

NORTHERN Regional College

December Media Review 2020

from 01/12/2020 to 31/12/2020

Media Source Press Page 20
Circulation 13,725
Also published in Ballymena Guardian



Northern Regional College links up with Vuselela College in South Africa...via Zoom

DESPITE all the travel restrictions imposed because of the Covid-19 pandemic, travel and tourism students at Northern Regional College are still sharing international best practice experiences with students in South Africa.

Level 2 and 3 students from the College's Ballymena campus, used Zoom to extend the walls of their online classroom for a virtual catch-up with Vuselela TVET in north-west South Africa. Travel and Tourism lecturer, Karen McLeod said she was delighted with how her students had

engaged with technology to maintain the link the Vuselela College.

"Study visits, which promote international understanding, intercultural learning and skills, are an important part of the travel and tourism curriculum but current travel restrictions meant we had to be innovative and offer international learning opportunities to our students in another way," Karen explained.

The Ballymena students were joined on the Zoom call by Anna Marie Pitts, Programme Manager of Vuselela College; former student Holly Hume who visited the College in South Africa and is now doing a degree in International Travel and Tourism at Ulster University; and Kelli McRoberts, Manager of Carrick Enterprise Agency.

Karen continued: "We had a great session, which was both educational and entertaining. We discussed

the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning and shared our thoughts and vision for the recovery of the travel, tourism and hospitality industries post-Covid.

"It's interesting to realise that students everywhere face similar issues and challenges but, despite everything that's going on, they still share the same positive outlook for the future of the industry."

Anna Marie Pitts acknowledged that the increased use of communication technology was a possible positive consequence of Covid.

"The pandemic has forced us to expand our knowledge of communication technology like Zoom, WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter etc., to allow us to connect with each other instantly and face-to-face."

"I think it's fantastic that Northern Regional College is incorporating this

advanced technology to internationalise its travel and tourism curriculum and it is our goal to ultimately empower students to do likewise," Anne Marie said.

Kelli McRoberts, who previously collaborated with Northern Regional College through the Coastal Tourism Hub programme, said she was delighted to have an opportunity to take part in the discussion with students and lecturers from Northern Regional College and Vuselela College.

"It was great to re-connect and share my experiences of working with tourism businesses along the Causeway Coastal route and share our plans to re-imagine the business as a result of Covid."

Holly Hume told the students that she really appreciated the value of international visits.

"I had a brilliant experience as a travel and tourism student at Northern



During an educational visit to South Africa, Northern Regional College travel and tourism lecturer, Karen McLeod delivered the World Host Ambassador qualification to travel and tourism students at Vuselela College in South Africa.

Regional College and know from my own personal experience how much students can learn when they embrace international opportunities and learning. I am passionate about this concept and it was great to be able to share experiences

with the students. Covid-19 has impacted on us all, wherever we live, study and work in the world so it was interesting to hear the perspective of students in another part of the world," Holly said.



Northern Regional College students join together with students from Vuselela College in South Africa via Zoom.

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725
Also published in Ballymena Guardian



Mr & Mrs David Cupples are delighted to announce the graduation of their daughter, Deirdre Yvonne Jayne Martha Cupples from the University of Ulster 17th December 2020 (Foundation Degree in Science "Counselling") at the **NRC. Deirdre is a past pupil of Clough Primary School and Cullybackey High School**

THE IRISH NEWS

Irish News | 24/12/2020

Media Source

Press

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25

Circulation

32,313

Co Tyrone musician Justin McGurk has joined forces with Down syndrome model Kate Grant to inspire people to be who they want to be this Christmas. Ahead of the launch of his new multi-media book and album, he tells Gail Bell about the healing power of music, stories and poetry

Justin and Kate helping the healing through song

SONGWRITING has always been Co Tyrone musician Justin McGurk's personal therapy to help him through grief, loss and healing and now his latest words and music have been inspired by the positivity of Cookstown Down syndrome model Kate Grant.

You Are is the title of a new Christmas song and video featuring Kate with her angel wings, the message tapping into society's misconceptions and presumptions and accentuating the need for us all to appreciate that perfection is not a one-size-fits-all ideal.

The song was written with Nashville-based songwriter Cynthia Limbaugh Torres during a visit to Trim in Co Meath a few years ago when McGurk was in the middle of a counselling course at Ulster University, putting a few of his own demons to rest.

"Then, I saw Kate on the catwalk and thought of all the challenges she has had to overcome and a line in the song about us having 'wings to fly', really struck a chord," says the carpenter-turned-musician from Kildress outside Cookstown.

"People are very quick sometimes to put their own limitations on to others and many might have thought Kate would never have become a model because of her Down syndrome, but there she was, living her dream – and that is what the song is all about, really – embracing life above differences and with self-belief and passion."

The song is one of several inspiring originals penned by McGurk to feature in his upcoming book, Good Grief, containing several personal stories and poetry about "life, love and loss" and which will be launched alongside new album Wish You Were Here in February next year.

It is, he says, a "multi-media" offering, with each chapter having either a song or lines of his own poetry assigned to it, all "helping move people a little further along on their healing journey".

He writes from the heart, whether it's Everyday Heroes, written during lockdown in praise of NHS staff, If I Could Take Your Place, penned nine years ago after his wife, Roisin, was diagnosed with breast cancer (she is now clear of the disease) or Wish You Were Here in tribute to his friend Fergal Mulgrew, also from Kildress, who died suddenly three years ago in Davagh Forest while out training for the Dublin marathon.

