

NEWS FROM THE INTEGRATED EDUCATION MOVEMENT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

LEARNING TOGETHER

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INTEGRATED
EDUCATION FUND

Hello and welcome to our new-look *Learning Together*. I hope you like the fresh new design and I'm sure you'll be glad to see that we have retained our mix of news from the schools, campaigning articles, and highlights of our fundraising activity.

The lack of an Executive has not stopped the IEF team engaging with politicians of all persuasions to explore possible areas of agreement on the way ahead for the NI education system. You'll find a report on the public launch of our latest Vision document on page 3 (opposite).

“ We are immensely grateful to generous donors such as Terry Cross and the Curley family ”

Our fantastic supporters have turned out to show their commitment to integrated education, attending events in London, Dublin and NI, including a sold-out comedy gig at Belfast's Ulster Hall (see p8) and a fabulous social gathering at our friend Maxine Mawhinney's house in London (p10). And we are immensely grateful to generous donors such as Terry Cross and the Curley family (see p12). You have probably heard or read that our Campaign Chair, Baroness May Blood MBE, has retired from the House of Lords; her voice will be missed in London but we are delighted that she will continue her passionate campaigning for integrated education.

Of course, the best ambassadors are the pupils who make schools and parents so proud. You can find coverage of the colourful showcase for the Carson Awards scheme on p9 and plenty of news from schools throughout the magazine.

Happy reading!



Tina Merron
Chief Executive
IEF

PAST PUPILS PLAN BUSY YEAR



Laura McCance of Integrated AlumNI ready to welcome new recruits.

After a busy summer providing support to the Integrate My School campaign and various IEF fundraising events, Integrated AlumNI has been gearing up for the new academic year, with lots of exciting initiatives planned. The group now has active societies at each university in Northern Ireland and has been visible at recent Freshers' Fairs.

Integrated AlumNI was founded in 2013 by former pupils of integrated schools and offers a social and support network for past pupils living and working throughout the UK and Ireland. In addition, Integrated AlumNI actively supports schools at open nights and awards nights and encourages current pupils through mentoring and workshops. Plans are well underway for the fourth annual Back to School Roadshow, where members of Integrated AlumNI run interactive workshops and activities with current pupils, focused on inspiring confidence, raising self-esteem and career

“ Integrated AlumNI supports schools and encourages pupils through mentoring and workshops ”

mentoring. The Back to School Roadshow is a two-day event which aims to support current students as they prepare to leave school and take the next step - whether that be in further or higher education, employment and/or leaving home. Any principals interested in taking part in the 2018 roadshow should contact Claire Carlin at claire@ief.org.uk.

Integrated AlumNI also welcomes supporters of integrated education and the Belfast team is currently working to develop links with youth organisations to engage young people in exploring ways to build a more cohesive society in Northern Ireland.

Integrated AlumNI is open to all current and past pupils as well as supporters of integrated education from all educational backgrounds. If you are interested in getting involved, you can find out more through the AlumNI website: www.integratedalumni.org/get-involved/ or by emailing them at hello@integratedalumni.org.



Ken Cathcart IEF Chair, Jason Merron from Lagan College, Baroness May Blood, Roisin Marshall CEO NICIE, (in front) Freya Collins from Forge Integrated Primary School, NIO Minister Shailesh Vara and Tina Merron CEO IEF.

SHARING THE VISION

Politicians, business leaders, campaigners and civic influencers gathered at Stormont House on 07 June where the IEF hosted a reception and presented our far-reaching plan for the future of the NI education system. NIO Minister Shailesh Vara MP joined guests at the historic building for the launch of the Fund's strategic vision document, entitled *Integration Works for Everybody*.

Integration Works for Everybody sets out targets to grow integrated education to represent 10% of school places in NI by 2021, and - with government support - 30% by 2031. Over the next three years the IEF needs to raise £3.6 million to

support its campaigning and grant-making activities.

IEF Campaign Chair, Baroness May Blood, told the invited audience: "The IEF's vision document sets out how we would develop and support a holistic approach which puts children, not institutions, at the heart of education policy and planning. The document represents our commitment to working tirelessly to empower parents, empower schools and advocate for positive change in the education system."

Integration Works for Everybody can be found at www.ief.org.uk/resources/publications/



