

## **A Celebration of French Gastronomy in IT Tallaght**

On Wednesday 14 March IT Tallaght students took centre stage in the celebration of French Gastronomy Month by organising and hosting a unique collaborative event at Scholar's Training Restaurant. The event was organised by students from the International Hospitality and Tourism Management Degree in collaboration with hospitality and tourism students from Lycéé Christian Bourquin who travelled to ITT all the way from Argelès in the South of France.

Students from both countries bridged the language divide by managing both the restaurant and the kitchen under the expert guidance of ITT lecturers Ursula Maguire, Tom Meaney and John Keatley and visiting French lecturers, Florence Mèges, Didier Bascoul, Christophe Charlot and Nadia Garcia.

The culmination of this unique collaboration was a truly excellent Franco-Irish lunch that was prepared and presented in the presence of the French Ambassador, H.E. Stéphane Crouzat, IT Tallaght President, Thomas Stone, Deputy Sean Crowe TD, Councillor Charlie O'Connor, Peter Byrne, CEO South Dublin Chamber of Commerce and other distinguished guests. Those present commented enthusiastically on the quality of the food, the menu choice and the professionalism of the service.

The event was part of a world-wide celebration of French gastronomy known as *Goût de France 2018* which is held on 5 continents in over 150 countries. This year it has some 3,000 participating restaurants and includes a number of third level institutions. However, what made the IT Tallaght event so unique was the fact that it involved 32 French students working hand in hand with their Irish counterparts in bringing this celebration to fruition. In total over 55 students and lecturers from both colleges were involved and the event was a true celebration of gastronomic, language and event management skills.

IT Tallaght celebrates 25 years of education provision this year and the *Goût de France* is just the most recent iteration of many Franco-Irish relationships that the college has built up over the years across a wide variety of areas including research, Erasmus study programmes, and international internships. It has established links with French universities in places such as Lille, Strasbourg, La Rochelle, Reims and Rennes.

It is envisaged that next year hospitality, tourism and culinary arts students from IT Tallaght will travel to Lycéé Christian Bourquin in Argelès to collaborate on a similar event, thus bringing a true sense of Irish hospitality to our friends in the South of France.

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