"I've always been a songwriter and a storyteller and the book is really just an extension of that," he says. "My therapy has been my songwriting – all through the most challenging periods of my life, the one constant has been my music. Even even when my wife diagnosed with cancer nine years ago, I still



Co Tyrone musician Justin McGurk, whose Christmas song *You Are* is out now. Picture by John O'Neill/Sperins Photography



Model Kate Grant from Cookstown in Co Tyrone features in the video for Justin McGurk's *You Are*

had to go out and sing on stage at someone's wedding [with his band, Justin and the Boogie Men] and people would have asked how I could do that when I didn't know what the future held.

"In some way, though, when I was on stage, it was a bit of escapism for me, from all my worries about that unknown future. I've always felt that, no matter what happens, you have to keep on singing."

The personal songs – which have lately been finding a new, appreciative audience on his weekly Facebook Live events – the book

and the counselling course are all rooted, he says, in unprocessed grief from his eldest brother's death in a car accident 30 years ago.

"You Are was really inspired by some of my classmates on that course, many of whom were going through tough times with self-esteem issues," says the father-of-two, "but going back to the first personal song I wrote, If I Could Take Your Place – it was an outpouring after Roisin's cancer diagnosis and a way for me to release bottled-up feelings and I think men have sometimes a habit of doing that."

"Then, when my friend Fergal died three years ago, I wrote Wish You Were Here which made me realise that the shock of his death opened up the pain that I had never really processed from when my brother had died. That was when I decided to go back to university to

train in counselling – initially I had thought of grief counselling."

NOW, having achieved his level four in Counselling Studies with Ulster University through the Northern Regional College in Magherafelt, the musician is hoping to move more towards life coaching and is currently taking a new Success coaching programme with the end goal of helping others in their mental wellbeing.

"I have a very positive attitude around music and I think I can merge the writing and the music more easily in a coaching environment as opposed to a counselling environment," he says. "I'm looking forward to helping more people find their wings to fly."

You Are is available on digital platforms now. Justinmcgurk.co.uk

“When I was on stage, it was a bit of escapism for me, from all my worries about that unknown future. I’ve always felt that, no matter what happens, you have to keep on singing

Justin McGurk



irishnews.com | 24/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 451,764

Tyrone singer Justin McGurk and model Kate Grant help with healing through song

...counselling." Now, having achieved his level four in Counselling Studies with Ulster University through the **Northern Regional College** in Magherafelt, the musician is hoping to move more towards life coaching and is...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Ulster Business | 21/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 888,531

The push to retrain and reskill

...Engineering and IT, particularly software development, have been some of the most popular higher level **apprenticeship** programmes in recent years, it added. Complementing the free courses is an **Apprenticeship** Recovery...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



northernirelandchamber.com | 17/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 15,211

Cleaver Fulton Rankin advises on new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College



The **Northern Regional College (NRC)** has embarked on developing a new state of the art **campus**. Funded by the Department for the Economy, the investment forms part of a wider £85million capital investment...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



The Ballycastle Chronicle | 17/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	5,000
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Also published in Ballymena Guardian [+ 3 more]

New College - visuals of single Farm Lodge campus unveiled

THIS is how the 'newbuild' campus of the **Northern Regional College** will look when completed. Following approval by the Minister for the Economy, Diane Dodds, the tender for the construction of a new campus...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 16/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	9,702
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TOP OF THE CLASS: PART-TIME STUDY SEES NEWTOWNABBEY MUM ACHIEVE TOP RESULT

Newtownabbey-based Karen Kearns has graduated from **Northern Regional College** achieving the highest overall mark in her year group. Karen, who recently completed a University of Ulster validated Foundation...

[CONTINUE READING](#)





Ballymena Times | 16/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	52,859
Also published in	Ballymena Daily [+ 1 more]		

£45million NRC campus investment out to tender

...works commencing on site in the spring of 2022. The tender for the construction of a new **campus** for **Northern Regional College** at its existing Farm Lodge site in **Ballymena** has now been released Economy Minister...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Imagery showing how the new single campus at Farm Lodge will look

New College - visuals of single Farm Lodge campus unveiled

THIS is how the 'newbuild' campus of the Northern Regional College will look when completed.

Following approval by the Minister for the Economy, Diane Dodds, the tender for the construction of a new campus at its existing Farm Lodge site in Ballymena has now been released.

The new build project will see the consolidation of the College's current provision at Farm Lodge and Trostan Avenue sites in Ballymena into one, purpose-built campus at Farm Lodge.

Providing a significant boost to the local economy, the £45 million project forms part of a wider £85 million capital investment in the College estate.

It is anticipated the successful contractor will be appointed in

mid-2021, with new building construction works commencing on site in the spring of 2022.

Economy Minister Diane Dodds said: "This project is excellent news for Northern Regional College and for the Ballymena area.

"Combined with the new campus project at Coleraine for which I recently announced the appointment of the main contractor, this investment will enable the college to deliver a modern, economically-focused curriculum in new, state-of-the-art facilities."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, said:

"Our new Ballymena campus will result in a world-class learning

environment, enabling the delivery of training, skills and transformational education not only for our students, but for the wider local community.

The development of the new Ballymena campus will create an estimated 150 new jobs and sustain approximately 300 jobs in the construction sector.

"In addition, the project will provide over 1,350 weeks of training for new apprentices across a range of engineering and construction related trades.

Throughout the construction of the new campus, the College will continue to work closely with Mid & East Antrim Council and other key stakeholders on the regeneration of the former St Patrick's Barracks site.

Media Source Press Page 27
Circulation 13,725
Also published in Ballycastle Chronicle [+ 2 more]



Students 'sock it' to the bullies!

India Marks and Carly Weir, Performing Arts students at Northern Regional College's Coleraine campus, stand out as they show off their odd socks in support of Anti-Bullying Week 2020.

Odd Socks Day, organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, encourages people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality. Participants are invited to make a donation to support the organisation.

