

GETTING READY TO CELEBRATE OUR CENTENARY 1922-2022

As the new 2021 academic year begins, the College is already looking ahead to 2022, when we will be celebrating a major milestone in our history - 100 years of shaping education, unlocking potential and building better futures for all.



Throughout our centenary year, we are planning to host a number of celebration events - a chance to meet and reminisce with friends old and new, and to celebrate all the great things that make Stranmillis what it is. As such, we want to see and hear from past students and friends of the College. The Stran community is always welcome on campus - it's still your campus and your involvement in the Centenary celebrations will make it a year to remember.

If you would like to be kept up-to-date on our Centenary events, please email your contact details to: alumni@stran.ac.uk and we will add you to the distribution list. If you have your own ideas for how we can celebrate this major milestone (events, reunions, legacy projects, volunteering, etc), we would be delighted to hear from you. Email your ideas to our team alumni@stran.ac.uk.



One area we want to build is our alumni social media channels. We would be delighted to hear about and share news on our past graduates. If you have any news stories, photographs, sporting achievements, successes, or family milestones you would like to share, please email them to alumni@stran.ac.uk. We would also welcome items from the past, such as books, parchments, scarves, magazines or other memorabilia—so if you are clearing out the roof space—think of us.



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'Leading innovative professional practice'



Established
1922



Welcome Dr Jonathan Heggarty, Principal and Chief Executive Officer

Stranmillis University College is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Jonathan Heggarty to the position of Principal and CEO who will take up post following the retirement of Professor Anne Heaslett. Prior to his appointment to Principal and Chief Executive Officer of Stranmillis University College, Dr Jonathan Heggarty was Director of Curriculum and Learner Success at Belfast Metropolitan College from 2015. A graduate from Queen's University Belfast, Dr Heggarty started his career within the IT sector as a software engineer developing a range of products for multinational technology companies. In 2003, he became a lecturer within Further Education and has held several curriculum positions within the sector. In his role as Director of Curriculum and Learner Success, he led and managed the delivery of a wide range of full-time, part-time and work-based-learning further and higher education programmes to over 14,000 learners annually. He also led the development of a wide range of programmes designed to meet the needs of learners and employers. Dr Heggarty is passionate about promoting the importance of education and was the founder of several initiatives including Coder Dojo Belfast which is the largest coding club for young people in Northern Ireland. Dr Heggarty was awarded the MBE in December 2017 for services to Further Education in Northern Ireland. In relation to his appointment, Dr Heggarty stated "I am delighted to be appointed as Principal & Chief Executive Officer of Stranmillis University College. Under the leadership of Professor Anne Heaslett, the College has enriched its well-deserved reputation for excellence in teaching, research and scholarship. I am privileged to take up this role and I look forward to leading the extremely talented and dedicated Stranmillis team."



M-Level Study at Stranmillis

Due to the current pandemic, all our Postgraduate programmes went to fully online this year and went from strength to strength, with many students reporting online study and live classes a much more flexible approach to study.



Popular modules this year included: International Perspectives on Bullying, Teacher as Action Researcher, Wellbeing in the Early Years, Learning Leadership, Safeguarding Children and Young People, Quality Pedagogy, Young People Community and Culture, Childhood Adversities and Disadvantage, Factors Affecting Literacy Development plus Autism Studies modules.

Important Dates

The deadline for all new applications is 10th September 2021.

The next intake for all other programmes is October 2021.

For further information email masters@stran.ac.uk

CPD Study at Stranmillis

Similar to M-Level study all our CPD courses moved to online study this year. A new programme for current Classroom Assistants was launched and proved hugely successful. This programme continues to grow, with new units each month. The Post Qualifying Leadership (PQL) continues to be offered with a new Unit 1 launching in February. Units will continue to run this year and into next year. After a very successful launch, last Spring, to over 400 teachers in Northern Ireland, various Remote Teaching and Learning Courses continued to be offered to assist teachers



teaching online during the current pandemic.

A New Upskill programme for Seesaw, Google Suite and Apps for Blended learning will launch in April and May to further support educational professionals. Other courses offered this year include Keeping them Safe Online - ESafety and Digital Safeguarding for Schools, a variety of SEN Literacy courses on testing and dyslexia, plus Teaching Newcomer Pupils in Primary and Post Primary.

For more information email: cpd@stran.ac.uk

Shaping Education

A FAIR START FOR EDUCATION

On 1 June 2021, the Department of Education published 'A Fair Start', the final report of the Expert Panel on Educational Underachievement, chaired by Stranmillis University College's Dr Noel Purdy, who is both the Director of Research and Scholarship within the College, and the Director of the Stranmillis Centre for Research in Educational Underachievement (CREU).

The Expert Panel was commissioned by Northern Ireland Education Minister Peter Weir in 2020 to fulfil the objective in the 'New Decade, New Approach' agreement to examine and propose an action plan to address links between the persistent problem of educational underachievement and socio-economic background. The Panel conducted its work from September 2020 to May 2021, and canvassed a wide range of stakeholders across the education sector.



