

We are growing!



David Healy (centre) at Killyleagh IPS with Jim Lindsay (Chair of the school board of governors), Baroness May Blood (IEF Campaign Chair), Principal Jason Milligan and pupils

Two schools have joined the integrated education family: primary schools at Loughries near Newtownards and Killyleagh, in South Down, have chosen to become integrated schools.

Both schools have been approved for the official process termed 'transformation', which is available to most schools in Northern Ireland who wish to take the path towards integration. In each case a ballot of parents showed support for the change.

Local politicians as well as representatives of the IEF, NICIE and the Education Authority joined celebrations to mark the new start for each school.

Killyleagh Integrated Primary School welcomed a past pupil, NI soccer international and top goal-scorer David Healy, to officially declare the school open in its new form. Joining him, Baroness May Blood of the IEF remarked

"Developments like this show what can be achieved by schools

responding to the wishes of parents. You give everyone hope that we can grow an education system in Northern Ireland which brings people together and meets the demands of the twenty-first century."

Education Minister Peter Weir attended the ceremony at Loughries Integrated Primary School and commented

"Whilst today marks a significant milestone for the school, integration is an ongoing process and I wish everyone well for the future."

Mr Weir was joined by a special guest, actress and IEF supporter Olivia Nash, at Loughries IPS. She helped the Minister cut a celebration cake and told the pupils that they had a bright future with the possibility of a wide range of friendships.

A survey of parents in Northern Ireland showed that almost 80% would support their school becoming integrated.

The addition of Killyleagh IPS and Loughries IPS brings the number of integrated schools in Northern Ireland to sixty-five.



Celebrations at Loughries IPS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Stars stand up for the IEF
Fresh Start promises new school buildings
Integrated schools shine at Carson showcase



Forestview,
 Purdy's Lane, Belfast
 BT8 7AR
 +44 (0)28 9069 4099
 e: info@ief.org.uk

www.ief.org.uk

www.fb.com/IntegratedEducationFund
 www.twitter.com/iefni

Registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland: NIC101149

Pledge to increase integrated education



Glencraig Integrated Primary School

Education Minister Peter Weir has pledged to increase access to integrated education in the North Down area in response to local demand.

Mr Weir made the commitment as he announced that the approved enrolment at Glencraig Integrated Primary School would be officially reduced to 210 pupils. Although in the past the school could accommodate 252 children, the Education Authority has acknowledged that the building is not fit for this purpose and for some time Glencraig IPS has only had room for a single P1 class of up to 30 each year.

Mr Weir said that the new enrolment number would allow the school to make the best use of available accommodation but added

“However, it is clear from the evidence presented to me that there is oversubscription in the local area and that there is a need for a review of integrated provision and...how best to meet the demand for integrated places. Therefore, within the timeframe of the new Area Plan the Education Authority will, in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, undertake to improve/ increase integrated provision in the wider local area.”

A new home at last

Omagh Integrated Primary School is looking forward to moving into a modern home at last, now that planning permission has been granted for a new build next to Drumragh Integrated College. With work scheduled to begin on site this autumn, Omagh IPS should have a brand new school from early 2018. After more than two decades working in mobile classrooms, staff and pupils are delighted that the end of a long wait is in sight.

The Department of Education is funding a 14 classroom school and a single classroom nursery school as well as a resource area, library, sports hall, dining hall, catering facilities and staff accommodation and ancillary spaces. The site will have play areas, car and bus parking and both foot and cycle paths.

However, governors were determined that the Friends of Omagh IPS playgroup should also come to the new site. This is a voluntary facility, enrolling children from 2 years 10 months old and is not run by the DE. Thanks to integrated education supporters, the playgroup will be included in the new project as generous donors have contributed through the IEF to the costs of providing the necessary accommodation. The school is also fundraising tirelessly with monthly events to help meet the additional costs.

With the new school sited next to Drumragh IC the community will be offered an integrated education campus welcoming children from all backgrounds and across the full age-range.



An impression of the future Omagh IPS

Fresh Start means new buildings

Several integrated schools saw long-awaited building projects move a step nearer realisation when the first round of funding from the Fresh Start Agreement money was announced in March. Others are now being urged to make applications for capital funding under the scheme.

The Fresh Start allocation of up to £50 million a year for ten years is designed, according to the DE, “to unblock through investment in education and early years provision one of the

most persistent obstacles towards a shared future for Northern Ireland’s communities.”