Northern Regional College participates in Anti-Bullying Week 2020 each year to raise awareness of the damage that bullying can do.

Stephen McCartney, Head of Student Services at the College, said: "Bullying can take many forms – from physical to emotional and even online – so it is really important to highlight that bullying is something we must all tackle together.

"Northern Regional College strongly supports the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year, Odd Socks Day is designed to celebrate what makes us unique and we want our students to respect each other because of their differences."



Local lady takes top post at NRC

A BALLYMONEY woman has been appointed as the new Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning at the Northern Regional College.

With an established career of over 20 years in the further education sector, Christine Brown, took up her new role in September.

Her previous experience, as lecturer, curriculum manager and more recently, Head of Department at another Further Education college, has given her a strong insight into the essential components of successful teaching and learning.

As VP for Teaching and Learning, Christine will be responsible for ensuring that the learner experience at the college is relevant and fit for purpose in today's fast changing business environment.

Under her watch, she is determined that all students attending Northern Regional College will be given an opportunity to reach their full potential.

"One of the challenges facing the FE sector today is that we are educating people for jobs in an ever-changing workplace and for jobs that may not even exist yet," she said.

"We need to flexible and adaptable so all learners can achieve to the best of their ability and maximise their opportunities for success."

She said the College's response to the Covid-19 lockdown earlier in the year, which had necessitated an accelerated introduction of online learning, had



Local woman Christine Brown has been appointed by Northern Regional College as their new Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning.

proved beyond doubt the willingness of students and staff alike to be flexible.

The changing work environment has put a renewed focus on apprenticeships and training programmes and Christine predicts that they will play a key role in building Northern Ireland's future workforce.

She continued: "Apprenticeships and training programmes are an increasingly popular way to earn while learning the 'hands on', practical skills that employers are looking for.

"They help create a strong economy while improving a young person's employment prospects and earning potential. It's a win-win situation."

Acknowledging that the Covid-19 pandemic and uncertainty around Brexit had created many challenges for both employers and employees, Christine said that FE colleges had a key role to play in helping to upskill or retrain the workforce in these ever-changing times.

Northern Regional College is very well placed

to help drive regional entrepreneurial activity.

In addition to the part-time courses and business support programmes, the college offers bespoke training programmes to help people upskill or retrain to move into new job roles or indeed other sectors.

Christine said that while she is delighted after many years of a long daily commute to be working closer to home.

However, she hopes to be able to make a difference at a regional level by working with staff, students and other stakeholders across the

college wide catchment area, which includes campuses in Coleraine, Ballymoney, Ballymena, Magherafelt and Newtownabbey.

"The College's geographical reach covers four different council areas, and each has its own area of specialist economic activity," she said.

"The College has well established partnerships with the councils and local business communities and, as I settle into my new role, I hope to be able to build on these strong foundations and this ultimately will benefit our students."

Welcoming the new appointment as Vice Principal to the College, the Principal & CEO Professor Terri Scott said: "Christine joins us at an exciting time in the College's development.

"We have just announced the first building phase of £86m DfE funded capital investment for our Coleraine and Ballymena campuses.

"The multimillion-pound project will result in a world-class learning environment, enabling staff to deliver transformational education not only for students at the College but for the wider local community.

"I am delighted that Christine has joined our Senior Leadership Team to drive forward our response to evolving demands and oversee the support arrangements that will enable students to achieve their qualifications."



Mayor gives top marks to NRC campus development plans

THE Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has described the construction of a new Northern Regional College campus as a “significant moment for education in Coleraine and the wider borough.”

Alderman Mark Fielding made his comments following confirmation that the project is set to get underway imminently, as revealed by the Chronicle last week.

He said: "The development of this multi-million pound project is welcome news and will transform the Union Street site in to a world class facility on our door step.

“It represents exciting opportunities for future students and the wider community who will benefit greatly from its development and ensure that they have access to the best possible education environment.

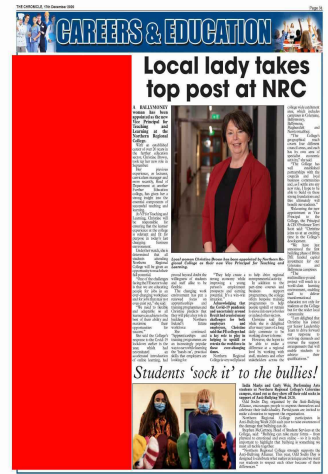
"I'm hopeful that we will see the return of a buoyant economy to the borough and this project will play a major part in that, from the build-stage through to completion and beyond.

"I'm particularly looking forward to seeing Anderson Park revitalised as part of this scheme, adding a unique outside green space to the campus and strengthening its connection to the town centre.

“I want to offer my best wishes to the College staff and the appointed contractor as they embark on this project and I look forward to seeing the site develop over the coming years and reaching its full potential as a centre of learning excellence,” added the Mayor.



Mayor Mark Fielding.



Coleraine's Samantha Stewart has undergone a career change after studying at Northern Regional College.

Samantha's transforming steps to brand new career

A COLERAINE woman has undergone a complete career transformation after enrolling at Northern Regional College as a mature student.

After graduating university with a BA Hons in Humanities, Samantha Stewart has just started a new career as a classroom assistant in a local primary school.

Having worked in accounts for over 12 years, she decided she needed a complete change.

"I always loved working with children, so I took the decision to enrol on the City and Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning at Northern Regional College," Samantha explained.

"Even though I'm now in my 40s, I can say for the first time that I've doing something that I really enjoy. By undertaking this course, I learnt so much about how to support children in a school setting. It also included placements in a local school, so I felt confident about starting my new career," she continued.

Samantha said the course, which she undertook at the College's Ballymoney campus, had given her the confidence to do new things and that she would have no hesitation recommending it and encouraging other mature students to go back to the books.

