

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## **In changing contexts, young people need...**

- the imaginative capacity to think creatively and to imagine new and alternative futures
- the dispositions to be willing to play an active role in their society in whatever form they choose that to take
- the disposition to take responsibility for the outcomes of their actions

(Adapted from *Social and Political Education in Senior Cycle, A Background Paper*. Dublin: NCCA)

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## In changing contexts, young people need

Issues perceived as particularly important for learners of the future (NCCA Online Pupil Survey)

|                                                 |     |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|
| Communicating with others                       | 81% |
| Coping with stress and insecurity               | 67% |
| Making successful decisions and choices in life | 66% |
| Appreciating different cultures                 | 62% |
| Finding gainful work                            | 61% |
| Maintaining family and community life           | 60% |

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## Senior Cycle Developments: Key Skills



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- Identifying, evaluating and achieving personal goals, including developing and evaluating actions plans
  - construct action plans to help reach the targets and identify methods for monitoring how well the plans are working (e.g., deadlines, feedback from others)
  - identify any help and resources that will be needed to implement the plans and reach the targets
  - within a specific time frame, evaluate the extent to which the targets have been reached and engage in personal reflection on the process of setting goals and targets
  - take responsibility for decisions and actions, making informed choices

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## Senior Cycle Developments: Key Skills

- Developing personal qualities that help in new and difficult situations, such as taking initiatives, being flexible, being reliable and being able to persevere when difficulties arise
  - recognise that new situations are likely to be uncertain and present personal challenges
  - take the initiative on some occasions and not always leave it to others
  - be flexible and be prepared to try a different approach
  - be reliable in following through with tasks and undertakings

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## **In 2020.....**

- They will need to know...
- They will need to believe....
- They will need to have...
- They will need to do...