The first tranche amounted to around £43m. This cash will fund integrated school projects at Braidside, Drumlins and Roe Valley as well as the construction of shared education campuses at Limavady, Moy and Ballycastle. Funding will also enable an additional 17 shared and integrated school proposals to advance to planning.

The then Secretary of State for NI, Teresa Villiers, chose Phoenix

Integrated Primary School to announce the allocation of the first round of funding and said

“Many of the schools which will benefit from this money are over-subscribed and wish to refurbish buildings and improve facilities... Anyone thinking of sending their children to an integrated school should be reassured that this is just the beginning of a substantial investment programme. Existing schools will be strengthened and new schools created...”

Integrated schools now have an opportunity to apply for money for capital projects and to hold the Department of Education to its commitment. If the DE does not distribute the full pot allocated to each round then the remainder will be returned each year to the Treasury.

For further information, grant maintained integrated schools should approach NICIE and controlled integrated schools should approach their regional office of the Education Authority.



Ministers at Phoenix IPS with principal Heather Watson and pupils

Happy Anniversary

Congratulations to those integrated schools around Northern Ireland reaching a significant anniversary this term! Celebrations and commemorations like those highlighted here reflect how much integrated education has grown over the years.



Thirty-five years ago Northern Ireland's first planned integrated school, Lagan College, opened and the school, which now enrolls 1300 students, is marking the anniversary with a series of events. All pupils have joined in special assemblies and "mentalist" and integrated education supporter David Meade visited the school to launch the anniversary celebrations and give a demonstration of his astounding skills.



Oakgrove IPS brought integrated primary education to Derry/Londonderry in September 1991 with 68 pupils. It doubled in size in its first year and now has a two-form entry and caters for 400 children from nursery age upwards. The school began the new term with a celebration for invited guests when it launched its new logo.



The community at North Coast IC is marking the college's 20th anniversary with events throughout the year celebrating its remarkable growth from small beginnings to become over-subscribed and with big plans for the future.



Corran IPS is marking a quarter of a century with a series of celebrations but most of all everyone is looking to the future as a new, permanent school building is on the horizon. The school opened in 1991 on an industrial site in Larne town before moving to the current location. Their new home should be ready for the next school year and everyone is looking forward to modern facilities with a fantastic view. "Corran" means crescent shaped and the curved design of the fabulous new building reflects this perfectly.



Carhill IPS transformed in 1991 and began the celebrations with an afternoon planting seeds and bulbs to symbolise growth and new beginnings

St Patrick's Day at Down Royal

Music fans raise £4,000 for the IEF

Music fans of punk rock legends Stiff Little Fingers (SLF) have been pouring support into the IEF to help educate more children together in schools in Northern Ireland.

Fans raised thousands of pounds to help the IEF, endorsing the band's support for the Fund's work. SLF's on-line pledge campaign to finance a live album and DVD includes a promise to channel a percentage of the profits to the IEF. The fans themselves then began their own fundraising initiatives: people on the band's guest list on the UK tour were asked for donations, and the "Roaring Gang" of SLF devotees organised an auction prior to the show at Glasgow Barrowland on St Patrick's Day, raising almost £4,000 for the cause.

Paul Caskey from the IEF expressed the Fund's gratitude:

"The IEF sends out its thanks to everyone who contributed and especially to Stiff Little Fingers for their continuing support. In turn, the Fund will do all we can to support those parents and schools who want children to learn, play and grow together in our schools."

Ali McMordie, SLF bass player, said

"We are delighted. The fans have responded very generously to a great cause which helps break down segregation and promote inclusion in schools. My old school, Cliftonville, is now thriving under integrated status and welcoming children from all backgrounds, communities and cultures. It's amazing to see it go from strength to strength."



Marie Cowan, IEF Chair, Roisin Marshall, NICIE CEO, Baroness May Blood and IEF CEO Tina Merron

Comedian Tim McGarry and Baroness May Blood had to jockey for attention with two young Irish dancers when they met at the IEF's St Patrick's Day celebration at Down Royal Racecourse.

More than 100 high-profile guests were welcomed by Baroness Blood, the IEF's Campaign Chair, and entertained by Tim McGarry as well enjoying a performance by Anna Caskey and Maeve Roche of the Ballynafeigh School of Irish Dancing.