She continued: "There was so much I enjoyed about the course and it was well balanced between classroom learning and placement, which gave us an opportunity to apply what we were learning in class to a real-life situation. It was fantastic to meet new people of different ages and backgrounds and we all benefited from learning about each other's experiences and knowledge."

"If you enjoy working with children and are interested in pursuing a career in a school, then this is the course for you. The diploma will equip you with the skills and knowledge needed to

work in a school and you get a recognised qualification that will help open the door to a new career."

Childcare lecturer Kasala McCurdy, who co-ordinates the Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning Diploma at the Ballymoney campus, explained that the course, which concentrates on the stages from Foundation to the end of Key Stage 4, is the recommended qualification for use in primary, secondary and special needs schools.

"There are modules on numeracy and literacy as well as behaviour, communication, health and safety and child protection. Students are required to attend the four-hour class and complete a weekly six-hour placement for the duration of the course to ensure they are well equipped for a career in teaching," Kasala explained.

She continued: "I am pleased to say that all the students who completed the diploma and applied for jobs in the sector are working as classroom assistants in local schools. Samantha contributed greatly to the classroom activities and I am delighted she has decided to continue her studies at the College by enrolling on the Level 2 ADHD course which will further enhance her employability."

Kasala attributed the success of the Specialist Support for Teaching and Learning Diploma to the good working relationship the College enjoys with local schools and other employers.

"We have placed a high value on this in order to keep the door open for future students and it's great to see the hard work invested in these relationships is now paying dividends," she said.

The Level 3 Diploma in Specialist Support in Teaching and Learning is also available at Ballymena and Newtownabbey. For further information on all full time and part-time courses at the College, go to www.nrc.ac.uk.



NMD Council Chair excited by benefits to the district from £850 million city deal

NEWRY Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson Councillor Laura Devlin has welcomed the progress made across the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel.

Drawn from across the political spectrum, the council panel is made up of 24 elected members representing six BRCD council partners.

Working collaboratively with council officers, the panel is overseeing the development of outline business cases for "transformational projects across the employability and skills, infrastructure, innovation and digital, and tourism and regeneration, and pillars".

The meeting revealed that plans for an £850 million regional investment are nearing "an important milestone".

The submission of business cases to both the UK and Northern Ireland governments in just a few weeks' time represents an important milestone in the BRCD journey so far.

The BRCD will see the UK Government invest £350 million into the Belfast Region, with a further co-investment of £150 million from Belfast Region City Deal partners.

In May 2020, the NI Executive confirmed that it will provide match funding of £350 million towards the BRCD.

Commenting after the meeting, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Laura Devlin said: "The Belfast Region City Deal is critical to the future recovery



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chair Laura Devlin has expressed her excitement at the potential benefits for the district as part of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).

of the region, and importance has been placed on ensuring the progression of those projects that will stimulate transformative investment right across the

Belfast Region City Deal.

"It takes us one step closer to the delivery phase and see investment start to flow into our region.

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has worked towards the completion of Outline Business Cases for both the Newry City Centre Regeneration Scheme and the Gateway to the Mournes visitor attraction as part of this progress.

"Alongside these projects is the progression of the Southern Relief Road, a high quality digitally enabled innovation space, and a robust employability and skills programme that will ensure we have the people and skills to drive future growth and investment.

"The proposals taken forward by the council are critical to ensuring that we unlock investment and implement our strategic priorities which will aid the recovery of our district."

The six partner councils in the Belfast Region City Deal are Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The collaboration also includes input from Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; **Northern Regional College**; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College).



Department of Health Northern Ireland | 15/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 176,214

"Diverse Perspectives to Support Minister in Health Care Transformation"

...received Honorary Fellowship from BMC for services to small business and enterprise in 2013 and from **Northern Regional College** for Services to Business in 2017. Other involvements: Member of the Senate of...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Causeway Coast Community | 14/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 13,667

Also published in Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council welcomes NRC campus development

...read The Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has described the construction of a new **Northern Regional College campus** as a significant moment for education in **Coleraine** and the wider Borough....

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Ballymena Daily | 14/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

High winds blow scaffolding planks from college roof onto car



...in Ballymena. Picture: Ballymena Daily. HIGH winds blew scaffolding planks from the roof of the Northern Regional College Trostan Avenue building in Ballymena causing damage to a vehicle and fencing but...

CONTINUE READING

Media Source	Press	Page	3
Circulation	32,538		
Also published in	Northwest Telegraph		

College construction creates 100 new jobs

THE construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) was a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

That was the message from the Economy Minister, Diane Dodds following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus.

Funded by the Department, the development of the new campus forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for NRC in Coleraine and Ballymena. The project team has undertaken a significant amount of work to date, with the support of the Department, to bring these projects through the design stages.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone. Along with these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

The Minister also recently granted approval to proceed with the tender process for

construction of the new Ballymena campus at Farm Lodge. Combined these projects will deliver a significant transformation to accommodation, curriculum provision and will significantly rationalise delivery across the catchment area for Northern Regional College.

Minister Dodds said: "I am delighted to be able to support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state of the art facilities at Coleraine and Ballymena.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery."

The Minister added: "Further Education plays a key role in building a skilled workforce and supporting economic development and recovery. These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges

are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, added: "Our new Coleraine campus will result in a world-class learning environment, enabling the delivery of training, skills and transformational education not only for our students, but for the wider local community.

"We are working closely with the local business and industry sectors to determine the skills needs which will drive economic growth, sustain and produce new jobs and opportunities for the people of the area. In the coming years there will be many exciting opportunities."

The construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) is set to create over 100 jobs. Pictured are (left) Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, and Bob McCann, the Chair of the College's governing body.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Insider Media | 10/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 269,196

NRC unveils Coleraine campus plans

The **Northern Regional College (NRC)** is creating a new £40m **campus** in **Coleraine**. The move is part of a wider £85m investment in its sites on Union Street, **Coleraine** and Farm Lodge, **Ballymena**. Heron Bros...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



ukconstructionmedia.co.uk | 09/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 34,619

Heron Bros Appointed To Build NRC Coleraine Campus

...<https://www.constructionireland.ie/> Heron Bros has been appointed to build a new £40 million **campus** for the **Northern Regional College (NRC)**. Economy Minister Diane Dodds welcomed the appointment. Funded by the Department...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



The Coleraine Chronicle | 08/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 23,421

Also published in The Ballymoney Chronicle

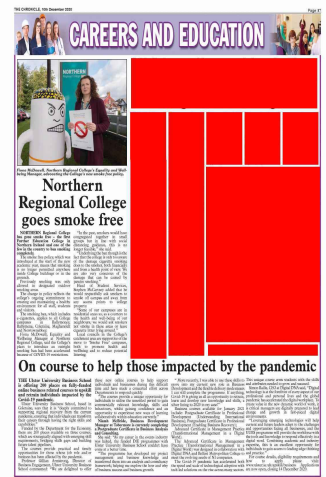
100 new jobs



College £40m rebuild to sustain 300 jobs, Minister reveals An computer generated image of NRC's new Coleraine Campus. Tuesday 8 December 2020 13:10 OVER 100 new construction jobs will be created when...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press Page 31
Circulation 13,725
Also published in Ballymoney Chronicle [+ 2 more]



NI Diversity and Inclusion Charter Mark for Northern Regional College

NORTHERN Regional College has been awarded the NI Diversity and Inclusion Charter Mark in recognition of its commitment to promoting equality for all.

The College's Equality and Wellbeing Manager Fiona McDowell said the award was an acknowledgement of the work being done throughout the College to promote diversity and inclusion among staff and students.

"One of the College's underpinning values is respect for all. We are committed to the promotion of equality in all our activities and are opposed to any form of discrimination so it's great to have our work recognised in this way," she said.

"In addition to our Equal Opportunities Policy for Staff, we have also developed and implemented other relevant policies across all campuses. These include policies covering Good Relations and Cultural Diversity, Accessible Information, Domestic Abuse in the Workplace, Managing Stress, Equal Opportunities for Students, Disability Policy Statement and Transgender Policy Statement.

"Equality, Diversity and Inclusion is embedded throughout the College's policies and processes, including Recruitment and Selection, Learning and Development,

Sickness Absence, Student Enrolment and Admissions," Fiona continued.

The College's Equality Improvement Plan is reviewed annually by the Equality Commission and when appropriate or relevant, new policies are introduced.

Last year, the College implemented Transgender policy and procedures and new guidelines on Menopause and New and Expectant Mothers are being introduced for the 2020/21 academic year.

The College's Disability Action Plan is also monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. Work is underway to obtain Autism Friendly Accreditation and to develop better placement opportunities for students with disabilities.

Explaining how the College implemented the various policies, Fiona said: "Over the past 12 months the College has taken part in projects such as Peace IV Community Integration Programme, Women in STEM project, Mental Health Charter and the Every Customer Counts Initiative.

"Throughout the year we organise events to mark international initiatives such as World Mental Health Day, International Women's Day, Anti-Bullying Week and World Cultural Diversity Week."

Barry Phillips BEM, Chairman, Legal Island

said he was "absolutely delighted" to award the Northern Regional College with the Diversity & Inclusion Charter Mark, covering all nine grounds.

"The assessment panel were impressed by the extensive range of diversity and inclusion activities happening at all levels.

This Award is thoroughly deserved and we look forward to hearing more about their Diversity and Inclusion initiatives in the future," he said.

The NI Diversity and Inclusion Charter Mark is an initiative championed by employment law experts, Legal Island. It

covers all nine characteristics protected in equality legislation: age; disability; pregnancy or maternity; gender reassignment; married or civil partnership; religious (or similar philosophical) belief or political opinion; race; sex and sexual orientation.



Fiona McDowell, Northern Regional College's Equality and Wellbeing Manager, with Barry Phillips BEM, Chairman of Legal Island.

Media Source Press Page 31

Circulation 13,725

Also published in Northern Constitution - Limavady Chronicle



Fiona McDowell, Northern Regional College's Equality and Wellbeing Manager, advocating the College's new smoke free policy.

Northern Regional College goes smoke free

NORTHERN Regional College has gone smoke free – the first Further Education College in Northern Ireland and one of the few in the country to ban smoking completely.

The smoke free policy, which was introduced at the start of the new academic year, means that smoking is no longer permitted anywhere inside College buildings or in the grounds.

Previously smoking was only allowed in designated outdoor smoking areas.

The change in policy reflects the college's ongoing commitment to creating and maintaining a healthy environment for all staff, students and visitors.

The smoking ban, which includes e-cigarettes, applies to all College campuses in Ballymoney, Ballymena, Coleraine, Magherafelt and Newtownabbey.

Fiona McDowell, Equality and Wellbeing Manager at Northern Regional College, said the College's plans to introduce an outright smoking ban had been accelerated because of COVID-19 restrictions.

"In the past, smokers would have congregated together in small groups but in line with social distancing guidance, this is no longer feasible," she said.

"Underlying the ban though is the fact that the college is only too aware of the damage cigarette smoking does to the smoker, both financially and from a health point of view. We are also very conscious of the damage that can be caused by passive smoking."

Head of Student Services, Stephen McCartney added that he would respectfully ask smokers to smoke off campus and away from any access points to college property.

"Some of our campuses are in residential areas so, as a courtesy to the health and well-being of our neighbours, we would ask smokers not smoke in these areas or leave cigarette litter lying around."

