

## **18 February, 2002 - Woods Announces funds of €3.9million for Dust Extraction Systems to modernise 132 Second Level Schools**

The Minister for Education and Science, Dr. Michael Woods, TD, today announced that he has provided €3.9million in the schools capital programme for the installation of dust extraction systems in second level schools throughout the country.

The Minister said, " I am delighted to be in a position to deliver a programme which will control air borne dust levels in specialist rooms in second level schools".

"It is essential that we upgrade and improve facilities in all schools with a particular focus on safety. The funding for school building and capital works is at record levels demonstrating this Government's commitment to provide on an ongoing basis quality learning and working environments for students and teachers. The measures that I am introducing today will ensure that specialist Woodwork, Construction Studies and Technology facilities in schools fully comply with the new regulations" continued Minister Woods.

At the commencement of the current academic year the management authorities of second level schools were advised of my Department's findings in relation to dust extraction systems for second level schools, together with the Specifications that should be adhered to. The School Authorities were invited to examine their current provisions and where necessary to make application to the Department for funding to upgrade and modernise such facilities in their Construction Studies/ Woodwork and Technology facilities. In the first phase of the programme "I am giving approval to 132 second level schools this week to appoint a Consultant Engineer to address these works," said Dr. Woods.

18 February 2002

Ends.