Commenting on the good cause behind the celebrations, May Blood said

"Integrated education left the starting gate more than thirty years ago and is seen as a good bet for our children's future by a majority of parents in Northern Ireland. We have to keep nagging politicians and remind them that a pledge to develop a unified education system of good-quality schools, which all welcome and nurture young people of all backgrounds and traditions, would be a winner with the public in Northern Ireland."

The Moscow Flyer Suite at Down Royal was especially decorated for the occasion by Carrie Neely and Christine Trueman of the company "Art Loves". The pair also generously donated a screen print of Marilyn Monroe by Christine to contribute to the funds raised at the event.

Thank you to everyone who attended this enjoyable event and supported our work.

You can see more pictures on our website: www.ief.org.uk

Carrie Neely (l) and Christine Trueman (r) of Art Loves with Tim McGarry



Frank Carson's legacy continues



Courtney Crossett of New-Bridge IC with her prize-winning work 'Harmony Viewpoint'

Talented young artists and performers from around Northern Ireland gathered to celebrate their work at a showcase event on 22 September which demonstrated the continuing legacy of the legendary Frank Carson. The comedian's family sponsors the annual Carson Awards programme, run by the IEF, to support creative work in integrated schools.

And at this year's ceremony Frank's son, Tony, announced that the IEF would receive an additional gift of £50,000 thanks to a donation from the estate of his late parents.

Guests, including members of a dozen integrated schools, gathered at Hazelwood Integrated College, for a ceremony hosted by actor-director Dan Gordon. The audience enjoyed work from prize winners as well as projects supported by Carson Bursaries, including drama from Brownlow Integrated College. Music was provided by Harmony North, a choir made up of pupils from a range of North Belfast Schools.

The IEF was delighted to celebrate the awards with the schools and honoured to receive the gift from the Carson legacy.

Applications for the next round of Carson Bursaries must be in by 3pm on Friday 25 November. You can find out more and see more photos from the Carson Awards showcase at www.ief.org.uk



Performers from Brownlow IC



Carnlough IPS Carson Prize winners with principal Claire Gault, Baroness May Blood, Dan Gordon, Dr Ronan Blaney and Tony Carson. Dr Blaney, a teacher at Brownlow IC, brought along the BAFTA trophy he won for scripting the short film 'Boogaloo and Graham'



Ceramic from Blackwater IC from a project supported by a Carson Bursary

Bright future for past pupils' organisation



Robert Magee, NI Chair of the IEAA, and Anna Clarke, development co-ordinator

Anna Clarke, the new development co-ordinator for the Integrated Education Alumni Association, was delighted to meet members at an end-of-summer social in Belfast. Past pupils of integrated schools gathered at the Sunflower Bar to relax and chat. It was also a chance to discuss informally plans for the future of the organisation.

Anna, a community development consultant, will play a key role in taking the Association to a new level, as a recognised charity in its own right with its own management board and systems.

The IEAA has grown considerably in the short time since two former students of Drumragh Integrated College in Omagh first came up with the idea. Shauna Mulligan and India Fahy had seen first-hand how the IEF had supported their school and wished to give something back. The Association was formally launched in London in September 2014 and since then additional groups have been started in Northern Ireland, Liverpool and Edinburgh. Plans are also under way for a presence in Manchester and Dublin.

Alumni activities this year have included participating in a debate at Metro Bank in London to discuss 'Integrated education: the outstanding promise of the Good Friday Agreement.' Two past pupils of New-Bridge Integrated College, Tara Curran and David Taylor, joined David Gavaghan of the CBI in Northern Ireland, Baroness May Blood, IEF Campaign Chair and Bridgeen Stone of Metro Bank to explore the issue before an invited audience of prominent London Irish. The event was chaired by journalist Andrea Catherwood.

Tara told the assembled guests that an education system which "allows integrated schools to stay consistently oversubscribed directly forces parents and communities into a segregated decision. This is wrong. Northern Ireland needs change."

Cliftonville IPS chosen for celebration of diversity

Cliftonville Integrated Primary School welcomed some special guests in September to celebrate European Day of Languages (EDL). Baroness May Blood, Campaign Chair of the IEF, joined other visitors including representatives from Queen's University's Centre for Information on Language Teaching (NICILT), the Department of Education, Department of Communities and the British Council. The guests enjoyed a breakfast with an international flavour and a multilingual assembly which was led by pupils.