The report identifies eight key areas with a total 47 actions for change over the coming years. These include:

- Redirecting focus to the Early Years
- Championing Emotional Health & Wellbeing
- Ensuring the relevance and appropriateness of Curriculum and Assessment
- Promoting a whole community approach to education
- Maximising boys' potential
- Driving forward Teachers' Professional Learning
- Supporting the professional learning and wellbeing of school leadership
- Ensuring the interdepartmental collaboration and delivery

At the launch of the report at Dundonald High School, Dr Noel Purdy said "In commending this Action Plan to the Northern Ireland Executive, we fully recognise the magnitude of the challenge in addressing the underlying causes of social disadvantage, the intractability of many of the issues facing families living in disadvantaged circumstances and the need for systemic change in education to be considered by the forthcoming Independent Review of Education. But we are also convinced that the impact of the actions proposed in this Action Plan will be significant, promoting equity, fostering greater collaboration between schools, families and communities, closing the achievement gap, and giving all of our children and young people 'A Fair Start'."

DISCOVER OUR LEARNING RESOURCE CENTRE...

Developed by our PGCE students, Playful Ideas for Active Minds, offers 80+ ideas to aid learning in early years settings. <https://www.stran.ac.uk/resource-centre/ideas-for-active-minds/>



The Stran Panto Team have made available a range of interactive lessons that will captivate your classroom.....Oh

Awaken your class' creative and writing skills with poetry, ebooks and an audio collection.

<https://www.stran.ac.uk/resource-centre/>

What would happen if you got trapped in a Zoom meeting? Find out more about 'Zoomanji', a fully comprehensive and free teaching resource created by Stranmillis University College's Primary Drama Specialists for Primary Schools:

<https://www.stran.ac.uk/zoomanji/>

Safer Borrowing Report

The College 'got active' with 24 local schools on an action research project examining a new resource to address money matters, safer borrowing and the poverty trap, and supporting financial literacy development in schools in Northern Ireland. Talking about the project, Celia O'Hagan, Academic Lead for Widening Participation and Intergenerational Learning at the College said: "Child Poverty is a critical area for research and strategic need. Central to the project was a team of Student Ambassadors who were upskilled in financial literacy in partnership with the Department for the Communities, Volunteer Now and the Consumer Council NI."



Unlocking Potential

THE DIG

Archaeology students at Queen's University have uncovered prehistoric artefacts — including pottery shards and flint tools. The items, which are believed to be some 6-7,000 years old, tracing roots to life in south Belfast as far back as 4000BC. The current Principal of Stranmillis University College, Professor Anne Heaslett, said: "We are thrilled and excited that the students have been able to unearth such a fascinating insight into life at Stranmillis prior to the College's establishment. Our congratulations to the students on their wonderful discoveries, which will add a further depth and richness to our own history and is a wonderful example of Queen's and Stranmillis working in partnership."



Melissa and Gemma at the dig on the Stranmillis University College site which uncovered a Middle Neolithic hollow scraper from around 3,600BC.

Credit: Stephen Hamilton

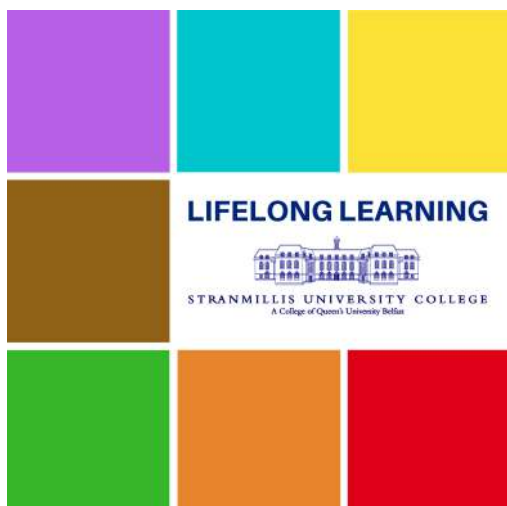


Mathematicians Week

An innovative approach to school outreach demonstrated how video learning and technology in the classroom can be a great way to inspire children to learn STEM skills in an interactive and fun manner. Second year Bed student teachers virtually welcomed over 100 pupils and their teachers from Forge Integrated and Black Mountain primary schools using digital learning and multimedia tools. Senior lecturer, Dr Pamela Moffett, supported the student teachers in their efforts to bring maths alive for learners at this most challenging time of social distancing.



OUT NOW: 2021-2022 LIFELONG LEARNING PROGRAMME



In a year full of disrupted rhythms and social interactions it seems we all have more time than ever...or do we? If the difficulties of the past year have taught us anything, it is to value human interaction and to treasure the acts of creativity that have provided relief, reflection and hope at times when our world seemed to be closing down around us. But time is only what you make of it. Over the past year Lifelong Learning Tutors discovered new methods of delivery (ZOOM, TEAMS and CANVAS) so that Lifelong Learners could remain safe (at home) and still engage with language learning, history and culture courses, sketching and drawing, poetry reading, health and wellbeing classes and stress management sessions. To book a course or workshop visit the [Stran eShop](#) or email lifelong@stran.ac.uk



Building Futures