

School Magazine 2018

On 12 September 2018, the Careers Department held its fourth Careers and Higher Education Careers Fair. Held on alternate years, this event has now become a focal point in the Careers calendar and each year we are pleased to host an ever increasing number of delegates.

On this occasion we welcomed 79 delegates and during the course of the afternoon, pupils and parents/guardians had the opportunity to select which of 42 seminars, providing information about a range of career pathways, they wished to attend. Representing universities and employers from across the UK and the Republic of Ireland, the Sports Hall provided a rich menu of careers information. From the employment sector we were delighted to welcome companies such as Almac, Deloitte, BDO NI, Barclays Bank, EY, First Derivatives and PWC. The latter was represented by three of our past pupils who grasped the opportunity to embark on a Higher Level Apprenticeship with the company directly after completing their A Level year. KPMG, Kainos, Glen Dimplex, Graham Construction and Greenville Electrics further illustrated the wealth of opportunity available locally to school leavers in the province whilst the Army, RAF, Royal Navy and Royal Marines had the opportunity to broaden pupils' knowledge of the range of career pathways available when joining their ranks. Universities the length and breadth of the UK, from the University of Aberdeen to Solent University Southampton had chosen to attend; we welcomed back to Banbridge, delegates from Queen's University Belfast, the University of Ulster, Stirling, Dundee, Edinburgh and Strathclyde Universities and also representatives from a number of institutions who had not attended in the past including the University of Portsmouth, University of East Anglia, Staffordshire University, Imperial College London and the University of Bath. The mix was further enriched by representatives from Trinity College Dublin and Project Trust who support those taking Gap Year following A Levels. It was marvellous that these individuals elected to travel so far and a tremendous opportunity for our school community to avail of their expertise on our own school grounds. There was indeed something for everyone, with Carson McDowell representing the legal pathway and Chartered Accounts Ireland present to inform those interested in Accountancy. We were especially pleased to welcome the Ulster University Confucius Institute which, during the school year offers pupils the opportunity to develop their Chinese language skills.

Unfortunately it is impossible to name all those who supported our Fair this year, but to each and every one we extend our sincere gratitude for their support. Collectively the 79 organisations provided our pupils and parents/guardians with a superb opportunity to accumulate a wealth of information which will support them in the quest to identify their career pathway.

We also extend our thanks to colleagues, both teaching and non-teaching, who supported the Careers Department on the day, and to our Prefects who made a tremendous contribution to ensuring that the day ran smoothly.

Mrs A Gilpin

Head of Careers

Senior Teacher