For fourteen years the annual EDL has been celebrated across Europe. Cliftonville IPS was chosen as host school for the Belfast event for its commitment to language learning and for its diverse intake, which includes a high proportion of bilingual pupils.



Teacher Heather Beattie (l) and Louisa Gibson, NICILT manager, with children at Cliftonville IPS

Winning pastoral care at Phoenix IPS

Congratulations to Phoenix Integrated Primary school on winning a Derrytrasna Award. The Awards programme is run by the Department of Education and the Public Health Agency (PHA) to celebrate school communities who show exceptional pastoral care. Phoenix IPS community was recognised for its exceptional work with a child with complex SEN issues. The school also worked alongside outside agencies to support the family as they moved successfully through the adoption process.

Representatives of the school received a trophy and certificate from Education Minister Peter Weir, who praised Phoenix IPS for putting pupils' needs at the forefront of school life.

Andrew Dougal, Chair of the PHA Board, added his congratulations:

"Good pastoral care is essential in supporting pupils in terms of their personal and social development. This includes mental and emotional wellbeing, educational attainment and future life outcomes."



Andrew Dougal (l) and Peter Weir (r) with members of Phoenix IPS at Stormont

Education reform must be part of the Executive's plans

The Fund has highlighted the importance of education reform in achieving the aims of the draft Programme for Government (PfG).

The Programme sets out the priorities for the Executive in the years ahead. This year the PfG has taken a new format, setting out desired outcomes and then the actions required to achieve these, accompanied by key indicators which show that progress is being made. The Executive office says these plans and aims should continue well beyond the current Assembly mandate.

The public was invited to comment on the framework plans and this offered an opportunity for integrated education campaigners to respond to the proposals and contribute to the debate. Altogether there were more than 800 responses to the public consultation.



The IEF welcomed the draft Programme for Government's commitment to developing a more equal, shared society which respects diversity. The aim is to develop a "Confident, welcoming, outward-looking society" which would in turn encourage investment and encourage people to visit or live in Northern Ireland.

Much of this echoes arguments put forward down many years for a unified education system where every classroom is geared to diversity and where young people learn, play and grow alongside others of all traditions. This can provide a cornerstone for plans to promote cultural awareness alongside confidence in identity and underpin the creation of a Northern Ireland which is attractive and welcoming to the global community. Therefore, the Fund urged the Executive to acknowledge that education reform will be an important mechanism in realising the ambitions of the Programme for Government.

A revised programme will be published later this year along with action plans and the public will again be invited to comment.

Camp Camilla at Lagan College

Young people from integrated schools across Northern Ireland travelled to Lagan College this summer for Camp Camilla, which was led by members of the Youth Division of the Dallas First Presbyterian Church. Education Minister, Peter Weir, visited Lagan College for the opening ceremony and congratulated hosts and organisers on a successful project.

Camp Camilla is an American-style camp designed to bring together children and young people from integrated schools with visiting students from the USA. It was developed after Brian Small of the Integrated Education Fund established links with supporters in Dallas, Texas.

Mr Weir commented

"Projects like Camp Camilla offer young people the opportunity to develop additional skills and attributes in a positive environment that will help shape their future.

It's also a unique opportunity for our young people to learn about themselves and others and enrich their experiences. I would like to thank everyone involved with Camp Camilla for their hard work and dedication."

Participants took part in a range of activities including art, dance, drama, music, basketball, golf, soccer and tennis.



Minister Peter Weir opens Camp Camilla at Lagan College



Hundreds have their say on integrated education

The Independent Review of Integrated Education (IRIE), opened by John O'Dowd when he was Education Minister, attracted more than 260 responses when members of the public were invited to share their views.

The review was established with the aim of formulating "recommendations for structures and processes that support the effective planning, growth and development of a more integrated education system within a framework of viable and sustainable schools."

The Minister appointed Colm Cavanagh, a qualified solicitor with a track record in community development and president of NICIE, and Professor Margaret Topping, Dean of the Graduate School at Queen's University Belfast, to form the review panel.

The public consultation closed in April and there were 15 written submissions and 247 responses via an online form offered by the panel. The Minister is considering the full report this autumn.

Meanwhile the Department of Education has posted an interim report analysing replies made on the official form. This is available on the Department's website: www.education-ni.gov.uk/articles/independent-review-integrated-education

You can read more at: www.ief.org.uk/resources/advocacy-resources

Who is the fairest of them all?