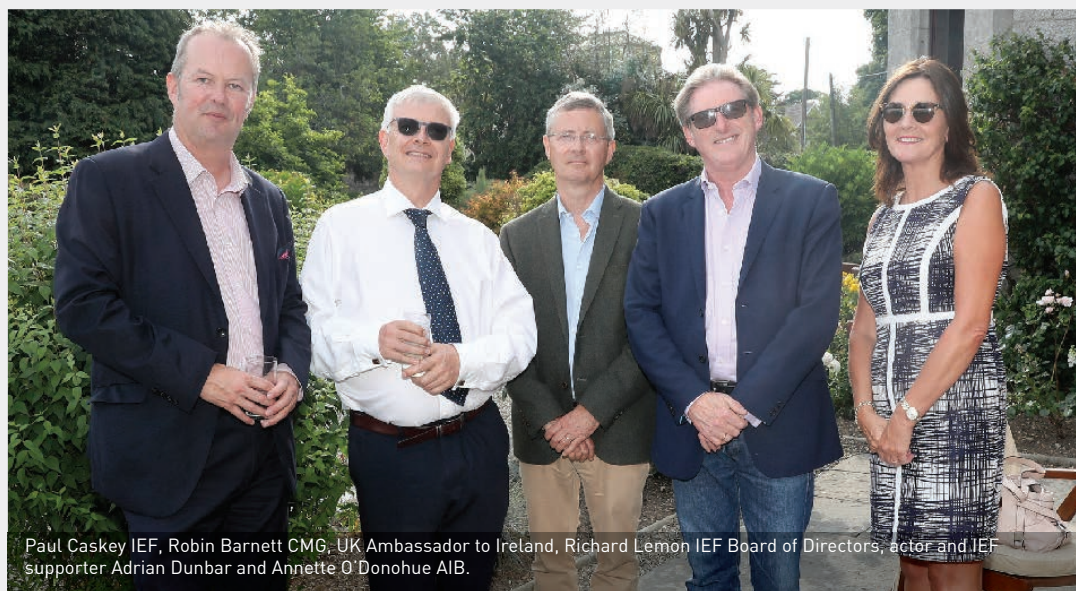
Integrated education supporter and former IEF Chair Anne Odling-Smee (centre) with Integrated AlumNI members Hilary Copeland and James Wallace.

SPREADING THE WORD

Baroness Blood presented the Fund's strategic vision in Dublin, at a gathering hosted by Robin Barnett CMG, UK Ambassador to Ireland, at his residence. The guests at this celebration of integrated education included representatives from the world of business, politics and community organisations from across Ireland as well as past pupils of integrated schools. The visitors were entertained by music from the Forge Integrated Primary School choir, who travelled from Belfast for the occasion.

Ambassador Barnett said: "Integrated education is an essential part of the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement which was supported by a majority of citizens, both North and South. I want to pay tribute to Baroness Blood who has worked

tirelessly for integrated education for many years. I have had the privilege of getting to know her through the work of the British Irish Parliamentary Assembly and I've witnessed her commitment to this important issue. Her passion and energy will be sorely missed in Westminster, but I am delighted she will remain Campaign Chair of the IEF."



Paul Caskey IEF, Robin Barnett CMG, UK Ambassador to Ireland, Richard Lemon IEF Board of Directors, actor and IEF supporter Adrian Dunbar and Annette O'Donohue AIB.

TALKING AND LISTENING TO COMMUNITIES

Work initiated and supported by the Integrated Education Fund, aiming to ensure that parents are engaged in the education planning process, has been presented at a major academic event in Belfast.

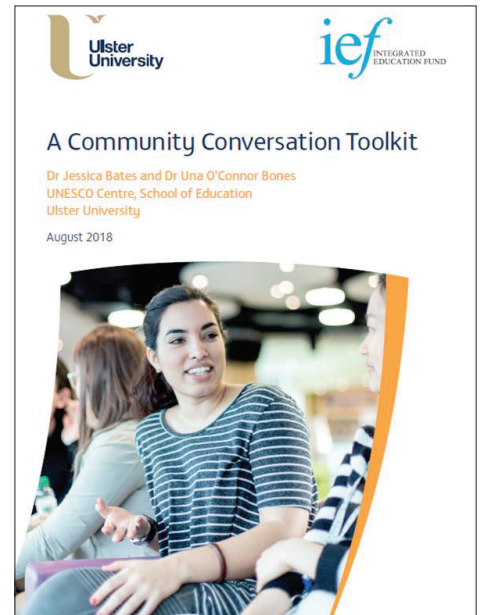
Parents provided the impetus for integrated schools, and the IE movement has always believed that our schools are strengthened by having strong foundations in democracy and community involvement.

The IEF, with support from the Building Change Trust, has been working with independent researchers at Ulster University to refine a process through which education planning in any area genuinely explores and reflects the needs and wishes of parents and the local community.

The experience gained in this project has now been published in a *Community Conversation Toolkit*. It was presented at the Economic and Social Research Council's Festival of Social Science on 05 November.

The *Toolkit* was developed by Dr Jessica Bates and Dr Una O'Connor Bones of the UU UNESCO Centre through pilot projects in different NI locations.

Michael McConkey, Head of Area Planning at the Education Authority said: "The *Community Conversation Toolkit* developed at Ulster University is a highly valuable model. This enables whole communities to engage meaningfully with education planning and contribute to more effective and informed policy implementation."



TEAM TAKES TO THE ROAD WITH INTEGRATION INFORMATION

The Integrate My School team has been out and about all over Northern Ireland, meeting families and letting parents know that they can help bring integration to their own school. Staff and volunteers have been sharing information and answering parents' questions at events including Garden Show Ireland in Antrim and the Balmoral Show in Lisburn during May, the Ballymoney Show in June, and Belfast Mela in August. You might also have spotted the red t-shirts at shopping centres, leisure centres and attractions throughout the summer, where the

team enjoyed talking to visitors about the benefits of integrated education and about the transformation process which results in a school becoming officially integrated. Where interest has been particularly strong, community information events have been organised so that integrated education can be discussed in more depth. You can read more at: www.integratemyschool.com

All this activity has taken its cue from independent research which has shown most parents would like to see their



Lord Mayor of Belfast Deirdre Hargey visits the IMS stand at the Mela festival.



school become officially integrated. A poll carried out by LucidTalk for the IEF earlier this year found that 80% of those expressing an opinion said they would support such a move, and a survey carried out by Sky News in March found that almost 70% of those polled think that every school in NI should be integrated. Many of the conversations we have locally echo these opinions, and parents would like to see more integrated provision for their children.

