

LETTER CIRCULAR - Institute for Education

Date: 11/09/2018

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From: Joanne Grima – CEO

To the attention of: DGs, Directors, Assistant Directors, Service Managers, Educational Officers, Heads (College Networks), Head of Schools (State Schools)

Subject: Supporting ethnic and linguistic diversity in schools

In our efforts to keep ourselves updated to the changes which are taking place in our society and within the educational sector, the Ministry for Education and Employment in collaboration with the Institute for Education will be organising a series of professional development sessions which focus on supporting ethnic and linguistic diversity in schools. The sessions will be organised by the Institute for Education and will be led by Professor John P. Portelli and Dr Phyllisienne Vassallo Gauci.

Below please find the schedule of dates when the sessions will be held for particular audiences. Please take note of the date where you are being cordially invited to attend and participate actively.

4 th October, 2018	DG SS, CIO, Directors and Assistant Directors (DES and DCLE)
24 th October 2018	DG ES, DG DCLE, College Principals, EOs Curriculum, CEO IfE, CEO NLA
12 th , 19 th , 26 th October 2018	EOs (separate circular will be issued with allocation of these dates)

All sessions will be held at the NCC in Hamrun.

Between February and April 2019, we plan to offer the same workshop for Heads of Schools and Assistant Heads as well as the teachers working with the Migrant Learners' Unit.

In July 2019 we will offer the workshop again for teachers; their attendance will be on a voluntary basis, but it will count as part of their management driven professional development for 2019-2020. To hasten the process of offering the workshop for teachers we will also offer the workshop on weekends during the first term of 2019 – always on a voluntary basis.

We will also regularly offer the workshop for teachers and LSAs in 2019-2020; these will be included as part of the management driven professional development.

Below please find the programme of the session as well as biographical details of Prof. Portelli and Dr Vassallo Gauci.

Many thanks for your support and collaboration.

Joanne Grima
CEO Institute for Education

<p>Beyond deficit thinking: Supporting ethnic and linguistic diversity in schools</p> <p>Professional Development Session for Educators</p> <p>Institute for Education</p>	
8:30-8:45	<i>Welcome Coffee and Registration</i>
8:45-10:00	Session 1 – Professor John P. Portelli <i>Student engagement and deficit thinking</i>
10:00- 11:15	Session 2 – Dr Phyllisienne Vassallo Gauci <i>What would school be like if nobody spoke your language? - The newcomer learner’s perspective</i>
11:15-11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30-12:30	Session 3 – Professor John P. Portelli <i>Beyond deficit thinking: Supporting multi-ethnic classrooms</i>
12:30-13:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>
13:15-14:15	Session 4 – Dr Phyllisienne Vassallo Gauci <i>Supporting multilingual classrooms</i>
14:15-14:30	Concluding Remarks