Ulidia Integrated College has been awarded the Fair Trade Active Award by the Fair Trade Foundation. The award recognises the work done throughout the school to actively encourage fair trade.

Fair trade is studied within Geography, Home Economics and Learning for Life and Work across the key stages.

In addition the eco team has taken the initiative in promoting fair trade by hosting a trade stall at the Christmas fair, hosting fair trade decorating events, promoting awareness through workshops and by holding a fair trade quiz for the whole school.

Amazing call for world peace

Pupils at integrated schools formed part of the huge crowd of young people who gathered to mark the UN International Day of Peace in September.

Sixth Form students at North Coast Integrated College travelled to the Eikon Exhibition Centre (at the Maze/Long Kesh site) to join the largest youth-led peace event in Northern Ireland, entitled 'Amazing the Space'. The day saw music, performances and peace messages from home and abroad streamed live across the world.

Amazing the Space was initiated by Dr David Latimer of Derry First Presbyterian Church and developed by a group of young people led by Co-operation Ireland.

Room available!

Drumlins Integrated Primary School is moving into its new building next year which means current accommodation will no longer be needed. One mobile classroom, measuring about 60sq m and in good condition, is available for another school. For details please contact Drumlins IPS on (028) 9756 3755.

IEF is the mayor's choice

The Integrated Education Fund is delighted and honoured to have been named as one of the mayor's charities for Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Alderman Deborah Girvan took the chain of office in June and announced her three charities shortly afterwards: the IEF; Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI); and the Samaritans.

Commenting on her choices, Alderman Girvan said

"I have thought long and hard about the charities that I want to support... I have chosen the Integrated Education Fund because I am an ardent supporter of integrated education. Having worked in the sector I know the incredible work that the Integrated Education Fund does to support the growth and development of integrated schools ..."

Alderman Girvan has set up a charity committee with a target of raising £30,000

during her year in office. Various events are planned including a "Best of the Borough" concert in November and culminating in the Mayor's Charity Ball next summer.



Alderman Deborah Girvan, Mayor of Ards and North Down Borough Council

Politics lessons from US Consul

Some history and politics students will be watching the American elections with especial interest this year, having been given an insight into the process from the US Consul General.

This spring Consul Dan Lawton travelled to meet history and politics students from Craigavon schools at Brownlow Integrated College and also visited Shimna

Integrated College to give a presentation on the US Presidential elections.

Shimna IC Principal Kevin Lambe said

"Dan gave a terrific account of the US electoral system to our GCSE history students. We were mesmerised at the complexity, but the clarity of his presentation helped us understand the drive

for the widest representation underpinning the system. Our students are following the current presidential race very closely. We were delighted too, of course, to hear Dan's strong support for integrated education."

Dan also enjoyed meeting young pupils and touring the outdoor play facilities at Corran Integrated Primary School in Larne.



US Consul General Dan Lawson (2nd left) meets students from Craigavon schools at Brownlow IC: Patrick Fearnon (Lismore Comprehensive College), Stephen Creber (Principal Brownlow IC), Thomas Frampton (Brownlow IC), Mrs Eileen Cousins (Principal Craigavon Senior High School), Craig Taylor (Craigavon SHS)



Marie Cowan IEF Chair

Editorial: Outside and inside – calls for education reform persist

As international figures urge Northern Ireland to begin systemic education reform, a local body tasked under the Fresh Start Agreement to consider the disbandment of paramilitary groups, has this summer added its voice to calls for the promotion and development of integrated education.

The Fresh Start panel said in its report that the Executive should work to “measurably reduce segregation in education and housing.”

The panel’s report was published in June, the same month that a United Nations committee once again called on Northern Ireland to develop an integrated system. The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child has previously criticised the schools system in NI as segregated. In its periodic review of the UK’s observance of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the committee this year expressed concern that “in Northern Ireland segregation of schools by religion persists” and goes on to recommend “the State party... in

Northern Ireland actively promote a fully integrated education system and carefully monitor the provision of shared education, with the participation of children, in order to ensure that it facilitates social integration.”

The full report from the UNCRC makes 90 observations or recommendations and urges governments to implement them all.

The UN is not the only international voice raised in support of education reform in Northern Ireland.

Earlier this year, President Obama told an audience of young people gathered in London that “One of the most encouraging things in Northern Ireland is children starting to go to school together and having a sense that we’re all in this together, as opposed to it’s us against them.”