If you would like to find out more, or see the team at a space near you then contact jill@ief.org.uk



Jeremy Corbyn with senior students at Lagan College.

Labour party leader the Rt Honourable Jeremy Corbyn MP engaged in a question and answer session with sixth-form students when he visited Lagan College, Belfast on 24 May. Jeremy Corbyn was accompanied by Shadow Secretary of State for NI, Tony Lloyd MP and his team. The delegation was greeted by Lagan College Principal Amanda McNamee and governors' chair Francis Martin, along with representatives of the IEF and the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE).

Praising the young people he met on his tour, Jeremy Corbyn said: "Having difference is not a problem; having difference and not recognising it is a problem; having difference and hating somebody because of it is a big problem. Lagan College teaches us that there is another way and it's been fantastic to be here."

Omagh Integrated Campus



SMART MOVE FOR OMAGH IPS

The opening this term of the new Omagh Integrated Primary School building beside Drumragh Integrated College completes the final piece of the 'Omagh Integrated Campus' jigsaw. A team of experts including engineers, surveyors, environmental specialists and school staff and pupils were involved in the design and planning process and work began on the new school build in January 2017.

Principal Anthony Bradley says the new campus represents a major step forward for the primary school, which spent three decades in mobile huts: "Pupils, parents,

staff, governors and the local community can look forward with confidence and high expectations to an exciting future. The move has created the first integrated campus in the west of NI and offers a continuum of integrated education for all children from pre-school to 18 years of age."

The new facilities include an on-site kitchen for school meals, nursery provision, and a children's centre supported by the Eithne and Paddy Fitzpatrick Memorial Fund through the IEF.

MOVE APPROVED FOR FORGE IPS

Forge Integrated Primary School will be moving house after a development proposal for relocation was approved by the Department of Education.

The school has been waiting since October 2106 to hear the decision on three linked development proposals: to relocate the school; to add a nursery unit; and to add an Autistic Spectrum Disorder Centre (ASDC) and a Learning Support Centre. So far only the move has been approved. It is hoped that a decision on the other two proposals will follow

in the very near future.

Forge IPS will move from its current south Belfast location to the site of the former Knockbreda High School, subject to the usual planning processes, in September 2019 or as soon as possible after that. A new school is to be built on the site at an estimated cost of £7.5 million, which will be funded through the Fresh Start Agreement.

The move is needed to accommodate the school's growing enrolment and to offer modern facilities.



Baroness May Blood, Cliftonville IPS Principal Bill Fletcher, pupil Shimous Imad and Michael T Clune, Chair of the IAP Board.

Pupils and staff at Cliftonville Integrated Primary School in north Belfast were delighted to welcome the board of the Irish American Partnership on 25 September. The IAP are partnering with the school to support a gardening club which is proving a huge success with children and parents. During the visit IAP chair Michael T Clune presented a further donation on behalf of the Partnership.



KEEPING HEALTH IN MIND

Staff and pupils from Phoenix Integrated Primary School in Cookstown were delighted to showcase their work in promoting positive mental health when they gave a presentation at a Mindfulness in Schools Project (MiSP) conference at Crumlin Road Gaol in Belfast. The school has been developing daily mindfulness sessions for all pupils, whilst the Year 5 and 6 children also took part in the "PAWS B" programme which has been designed by depression charity AWARE to help young people feel happier and calmer, cope better with stress and anxiety, concentrate and get on better with others.

The children from Phoenix IPS took part in a demonstration session for the conference and also took the opportunity to tell delegates how they use the skills learnt in school.

TWENTY YEARS OF INTEGRATION

This term, Bangor Central Integrated Primary School is marking 20 years of integration, having transformed to become officially integrated in autumn 1998. The school community started celebrations with 90 Year 7 pupils performing a powerful drama called 'Weathering the Storm', written by Andrea Grimason.

Former principal, Alex Redpath, outlined the challenges and rewards found on the journey to integration, while past staff and pupils reflected on the privilege of being part of their school family. Present pupils read poems and shared the benefits of having an integrated

education. The current principal, Peter Campbell, detailed the plans and vision for the growth of Bangor Central IPS. Roisin Marshall, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, closed with an encouraging and inspiring speech.

The afternoon finished with the Permanent Secretary from the Department of Education, Derek Baker, unveiling a new mural to which the whole school contributed.

As well as enjoying birthday cake, all the children will be given a special t-shirt this year, designed by former pupil Emily Osborne.



EARLY YEARS DAY

A conference at Hazelwood Integrated College, in Belfast, in August brought nursery and foundation-stage staff from 27 integrated schools to network, share good practice and explore outdoor learning and integration in the early years. The event was organised by NICIE and the keynote speaker was education consultant Joan Henderson.



Cliftonville IPS at Belfast City Hall.

SCHOOLS OF SANCTUARY

Cliftonville Integrated Primary School in north Belfast and Malone Integrated College, in the south-west of the city, have gained "School of Sanctuary" status, along with 11 other schools.