Local councils in the College's catchment area are supportive of the move to 'Smoke Free' campuses, both to promote health and wellbeing and to reduce potential littering.



New training aids for Hair and Beauty students at **NRC**

NORTHERN Regional College has introduced new training aids to enable Hair and Beauty students to complete the practical training elements required for their qualifications, despite the current social distancing restrictions.

Beauty, Hair and Barbering are considered close contact services and students would normally complete the practical elements by practising on their peers and clients however as Beauty lecturer Claire Falls explained, this is currently no longer an option.

"Practical experience is an integral part of all Beauty, Hair and Barbering courses offered by the College, but because of the social distancing restrictions imposed as a result of the pandemic, we had to look at alternative ways for our students to complete the practical training elements of their courses," she said.

Claire, who is based at the College's Ballymena campus, continued: "Instead of concentrating on the difficulties posed by the pandemic, we decided that the restrictions offered an opportunity to be creative and think outside the box, so we sourced additional training aids to give our students the best possible practical experience in the current challenging circumstances."

New Training Aids

The new training aids include multi-use training hands and feet, additional salon mannequin heads, flat heads and bearded heads.

Beauty students have been able to use training heads for facials, electrical facials, make-up and eye treatments, whilst their can improve their manicure and pedicure techniques on the multi-wear training hands and feet. The specially designed movable training hands are suitable for the application of nail extensions and the training feet have been a success for Complementary

Therapy students studying reflexology.

Hairdressing students can use the salon mannequin heads to try out colour, cutting and styling techniques while barbering students can use the bearded gents' training heads to try their hand at cutting, beard shaping and colouring services.

They have also been able to use the flat training heads to practice massage, and cut-throat shaving services.

Claire said that both the staff and the students have adapted well to the new way of practical training and have given the 'thumbs up' to the new training aids.

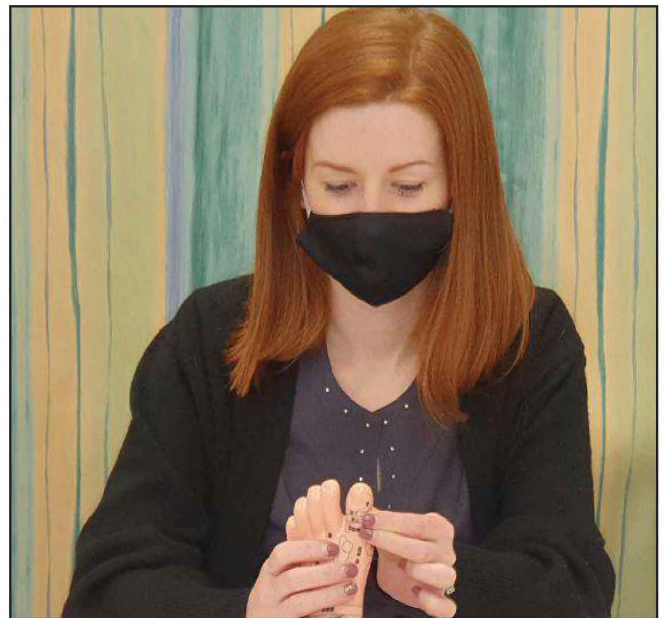
"The initial lockdown earlier this year resulted in the closure of hair and beauty salons across the UK and the most recent 'circuit breaker' lockdown in Northern Ireland forced them to close again, making it almost impossible for our students to get 'salon' experience outside of College

"These training aids have been a great investment and the feedback has been extremely positive. It has encouraged the students' motivation and confidence in these uncertain times. If and when things get back to normal, they will still be very useful in the classroom.

"Even with all the difficulties caused by the pandemic, we've managed to keep the disruption to students' practical learning routine to an absolute minimum and they've still been able to have 'face to face' contact, which is an extremely important aspect of our vocational area. We must adapt if we want to progress," Claire added.

The College offers a variety of hair and beauty courses at its campuses in Magherafelt, Ballymena, Ballymoney and Newtownabbey.

These include NVQ Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications in Hairdressing, Barbering, Beauty Therapy, Nail Technology and Complementary Therapies as well as Apprenticeships in Hairdressing and Barbering. For further information, go to www.nrc.ac.uk



Wendy O'Doherty, a Level 3 Complementary Therapy student at the College gets to grips with the new training aids.



Klaudia Ciochon, who is studying Level 3 Nail Technology at Northern Regional College's Trostan Avenue campus, tries her hand with the new aids.

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725
Also published in Ballycastle Chronicle



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Local councils in the College's catchment area are supportive of the move to 'Smoke Free' campuses, both to promote health and wellbeing and to reduce potential littering.

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725

Page 6

New training aids for Hair and Beauty students at NRC

Students at Northern Regional College (NRC) have been provided with new training aids for their Hair and Beauty courses. The aids, which include mannequin heads and hairbrushes, were donated by the local business community. The NRC principal, Professor Terri Scott, said: "We are delighted to receive these donations as they will greatly assist our students in their learning. The aids are of high quality and will be used by all of our students. We would like to thank the local business community for their generous donation."



Man had an imitation firearm

A man has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm after being caught by police. The man, who is in his late 20s, was arrested on suspicion of possessing a firearm without a licence. He is currently being held in custody and will appear in court next week.

DfE's £85million investment in NRC college campus projects will boost economy says Dodds

BALLYMENA'S Northern Regional College Campus is set for a new build facility at the Farm Lodge site, after Economy Minister Diane Dodds granted approval to proceed with the tender process for the construction of the new campus.

This follows the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus.

The Minister described the construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College as a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for NRC in Ballymena and Coleraine.

The project team has undertaken a significant amount of work to date, with the support of the Department, to bring these projects through the design stages.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone.