As more public figures speak up we await a meaningful recognition from the Executive parties that integrated education should be allowed to play its role in developing a united community. And with opposition at Stormont we want to see the non-government parties adding their voices to the call for integrated education.

Survey after survey shows it’s what parents want so why would anyone turn a deaf ear?

Candidates go back to school

Young people from South Belfast schools gathered at Lagan College in April to challenge local NI Assembly candidates over a range of issues.

Sixth-form politics students at Lagan College organised the hustings in association with the IEF and engaged with political parties to bring five candidates to the event: Claire Bailey (Green); Claire Hanna (SDLP); Rodney McCune (UUP); Duncan Morrow (Alliance); and Christopher Stalford (DUP).

Around 90 young people from Lagan College and Grosvenor Grammar School made up the audience. Journalist and broadcaster Jim Fitzpatrick chaired the event and the students not only quizzed the platform party but also expressed their

own views through electronic polling managed by LucidTalk.

It emerged that students were overall strongly in favour of staying in the EU, did not like the NI Assembly’s petition of concern mechanism, and were fairly evenly divided on issues relating to political institutions such as the mandatory coalition system.

Lagan College Principal Amanda McNamee commented

“It’s very important for politicians to hear the voices of young people and for young people to hear from candidates. It’s good to feel that the students here today will go to the ballot box well-informed, having engaged with a range of issues currently facing Northern Ireland.”

MLA wants Assembly to make integration the norm

A newly-elected MLA will bring proposals for a Northern Ireland Assembly Bill on integrated education and your views are being sought to help shape it. Strangford MLA Kellie Armstrong will open her Private Members Bill to public consultation in November.

Kellie Armstrong was elected to the Assembly in May and she is a passionate advocate for integrated education. She sees it as a crucial part of improving good relations amongst and for our young people, and wants to see our schools reflect the increasing diversity of our society.

Mrs Armstrong says

“The Department of Education has a statutory duty to encourage and facilitate integrated education but this current legislative framework is insufficient for delivering the significant increase that we would like to see. The Bill would provide for reform and expansion of the current provision to ensure the Department of Education is fulfilling its obligation and making integrated education the norm not the exception.”

If you would like to respond to the consultation or get any more information you can contact Kellie Armstrong MLA at kellie.armstrong@co.niassembly.gov.uk or 028 9181 1414.



Lagan College and Grosvenor GS students with the platform party

Lawyers and learners at Priory IC

Priory Integrated College has become the first school in Northern Ireland to trial a project exploring rights and responsibilities alongside legal professionals.

Working with law firm Carson McDowell in partnership with the Citizenship Foundation and funded by the Legal Education Foundation, students at Priory IC have been piloting the 'Lawyers in Schools' programme. The pupils have been helped by nine solicitors from the law firm and are meeting for 12 sessions throughout the term, discussing areas such as social media, employment law and police powers.

The 'Lawyers in Schools' scheme has already been running in Great Britain and Australia and last year over 1,200 students and 500 legal volunteers were involved in the programme. Carson McDowell volunteered time and expertise to adapt the programme to Northern Ireland legislation and introduce 'Lawyers in Schools' to the jurisdiction.

Michael Johnston, Managing Partner at Carson McDowell commented

"This initiative is the perfect example of how solicitors should be engaging with young people and encouraging them to discuss current affairs and learn about their rights. Our solicitors also benefit from the programme, progressing their skills and professional development."



(l-r): Matthew Barrow of Priory IC; Jacqueline McAleese partner at Carson McDowell; Dr Anne Rice, Citizenship Foundation and Jacqueline Magennis, Principal

Integrated education takes root at garden show

"Johnny Field from Crow's Lane" by Ballycastle Integrated Primary School carried off the Best in Show prize after beating twenty other scarecrows to win the top award at Allianz Garden Show Ireland this year. The contest is run by Allianz in conjunction with the IEF.

Portaferry IPS's "Pip" was judged the Scariest Scarecrow, "Bottle Betty" by Round Tower IPS won best Eco-Friendly Scarecrow and best Allotment Scarecrow was awarded to Glengormley IPS for "Jolly Jack". "Johnny Field" won best Traditional Scarecrow. Well done to everyone who took part and contributed to the colourful spectacle.