The "School of Sanctuary" initiative recognises schools which consciously work to offer a space for those whose lives may be in danger in their own

country, who have troubles at home or are just looking for a place where they can feel safe and welcome.

The awards were presented at a celebration morning on 20 September at Belfast City Hall. The "School of Sanctuary" scheme is a stream of the City of Sanctuary movement which was established in the UK in 2005.



DIVERSITY PROJECT

All Children's Integrated Primary School in Newcastle has been running a whole-school project reflecting its motto 'Harmony Through Understanding' and developing further the children's respect for their own and others' beliefs.

Supported by an IEF grant, the pupils enjoyed participating in diverse activities such as Chinese dragon dancing, Polish dancing, African drumming and Brazilian dancing. The children also went on trips to learn about particular world religions: P4 studied Judaism so they visited a Synagogue; P5 studied Islam and visited an Islamic centre; and P6 visited the Indian Community Centre.

The P7 annual visit to Belfast has also been a huge success over the last few years, taking in a peace wall, Stormont, the Falls and Shankill Roads and Titanic Quarter. All Children's IPS believes it is very important that children understand the problems from our past in Northern Ireland and to appreciate how much we have moved on. Last year a significant number of parents accompanied the P7 class and everyone found it a fantastic experience to explore the city's past together.



Malone College receives its award.

RELIGIOUS VOICES

Students from Shimna Integrated College in Newcastle have produced and released a video documentary exploring the range of beliefs and religions represented in Northern Ireland.

Religious Voices, which took more than a year to make, shows the group's travels around NI to visit the leaders of minority faith groups in their places of worship and find out about their experiences of living here. The students interviewed the leaders of Buddhism, the Baha'i faith, Judaism, Sikhism, Islam and Hinduism as well as interviewing Richard Moore (founder of Children in Crossfire) about his friendship

with the Dalai Lama, poet Gráinne Tobin about her atheism and Patrick Corrigan from Amnesty International.

Members of all the groups featured attended the launch, joined by representatives of the IEF, which has funded the project thanks to support from the Pears Foundation and the Turnaround Foundation.

The documentary has been professionally made and produced by Paul Martin Brown and a copy of the DVD and teacher's guide will be sent to every integrated post-primary school in Northern Ireland to help with the teaching of minority beliefs.



SELL-OUT SUPPORT

Fundraising Manager Brian Small reflects on a very successful night for the IEF.

The Ulster Hall was packed upstairs and downstairs on 27 September. Tears of laughter flooded the building. Even the brilliant Ulster Hall staff were in stitches - and they've heard them all!

The occasion? *Stand Up For Integrated Education*, with Tim McGarry, David Meade, Wendy Wason, Neil Delamere

and Colin Murphy. And Brexit wasn't even mentioned! They were all so good. So much energy came from the stage that the packed house responded with equal gusto. Roaring laughter and loud applause were the order of the night. After the interval, Baroness May Blood focussed minds - as only she can - with a stirring reminder of why everyone was there.

We thank everyone involved: the classy performers, the packed audience, the supporters who couldn't make it but threw money in the pot.

It raised a lot of money and was great fun. Thank you Tim, Wendy, David, Colin and Neil. Shall we do it again for those people who couldn't get a ticket this year?



Howard Hastings (Hastings Hotels), Brian Small (IEF), and mentalist David Meade relax at the Grand Central Hotel after the show.



Neil Delamere.



Wendy Wason.



Richard Finlay and guests enjoyed the comedy fundraiser.



Colin Murphy.



The fabulous five performers.



Tim McGarry.

SHOWCASE OF TALENT

Stars of all ages gathered at Lagan College Belfast on 04 October to celebrate talent in the arts in integrated schools. Actor, writer and director Dan Gordon introduced the Carson Awards Showcase, featuring an array of creative projects on the theme of integration. The audience of students, staff, parents and IEF supporters enjoyed an exhibition of entries to the Carson Prizes and work produced through

the Carson Bursary scheme including film, music and dance. The trophies were presented by Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair.

The scheme is funded by the Carson family and named as a tribute to the late comedian Frank Carson. The competition is run through the IEF and entries are invited for the next round of awards;

the closing date to apply for the Carson Bursaries (for students in Years 11 upwards) is Friday 07 December 2018; successful applicants must submit completed projects by Friday 24 May 2019. This is also the closing date for Carson Prize entries.

You can find out more at <https://www.ief.org.uk/grants/carson-awards/>



Proud pupils representing the winners from Millennium IPS, Carryduff.



The dancers of Lagan College, Belfast.



Laura Hetherington from Integrated College Dungannon.



Josephine Dowell, Callum McNally and teacher Chris Donnelly from Ulidia IC in Carrickfergus with artwork supported by a Carson Bursary.



Nathan Hood (New-Bridge IC, Loughbrickland) shows his work to compère Dan Gordon.



A group travelled from Dungannon to showcase the Windmill IPS entry.



Shannon Weatherup (Lagan College) sang her own compositions.



LIAM NEESON HAILS MAY BLOOD AS HIS HERO

Baroness May Blood's tireless campaigning for integrated education has been celebrated at a reception in London – where supporter Liam Neeson told May that she is one of his heroes. The film star sent a surprise video message when he couldn't join other guests to honour the baroness as she retires from the House of Lords.