Along with these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

Combined these projects will deliver a significant transformation to accommodate, curriculum provision and will significantly rationalise delivery across the catchment area for Northern Regional College.

The Minister said: "I am delighted to be able to



Ballymena is set for a new NRC college campus, similar to this one planned at Coleraine.

support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state of the art facilities at Ballymena and Coleraine.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery."

The Minister added: "Further Education plays a key role in building a skilled workforce and supporting economic development and recovery. These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, said: "Our new Coleraine campus will result in a world-class learning environment, enabling the delivery of training, skills and transformational education not only for our students, but for the wider local community."

"We are working closely with the local business and industry sectors to determine the skills needs which will drive economic growth, sustain and produce new jobs and opportunities for the people of the area. In the coming years there will be many exciting opportunities."

The new four-storey Coleraine campus will be located on an extended site in Union Street.

It will feature a fully integrated entrance to Anderson Park, enabling the park to be re-vitalised as an active, welcoming and safe outdoor space and facilitating strong links to the town centre.

Media Source Press Page 1,3
Circulation 13,725



Options to be considered for future of Ballymoney **NRC** building

100 new jobs

OVER 100 new construction jobs will be created when work starts on the £40m new Northern Regional College building in Coleraine.

The new building will bring the old Coleraine and Ballymoney campuses together under one roof.

News of the major boost to the local economy was revealed by Economy Minister Diane Dodds last week as she announced the appointment of the lead contractor for the Union Street project.

Work has already begun, securing the site ahead of demolition.

Staff and students of the old Coleraine Campus have been temporarily relocated to buildings formerly occupied by St Joseph's College with Ballymoney **NRC** remaining open until the new building is complete.

In welcoming the move, North Antrim MLA Mervyn Storey has said he is "reasonably content about where things are going in relation to the Ballymoney building, so it won't end up as a derelict property," adding that "all options are open to being considered!"

He admitted that demolition was one of those options describing the existing building dated from the 1960s as "past its sell by date!"

STATE-OF-THE-ART

In addition to providing state-of-the-art teaching facilities, the Coleraine project aims to revitalise the area by opening the campus out onto Anderson Park and linking it to the town centre.

Speaking following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd as lead contractor, Minister Dodds said she anticipated that over 100 new construction jobs would be created.



An computer generated image of **NRC's** new Coleraine Campus.

In total the building phase will sustain 300 jobs and provide over 1000 hours of training for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades, she said.

The Union Street campus rebuild is part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for Northern Regional College shared between Coleraine and Ballymena.

The Minister also recently granted approval to proceed with the tender process for construction of the new Ballymena campus at Farm Lodge.

The Minister said: "I am delighted to

be able to support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state-of-the-art facilities at Coleraine and Ballymena.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery," the Minister said. "Further Education plays a key role in building a skilled

workforce and supporting economic development and recovery. These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, said the Coleraine campus will result in a world-class learning environment, delivering transformational education not only for students, but for the wider community.

● Continued on page 3



detrimental impact on Dunluce Castle.

100 new jobs

Continued from front page

"We are working closely with the local business and industry sectors to determine the skills needs which will drive economic growth, sustain and produce new jobs and opportunities for the people of the area," he said. "In the coming years there will be many exciting opportunities." The new four-storey building will occupy an extended site on the corner of Union Street and Brook Street in Coleraine.

"It will feature a fully integrated entrance to Anderson Park, enabling the park to be re-vitalised as an active, welcoming and safe outdoor space and facilitating strong links to the town centre. The College successfully relocated over the summer to Beresford Avenue in Coleraine, where it has maintained curriculum delivery at a modified former secondary school building.

Mr Mervyn Storey MLA, adding to his previous remarks said:

"As the Finance Minister who signed off the business case for these new builds, I am pleased that work has now commenced.

"While I expressed my disappointment at the implications for the Ballymoney Campus I was well aware that failure to approve the business cases presented by the then Minister for Employment and Learning Stephen Farry would be detrimental to the long term capital investment of the NRC.

"As with any building programme there will be benefits to the local eco-

nomy and the various supply chains.

"I continue to have discussions with a number of Departments in relation to what the future plans will be for the Ballymoney NRC site. I trust early in the new year we can provide more detail as to what those plans will entail."



Draperstown's Heron Bros awarded contract to build £40m campus in Coleraine



An artist's impression of the new £40million Coleraine campus for **Northern Regional College**. Heron Bros Ltd have been appointed the lead contractor. SC205027

DRAPERSTOWN construction firm Heron Bros. Ltd have been appointed the lead contractor to build the new **Northern Regional College (NRC)** campus in Coleraine.

Economy Minister Diane Dodds said the construction of a new £40million campus was a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus

forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for **NRC** in Coleraine and Ballymena.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone.

Along with these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

The new four-storey Coleraine campus will be located on an extended site in Union Street.

DfE's £85m investment in college campus projects will boost economy: Dodds

Economy Minister Diane Dodds says the construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) was a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

The minister was speaking following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus. Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for NRC in Coleraine and Ballymena.

The project team has undertaken a significant amount of work to date, with the support of the Department, to bring these projects through the design stages.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone. Along with

these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

The minister also recently granted approval to proceed with the tender process for construction of the new Ballymena campus at Farm Lodge. Combined these projects will deliver a significant transformation to accommodation, curriculum provision and will significantly rationalise delivery across the catchment area for Northern Regional College.

Minister Dodds said: "I am delighted to be able to support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state of the art facilities at Coleraine and Ballymena.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery."

"Further education plays a key role in building a skilled workforce and supporting economic development and recovery.

"These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

The new four-storey Coleraine campus will be located on an extended site at Union Street.

