



## Itinerary - INOTE Conference October 2023

**09.30 to 09.40**

**Chairperson's address**

**09.40 to 10.30**

**Keynote Event: Interview with Claire Keegan**

Claire Keegan is a multi-award winning author of fiction that exemplifies the art of writing itself. A true wordsmith who patiently polishes her writing towards perfection, Claire's quietly powerful novels are immensely popular texts on the LC English curriculum. The attention to the minute details of ordinary life, the complexity of her characters and the raw, emotional power of her stories all point to a writer at the peak of her powers. Here she talks to Roisin Mernagh about the deeply intertwined arts of reading and writing and many other things besides.

There will be a book signing with Claire after the interview.

Interviewer: Roisin Mernagh

**10.30 to 11.10**

**Guest Speaker: Aoife O'Driscoll on Tracy K. Smith**

Famed producer of brilliantly concise, brilliantly insightful notes on basically anything to do with English, Aoife's expertise knows no bounds. A hugely experienced teacher, currently teaching at Christian Brothers College, Cork, she has run the English website <http://www.aoifesnotes.com> for almost fifteen years. Aoife is the author of a number of LC and JC textbooks for educate.ie, including the *Excellence in English* and *Excellence in Texts* series, and also delivers high-quality online CPD for Tralee and Navan Education Centres.

In her presentation, Aoife will discuss the work of Tracy K. Smith, new contemporary African-American poet on the LC curriculum and bound to be very popular. Aoife will outline how to plan a scheme of work, approach essay Qs and how to use Smith's poems as a springboard for Paper One comprehension and composition tasks as well as Paper Two unseen poetry. This is an exclusive 1st presentation of Aoife's ideas about Smith's work, especially for the INOTE conference.

**11.10 to 11.30**  
**INOTE AGM**

**11.30 to 12.00**  
**Tea/Coffee/Chat Break** sponsored by Folens

**12.00 to 12.45**

**1st Session: Choose one.**

Session #1: Sarah Kelly: Academic Writing

Sarah Kelly is an English teacher in Bandon Grammar School. Teaching for over 25 years, Sarah has delivered presentations for both Tralee Education Centre and INOTE. Sarah also writes and has had her own poetry published in *Banshee* and *The Honest Ulsterman*.

In her comprehensive presentation on Teaching Academic Writing, Sarah will focus on a wide range of strategies that teachers can use in their classrooms to improve students' writing.

Session #2: John Menton: Feedback

John Menton teaches English in South County Dublin. John has a keen interest in journalism, Shakespearean texts and novels. He incorporates methods from the Bridge21 Model and previous experience in the UK to enhance his teaching methods.

John will be discussing how he promotes self-directed writing and effective peer assessment in the classroom to optimise student performance. Focusing on the functional writing and extended composition tasks on the LC Language paper, he will explain how he has tried, tested, and modified his teaching practice in this regard.

Session #3: Niall Daly: Graphic Novels

Niall Daly is an English teacher in Belmayne ETSS, Dublin 13 and an English associate with JCT/OIDE.

In this session, Niall will be speaking about ways to use graphic novels in the classroom, drawing on his own experiences and success with supporting students in their learning.

**12.45 to 13.45**  
**Lunch** jointly sponsored by Edco & educate.ie

**14.00 to 14.45**  
**2nd Session: Choose one.**

#### **14.45 to 15.35**

##### **Panel Discussion: Breathing Space:**

- Julian Girdham

Julian Girdham has taught English for almost 40 years. He is an experienced conference and CPD presenter. He has written articles and reviews for several publications, such as *The Irish Times* and the *London Review of Books*. Every two weeks in term-time he sends out a free newsletter called *The Fortnightly* about reading, teaching and thinking, from his website <http://juliangirdham.com>

- Kevin Dowling

Kevin Dowling is a teacher in North County Dublin. He has a particular interest in film and poetry, and has hosted JCT sessions on Contemporary Poetry in Junior Cycle and CPD for Wexford Education Centre on Film in TY. Kevin is a regular contributor to the INOTE magazine, JCT English and other educational magazines.

- Claire Madden

Clare Madden is an English and History teacher in Glanmire Community College in Cork and is the author of the excellent *Touchstones* series of Junior Cycle textbooks.

Chaired by: Kate Barry

#### **15.35 to 15.45**

##### **Chairperson's Farewell**