The event was hosted by Belfast-born broadcaster Maxine Mawhinney and her husband John Clare at their London home on 25 June.

In the video, Liam Neeson says:

"I want to thank you for introducing me to the integrated education system. I'm indebted to you. You have been, and still are, a hero of mine."

Guests included actor Stephen Hagan; comedian Wendy Wason; the voice of the 'X Factor' Peter Dixon; Robina Ellis, widow of actor Jimmy Ellis; and leading philanthropists and IEF supporters Sir Harvey and Lady Allison McGrath and Cecilia and Donal Gallagher.

Maxine Mawhinney paid tribute to Baroness Blood's passion and energy in her efforts for integrated education.

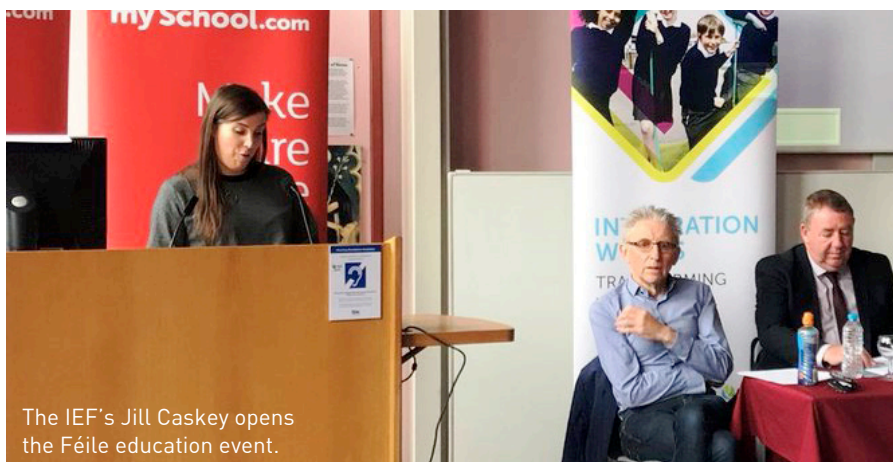


Maxine Mawhinney, Lady Allison and Sir Harvey McGrath and Sue Dickie.

LET'S TALK ABOUT EDUCATION

Education's role in building peace was the focus of *Let's Talk about Education*, at St Mary's University College during this year's Féile an Phobail. Organised by the IEF, the event on 07 August was chaired by Gerry McConville, Director of Falls Community Council and Chair of the West Belfast Partnership Board.

Welcoming the audience, IEF Campaign Chair Baroness May Blood emphasised that "education is a passport to life" and that we need to encourage mixing at an earlier age, through integrated education. Robin Wilson drew on his international knowledge and experience and said that a key feature of education should be awareness of diversity. NI Children's Commissioner Koulla Yiasouma provided an overview of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and concluded that it isn't being met in Northern Ireland; she stressed that our children need to be taught together in schools that are welcoming of all religions, cultures, abilities, genders and classes.



The IEF's Jill Caskey opens the Féile education event.

Máire Thompson, principal of Hazelwood Integrated College (and formerly of Malone Integrated College) reflected on her experience of working in an integrated education environment and concluded that, with increasing diversity in our society, we need to address increasing racism.

After enthusiastic questions from the floor, the high-profile panellists agreed that there are policy flaws in our current system which need to be addressed. The overwhelming message which emerged was that "education should meet the needs of our children and not the other way around".

TIME TO REVIEW EDUCATION

KEN CATHCART, IEF CHAIR



This term, the vast majority of children in NI are attending a school overwhelmingly characterised by a single religious or cultural identity.

This term, most children in NI will be attending a school struggling to manage financially.

These two facts are linked and, 20 years after the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement, this situation is a source of embarrassment.

Our schools are part of an unwieldy education system with multiple sectors, over-provision and many management bodies - all supported by the Department's budget. In effect, we are paying a "division tax"; our resources are stretched thinly because we have not successfully challenged the segregated nature of our society.

The effects are felt by teachers, pupils and parents. As the NI Children's Commissioner pointed out in her Cost of Education report late last year, families subsidise our "free" education system, spending more than £1000 a year on school-related costs.

A structure can and must be designed to ensure efficiency - directing resources to the classroom - and to reduce social segregation, enabling teachers to play a major role in developing a cohesive, shared society.

Another source of embarrassment is that, at the time of writing, we have no devolved government and no intervention from Westminster to initiate systemic change. Independent analysts have been brought in to look at our policing and our health system. Surely it's time for an independent, root-and-branch review of education? This school term should represent a tipping point which prompts the start of a new structure; we cannot wait another 20 years to tackle division in our education system.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? TRACKING DOWN SOME PAST PUPILS...

My name is Stuart Irwin and I recently submitted a PhD thesis on the urban history of nineteenth-century Belfast. Whilst I decide what I want to do with my life, I'm currently teaching undergraduate tutorials at Queen's, whilst leading walking tours around Belfast.



It's not what I dreamt of as a child though - first choice was a fire-fighter, which proved problematic for an asthmatic, then joining NASA after watching Apollo 13. More realistically, I came to realise the value of my teachers and contemplated teaching history, which I thoroughly enjoyed. I had a fantastic teacher in Drew McFall, who taught me throughout my post-primary career.