Winning scarecrows at Allianz Garden Show Ireland

Cracking coders at integrated colleges



Stephen McMillan with his award for achievement in ICT at GCSE

Strangford IC student Stephen McMillan flew to San Francisco during the summer to attend the Apple Annual Worldwide Developers' Conference. For the second year running Stephen was awarded the Worldwide Apple Prize for Coding and this time the company brought him to the US for the conference, which attracted around 5,000 developers. The experience included lots of hands-on workshops in the labs, and Stephen also grabbed the opportunity to tour Twitter HQ. He also won a school award for his achievement in ICT at GCSE.

Jack Delaney of New-Bridge Integrated College won a top Irish prize for coding and web design. Jack, who is now in Year 10, won Best Individual Project at the Eir Junior Spiders Awards, having also been shortlisted for Creative Web Coding. His website, Youthtech.ie, encourages other young people to get involved in coding and shares news of technology and science events all over the island of Ireland. Jack collected his trophy at Croke Park at a ceremony in April.



Jack Delaney receives his Spider award from digital marketing expert Colin Meagle

Spires IPS is a match for anyone!

The Spires IPS girls' hockey team was victorious at the Annual Antrim 6s tournament this spring, without conceding a single goal. They came through top in their group to reach the quarter finals where they beat Maine Integrated Primary School and then won over Antrim B in the semi-finals. They faced Antrim A in the finals; this was a tense game but Spires fought hard to win 2 - 0.



Star players at Integrated College Dungannon

Two students from Integrated College Dungannon were recognised at the recent Tyrone Gaelic Football Post-Primary All Star Awards.

Ethan Jordan and Miguel Basto were named best players in their respective positions for their age group, and received Tyrone kits from current senior player Ronan O'Neill. The event capped off a winning year for ICD with the U-16 team successfully defending their county title and reaching the semi-finals of the Ulster championship.

College Principal, Mr Andrew Sleeth, congratulated the boys on their awards:

"This year I have watched some excellent Gaelic football both at county level and during the semi-final championship. You should be very proud of the role you have played in the team's success; your rewards were well deserved."



Both students made a significant contribution to the ICD team, with Ethan the team's top scorer and Miguel the team's main ball winner in the midfield sector.

Oakgrove are County Champions

Congratulations to Oakgrove Integrated College's Year 8 Gaelic football team who won the County Championship in June. After good games in the group stages the boys qualified for the final in Coleraine against a strong Portstewart team. A skillful team effort saw the Oakgrove IC boys win convincingly by 4-2 to 1-2. Coaches and parents were very proud to watch a committed performance from everyone to round off a great first year for the team.



Ethan is top of the world

Ulidia Integrated College student Ethan White has won the highest accolade for Irish Dance - taking top slot for under-15 boys at the World Championships.

Ethan carried off the Globe Trophy, the World Championship Belt and the World Crystal in the CLRG (Coimisiún Le Rincí Gaelacha) World Championship of Irish Dance at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in March.





Stars raise a laugh for integrated education

Five funny friends of the IEF entertained a crowd at the Ulster Hall in September with a one-off comedy special which raised plenty of laughs - as well as cash to help our work.

'Stand Up for Integrated Education' brought top names together on stage: mentalist David Meade and comedians Tim McGarry, Neil Dougan, Colin Murphy and Wendy Wason. All generously gave their time in support of the IEF.

Speaking from the stage IEF Campaign Chair Baroness May Blood thanked the performers:

"We are really grateful for everyone's help and for a great night of entertainment. Thanks are especially due to Tim McGarry for pulling the show together and getting such high calibre acts involved - David, Colin, Wendy and Neil. I know they are all busy so we really do appreciate them adding the Ulster Hall to their schedules and putting on such a hilarious show."

Tim McGarry commented

"So many people want integrated education and there just aren't

enough places - instead we divide children at four years old and dictate who their friends will be. The IEF helps integrated schools meet demand from parents and I'm proud to help the IEF."

Supporters of the IEF gathered before the show to enjoy a VIP reception kindly sponsored by Mervyn McCall, with wine donated by Terry Cross and Chateau de la Ligne. The evening was also sponsored by the family of late and legendary Belfast comedian Frank Carson.

You can see more pictures in the news section of our website www.ief.org.uk



Mary and Nigel Simpson, Wendy Wason and Stephen Hagan



'Stand Up for Integrated Education' began with an idea from IEF supporter Tim McGarry



Baroness May Blood with Tony Carson (l) and Terry Cross who generously supported the concert