

Tackling Educational Underachievement

Educational Underachievement is one of the most significant and complex challenges facing society in Northern Ireland. To support innovative, interdisciplinary research in this vital area and provide evidence-based responses to the challenges of educational underachievement, Stranmillis has created and launched a new Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement (CREU).

Speaking at the launch, Director of Research and Scholarship, Dr Noel Purdy, commented: "Maximising the potential of every child and building better futures is a strategic priority for Stranmillis. Educational underachievement is highly complex and multi-faceted. Numerous studies suggest that underachievement is closely correlated with social disadvantage, and that many of our children and young people face enormous barriers to learning, both inside and outside the classroom. Through the new Centre, we will be working to extend and deepen our understanding of educational underachievement and offer evidence-based responses to the challenges: responses that will inform not just policy but everyday teaching and learning in the classroom".

The launch, which was addressed by Will Haire, CB, Chair of Trustees of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was attended by over 60 key educational stakeholders from schools, universities, statutory and voluntary sectors, as well as elected representatives from all the major political parties.



"Changing the lives of children, young people and communities through excellence in teaching, scholarship and research."

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Established
1922





This year marks the 21st anniversary of the launch of our Early Childhood Studies programme: twenty-one years of shaping educational policy and practice and ensuring that our children have the best start in life. Over the past nine months, the ECS team have been walking, running, eating, singing and talking their way through their year of celebration.



Music@Stran

This year's Music@Stran event was a celebration of early childhood and the work of ECS through music, song, stories and poems; and showcased the enormous talent of students and staff.

Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds

Inspired by the ECS *Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds* module, Dr Bronagh McKee set herself the challenge of losing 21lbs in 21 weeks. Guided and supported by Stephen Wallace, Bronagh came in with pounds to spare, and a very healthy number of £s for the Students Union's chosen charity, Fields of Life.



And then there was that day out with Prince Harry!, the Winter Wonderland, the Symposium, the CAKE. Here's to another 21 years of shaping education and ECS.



21:21 Walk

On 17th May, 21 Primary Schools, 21 Nurseries schools and over 4,000 children and staff from across Northern Ireland took part in a celebration walk to mark ECS21 and World Outdoor Classroom Day.



Run Brenda Run

Dr Brenda McKay-Redmond's challenge? 21 Park runs in 21 locations across Northern Ireland: over 100km of feet pounding effort through rain, snow and the occasional sunshine, all in the name of ECS. Brenda, our congratulations and respect!



Here, There and Everywhere

We've lived together, worked together, played together, laughed together. As we come to the end of the academic year, we say farewell to new friends, colleagues and partners from around the world and welcome back our own intrepid adventurers from far corners of the globe.

Saphara—A Journey with a Purpose

An “inspirational, eye-opening and life-changing experience.” That was the feedback from the Year 3 BEd team, lead by Dr Anita Gracie, who put their teaching skills into practice in two schools in India. Anita also had the opportunity to deliver workshops to teachers from the schools, some of whom had made a treacherous moped journey down a Himalayan mountain to attend!



Uganda

Over the past year, the College has continued to strengthen its relationship with Kyambogo University and the schools supported by Fields of Life. Student and staff teams visited Uganda again this year and we were delighted to recently welcome Dr Ayikoru, Dean of Education at Kyambogo University to Stranmillis.

US Goes from Strength to Strength

The US is a key market for Stranmillis and our International team, in cooperation with Invest NI, has been building and strengthening existing and new partnerships. The team have been hosting faculty staff from universities across the US. An exciting recent development is the creation of a Peace Building and Reconciliation summer programme for students from King's College, New York.



Postcards

from

afar

Unlocking Potential

Make Hay While the Sun Shines



Or something with anything you can lay your hands on! When planning outdoor school activities you're always hoping for 'good' weather. When P4 pupils from Abbott's Cross Primary School descended on Stranmillis for an Outdoor Learning workshop with our PGCE students in the campus grounds it was very much a case of educational fun in the sun where hats, shades and plenty of water were the order of the day.



If I was Minister for Education, I would



Congratulations to Jasmine McDermott from Glenlola Collegiate School in Bangor, the winner of our 2018 Year 13 Essay Competition. The title for this year's competition was "If I was Minister of Education at Stormont, I would..." Jasmine was awarded her certificate by former Minister of Education, Mr Peter Weir MLA, and Stranmillis' Director of Research and Scholarship, Dr Noel Purdy. Congratulations also go to competition runner-up, John Mehaffey from Strabane Academy.

A Programme for Learning Leaders

The Department of Education's *Learning Leaders Strategy* provides a framework for career-long teacher professional development. Our newly launched Programme for Learning Leaders builds on that strategy, delivering a highly flexible and adaptable model for research-led and informed, continuing professional development for all educational practitioners. Based around three core themes - Leadership and Management, Shaping Education and Unlocking Potential - the new programme recognises that professional

development needs to be delivered at individual, school and learning community level and has been designed to help build capacity and share best and next practice. For further information, contact Louise O'Sullivan on 02890 384 327 or email cpd@stran.ac.uk



Dissertation Survivors



Forget Bear Grylls and wild places! Handing in your dissertation is the ultimate student Survival Academy. Our library staff have been celebrating with students as they submit that final momentous piece of their academic jigsaw. Next step—graduation in July.