I went to Hazelwood Integrated College, in north Belfast and I'm still in touch with the friends I made there. We hung out in 'our corner' of the playground and we supported each other in getting through the ups and downs of school life.

I remember walking into a classroom and seeing a poster on the wall stating: 'Everyone starts the year with an A, but it's up to you to keep it'. This statement immediately struck a chord. I've never taken it literally; but if someone gives a task their best shot, surely that's to be applauded.

A less inspiring memory is PE - and yet nowadays I complete the 5k Parkrun every weekend!

Completing school and graduating from university is a big deal for me. I'm proud to have come this far, and I'm indebted to my family for their support. Away from my studies, I am a member of the Belfast hub of the Global Shapers Community, an initiative of the World Economic Forum; and we recently hosted the Shape Europe conference, welcoming over 150 delegates from around the world to Belfast. **And I'm very proud to play a role in growing Integrated AlumNI. #JoinIN**

I was very lucky at Hazelwood, in that learning wasn't just about academic study. We were a diverse community playing an important role in producing a new generation of leaders, entrepreneurs and change-makers to build a new Northern Ireland.

It is all too easy to measure your success by drawing comparisons with others. I think we need to be kinder to ourselves and realise that everyone is different, and that is OK.

PADDY MCINTYRE

The staff and directors of the Integrated Education Fund were deeply saddened by the death of our supporter and board member, Paddy McIntyre, in August.

Joining the IEF's Board of Directors in 2015, Paddy served as Deputy Chair and as a member of the advocacy working group. He made an invaluable contribution to the governance and work of the IEF and the Fund has benefited from his wealth of experience in management, academic life and community activity.



GIFT COMMEMORATES DAVID CROSS

Leading businessman Dr Terry Cross OBE has made a significant donation to the Integrated Education Fund in memory of his son. The David Cross Foundation for Reconciliation is an initiative set up to honour David, who died tragically at 33 from an aggressive form of skin cancer called malignant melanoma.

Terry has been a long-standing supporter of integrated education and in July he presented a £10,000 gift from the Foundation to Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair. The donation will be used to support disadvantaged families with children at integrated schools and who struggle to meet the costs of school uniforms and other educational items.

Terry commented: "I have always supported children being educated together, irrespective of their community or cultural background. I'm also aware that many families find it difficult to meet the cost of school uniforms, PE kit and other essential items. I want to ensure that children from all backgrounds can receive the best possible start in life through a quality education and not be hindered by economic disadvantage. This is something that is important to me and if it can also help extend the work of integrated education then I will be delighted."



Terry Cross and Baroness May Blood.

SLF PUTTING INTEGRATION INTO EDUCATION



IEF volunteers collect from Stiffs' fans.

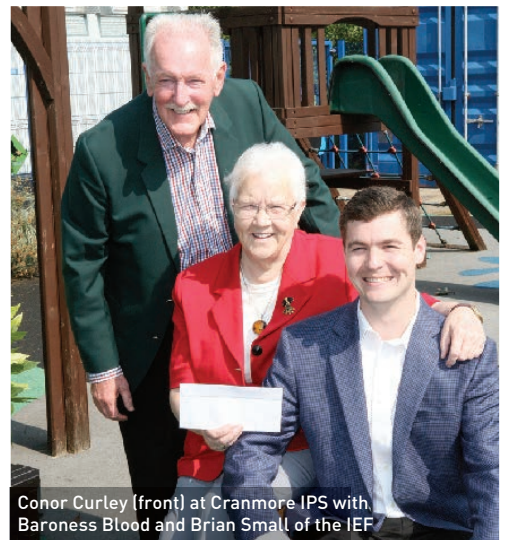
The mighty Stiff Little Fingers (SLF) and their generous fans continue to support the work of the Integrated Education Fund and we are as ever massively grateful for their help.

Recently the Fund has benefited from t-shirt sales at last summer's concerts and the band invited the IEF's friends and fundraisers to rattle collection buckets at gigs in Dublin and Belfast. This has raised a fantastic £2,383.46 to help us promote integrated education

and support parents who want an integrated school place for their children.

Bass player Ali McMordie says: "SLF are big believers in breaking down the religious and cultural division in our schools and are proud supporters of the IEF's work."

SLF have announced a 2019 UK tour with support from Eddie and the Hot Rods and two dates in Glasgow are already sold out.



Conor Curley (front) at Cranmore IPS with Baroness Blood and Brian Small of the IEF

AMERICAN FRIENDS

Conor Curley, son of Irish American philanthropist Kevin Curley, visited Cranmore Integrated Primary School in Belfast during the summer, to view the children's centre his father has supported.

Kevin has been a long-standing supporter of integrated education and each year he organises a Golf Tournament in Texas to raise funds for Cranmore IPS.

Baroness May Blood, Campaign Chair of the Integrated Education Fund, and Brian Small, IEF Fundraising Manager, were delighted to receive a further donation of \$10,000 from Conor.

THE POPE AND THE PRINCE

Two students at Erne Integrated College, Enniskillen, took part in very different celebrations over the summer.

THE ROYAL WEDDING

Adam Smith, Year 10



I was one of the 1200 members of the public invited to attend the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle on 19 May 2018 at St George's Chapel, Windsor. I was nominated by Lord Alan Brookeborough, in recognition of my scouting achievements and volunteering and I wore my scout uniform for the wedding.

When we arrived at Windsor Castle at 8.00am, crowds were gathered in the streets, waving flags, and there was a large gathering of photographers and television crews. After security checks we were allowed into the grounds of Windsor Castle. We were given a gift bag containing a bottle of water, some shortbread, a chocolate coin, fridge magnet and a souvenir booklet.

We found a great spot to stand near the wall of the Castle just outside the Chapel. All the celebrity guests had to walk past us including David and Victoria Beckham, George Clooney and members of the Royal Family. Just before 12 o'clock Meghan Markle arrived with her mother to cheers from the crowd.

The wedding was shown on large screens so that everyone could watch. It was a beautiful ceremony and we all loved it. There was such a happy atmosphere and everyone cheered when Prince Harry and Meghan were officially married.

“There was such a happy atmosphere and everyone cheered”

When the ceremony was over and the guests had left, we were allowed to tour the church. It is a beautiful building and the flowers that decorated the chapel were amazing. We also did a tour of the grounds of the Castle and the gardens were very impressive, with beautiful flowers and plants.

I will never ever forget that day. I feel so honoured, privileged and proud to have been part of the Royal Wedding.

POPE FRANCIS

Hannah Irvine, Year 9



Sunday 26th of August was a very special day for me because that was the day that I went to see Pope Francis in Dublin. I went with my Mum, my Auntie and my Granny - so it was sort of a “holy” girls’ day out.

The chartered bus left the parish at 8.00am. I slept for most of the journey. When we were dropped off at the docks in Dublin we then had to queue for an hour to get the shuttle bus to take us nearer to Phoenix Park. All the streets were closed off and it was eerily silent going through the normally bustling roads and avenues.

When we got off we still had a long way to go (7 kilometres according to my Mum’s Fitbit). When we got to Island Bridge Road it was just crammed with pilgrims. We finally made it to Phoenix Park

“The choir was heavenly and I was so happy to be there”

and there was a real carnival atmosphere. We had to queue up again to get through security, but everyone was happy, chatting and laughing and joking. There were large screens up and we could see everything onstage. I saw people of all shapes and sizes, different nationalities; African, American, Swedish, French and Mexican. From babies in pushchairs to really old people who could hardly walk to teenagers in wheelchairs - all there to see the Holy Father.

Shortly before 3pm Pope Francis arrived. He toured through the hundreds of thousands of excited visitors in his pope-mobile and reached out to people. He took his place at the altar by a huge crucifix which glistened in the sun. The mass was mostly spoken in Italian, but the Pope tried to celebrate some of it in English. The choir was heavenly and I was so happy to be there with the women of my family.

We didn’t arrive home until 1.00 am. Even though it was a long day, this is a day that I will always treasure and I know I will look back at it in the future as a very important day in my life.



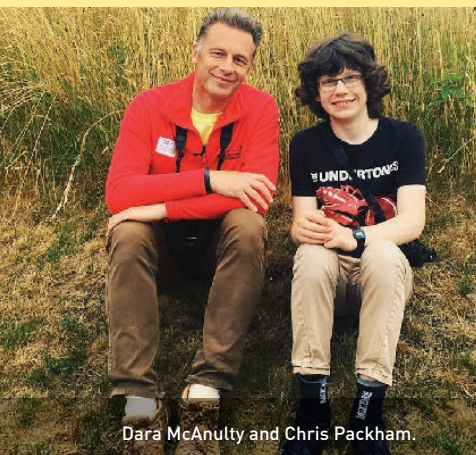
INTERNSHIP CLASS OF 2018

The Hazelwood Integrated College Internship Programme, now in its second year, enables students to work closely with industry staff on specific projects during a six-month business placement for one day a week. This year's interns have been

through a two-stage application process and emerged ready and eager to step outside their comfort zone, explore career possibilities and develop the attributes needed for success. The Internship Programme thanks its partners:

Charles Hurst; Clayton Hotel; Deloitte; Electoral Office NI; Glengormley, Hazelwood and Cliftonville Integrated Primary Schools; NI Children's Hospice; O'Hare & McGovern Construction; Prince's Trust; QUB; and Somme Nursing Home.

A HERO FOR WILDLIFE



Dara McNulty and Chris Packham.

A pupil at Shimna Integrated College in Newcastle, formerly at Erne Integrated College, Enniskillen, has won the 2018 Young Animal Hero of the Year title. Dara McNulty, who has autism, has found that nature and wildlife help him to make sense of the world and he has developed a passion for conserving the natural environment. Dara writes a blog and has overcome his anxieties to give talks about wildlife; he has twice recorded the BBC Radio 4 "tweet of the day" item and has won praise from naturalist Chris Packham.

Dara has also raised thousands of pounds for wildlife charities. He says: "I hope to grow and spread the message of environmental awareness, local biodiversity and conservation. I want people to know that those who have autism or Asperger's can achieve things, in a nurtured environment, in a society where acceptance, and not tolerance, is the norm."

QUB GRADUATION FOR SHIMNA PUPILS



Nathan Cole, Caitlin Sloan, and Caoimhe, Dearbhaila and Aioibhean Walsh from Shimna Integrated College, Newcastle, seen here with teacher Alicia Rooney, have graduated from the Queen's University Junior Academy programme. The students have been attending sessions at Queen's for the last four years, broadening their experience across the academic disciplines and benefitting from advice on planning. Four more Shimna IC students have qualified for their Sports Leadership Award after three years in the QUB Sports Academy.



Dame Mary Peters visited Bangor Central Integrated Primary School to launch "Trainers for the Trust" as she races to raise £1 million ahead of her 80th birthday next year. She met pupils from the school's athletics squad. Dame Mary is pictured with Adam Murray (teacher/coach), pupils Lucy Dow and Sean McClory and Peter Campbell (principal).

The Dame Mary Peters Trust supports thousands of young sportsmen and women across NI, with and without disabilities and schools are invited to have a "wear your trainers" day to raise money.

SPORT SUCCESS AT MAINE IPS

The boys' football team at Maine Integrated Primary School, Randalstown, completed a unique 'double' by winning both the Antrim and Randalstown Primary Schools Soccer League and the Integrated Primary Schools Cup. The boys played incredibly well, regularly beating primary schools with much bigger enrolments.



Not to be outdone, the girls' hockey team got to the finals of the NI Cup at Stormont, placing them amongst the top schools in NI. The team was amazing even though they were narrowly beaten in the cup. The girls and the Maine IPS staff were delighted that so many people turned out to support them.

ZACH SCORES AT THE WORLD CUP

The Integrated College Dungannon (ICD) community was delighted when Year 8 student Zach Cowan was selected to play in the Football for Friendship international programme in Russia in June, as part of the World Cup celebrations. Zach scored five goals in three matches for Northern Ireland and got to join 210 other young players from around the world at the opening ceremony at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow, when he carried the Northern Ireland flag.

Sending his best wishes, ICD Principal Andrew Sleeth said: "What an experience! You are and have been an excellent ambassador for the College, the IFA and Northern Ireland. We are all very proud of you and your achievements." The Football For Friendship (F4F) international children's social programme was run by Gazprom, a partner of FIFA and the 2018 World Cup.

Zach is part of the first intake of the IFA performance school at ICD and is pictured with coach Darren Murphy. The second group, including a female player for the first time, began at the College in September.

FIRST CUP WINNERS

Year 11 girls from Priory Integrated College, Holywood, made up a team with students from Lagan College and Aquinas Grammar in the spring, to represent Belfast schools in the Cúchulainn Cup. This tournament is supported by Ulster GAA and this year saw a girls' competition for the first time. Playing opponents from Banbridge, Foyle and Magherafelt, the Belfast girls proved themselves worthy winners of every match to win the tournament and lift the trophy.



The Priory IC girls from the Belfast team.

The Cúchulainn Initiative aims to afford young people from different backgrounds the opportunity to engage with one

another, and to educate people not traditionally involved with the GAA about the Association. It offers taster days in Gaelic Football and Hurling in 20 schools, in preparation for the one-day Cúchulainn Cup Blitz in March.

Lagan College is very proud of netballer Laura Mills, who has been selected for the NI under-21 team, at the age of 18. Laura - seen here taking to the air! - made her international debut with the under-17s in last year's European Championships.





CALL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL SCIENTISTS

In what will be one of the largest events of its kind anywhere in the world, "Science Blast" will bring around 2,000 Key Stage 2 children to Belfast Waterfront Hall next summer and integrated primaries are invited to get creative with their STEM skills and join in. The festival, delivered by the RDS (a Dublin-based philanthropic organisation) takes place on 05 and 06 June 2019. "Science Blast" involves an entire class investigating the science behind a simple question and then showcasing their findings.

Year on year the numbers of participating schools have grown with several

integrated primary schools past participants. Corran Integrated Primary School, in Larne, were part of the first ever Belfast event in 2017 with a wonderful project asking 'Which material is the best for building a seawall defence?' The children selected and tested various materials to see if they could improve on current defences, and they are already working on their project for next year: 'Why does the earth not run out of magma?'

The whole class gets involved in this cross-curricular fun, developing skills in Science, Technology, Engineering and

Maths and the project has proven benefits for students and teachers alike. Alongside the exhibition of schools' projects there will be a range of STEM-themed entertainment, designed to inspire as well as amuse, and all of it specifically tailored for a primary school audience.

The RDS is offering a contribution of €75 towards the travel costs for every participating school so apply now to be part of this exciting event!

Visit www.scienceblast.com for more information or call the RDS on 0345 2661897.

DIGITAL LIFE

Every sixth-form student at Ulidia Integrated College in Carrickfergus received the latest generation iPad this term to support their studies as part of a "Learning for Digital Life" scheme.

The iPads will sit alongside traditional textbooks and exercise books; they are not intended as a replacement. The philosophy for investing in the iPads is to ensure equality of access to the internet at school and at home; to prepare students for working and living in a digital age; to support self-led research and problem solving; to improve the quality of feedback, home-learning and collaboration; and to provide new and innovative ways for students to learn.

Dominic Barnard, Head of ICT at Ulidia IC said: "The iPads will dramatically change the way our sixth-formers work and will enable our teachers to develop a collaborative, dynamic, creative and contemporary education experience for our learners. I am proud that our sixth form is at the cutting edge of



technology and the devices will complement our whole-school shift to cloud-based learning."

The provision of iPads to students is part of wider technological development at the college which is supported by full training for teachers.