New £40million campus for Northern Regional College

[CONTINUE READING](#)



4ni.co.uk | 04/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 144,895

New £40m College Campus 'Significant Boost To Economy'

The development of a new £40 million **campus** for the **Northern Regional College (NRC)** has been welcomed as a "significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time". The Economy Minister Diane Dodds...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Cool FM | 04/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 1,219,815

Contractor appointed to build new Northern Regional College Coleraine Campus

...ReporterPublished 1 hour ago Heron Bros. Ltd. has been appointed as the lead contractor to build **Northern Regional College**'s new £40million **Coleraine Campus**. It's expected more than 100 jobs will be created...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



downnews.co.uk | 04/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

NMD Council Chair Welcomes Belfast City Deal Progress



...Belfast; Ulster University, and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; Northern Regional College; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College)." For further information...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



4ni.co.uk | 04/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	144,895
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New £40 College Campus 'Significant Boost To Economy'

The development of a new £40 million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) has been welcomed as a "significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time". The Economy Minister Diane Dodds...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Newry and Mourne Council District Council | 04/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	28,826
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Council Chairperson Welcomes Progress on £850M Belfast Region City Deal Projects

...Belfast, Ulster University and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; Northern Regional College; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College). For further information...

[CONTINUE READING](#)





Newswire NI | 04/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	5,000
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Diane Dodds announces funding for regional colleges - but not the North West

...from DUP Economy Minister Diane Dodds MLA that an additional £40 Million is to be provided to the **Northern Regional College**, Colum Eastwood MP for Foyle and Leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



derrynow.com | 03/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	89,397
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Foyle MP says it's time for the NI Economy Minister to 'step up' and deliver for Derry

...of a new state-of-the-art **campus** forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for **NRC** in **Coleraine** and **Ballymena**. It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



derrydaily.net | 03/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 14,662

Eastwood: Time for Economy Minister to step up

...today's announcement from the DUP Minister that an additional £40 Million is to be provided to the **Northern Regional College**. Said the Foyle MP: "I welcome the Ministers announcement of increased investment..."

[CONTINUE READING](#)



derrynow.com | 03/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 89,397

£40 million campus investment for Coleraine

...**College campus** will result in 300 jobs. Plans to construct a £40 million **Northern Regional College (NRC) campus** in **Coleraine** will create 300 jobs and have the potential to boost the local economy, the Economy...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



The Coleraine Chronicle | 03/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 23,421

Also published in Northern Constitution [+ 2 more]

First glimpse of what new NRC campus will look like



...Coleraine college campus projects will boost economy says Dodds An artist's impression of the new NRC campus at Union Street in Coleraine. Thursday 3 December 2020 12:56 ECONOMY Minister Diane Dodds...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



MSN UK | 03/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	73,000,000
Also published in	News Letter		

DfE's £85m investment in college campus projects will boost economy: Dodds

...was speaking following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus. Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus forms...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



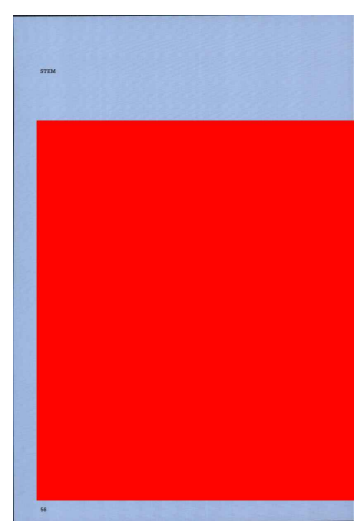
Ballymena Daily | 02/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	5,000
Also published in	Northern Regional College		

Mannequins and fake hands help Hair and Beauty students at Northern Regional College continue their training despite pandemic

...qualifications in Hairdressing, Barbering, Beauty Therapy, Nail Technology and Complementary Therapies as well as Apprenticeships in Hairdressing and Barbering. For further information, go to www.nrc.ac.uk

CONTINUE READING



The push to retrain and reskill

From government intervention at Stormont, to a raft of initiatives and courses across our universities and further education colleges, Northern Ireland is eyeing up how to train and reskill a generation in expanding sectors across STEM amid one of the most difficult periods in our jobs market, writes **Emma Deighan**

There has been no bigger push to reskill the NI workforce than now, during the current global pandemic – an event that has put NI unemployment at its highest level in eight years and exposed the fragility of specific sectors.

Unemployment now sits at 3.7% in Northern Ireland – an increase of 1.2% on March and a quarterly rise not seen since 2012.

In total 9,600 redundancies were proposed up to the end of October – double the previous 12 months.

These statistics are born from the closure of many businesses, the downscaling of services

and reduced output and it has prompted a campaign to re-skill our workforce for future-proof careers in STEM roles (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) – a sector that has been under skilled but also a sector that has proven its value in a drastically digitalised world.

Developing the future of STEM industries has long been on the agenda for some of NI's biggest firms, which have taken the task on in-house, but external activity in recent months has increased with the brawn of the Executive behind it.

In March, the Department for the Economy (DfE) invested £6.3m in a Skills Intervention Support Package, which offers up to 5,000

free training places in further education colleges and universities.

The aim is to improve the employment opportunities for those facing job insecurity, as a result of Covid-19. The skills interventions will provide the opportunity for people to secure fully accredited qualifications up to postgraduate level. "This is particularly important for those considering moving into new sectors," a spokesman for DfE said.

These skills span industries that are the among the giants of the future for employment potential.

DfE breaks them down into digital skills, green technologies, healthcare and life sciences and



leadership and management.

Among the universities delivering the qualifications are Ulster University and Queen's University.

Ulster University is on its second intake of students for courses that include programming and cloud modules – a three-week postgraduate course that can be completed digitally and has room for up to 50 students. Further business courses have also been added to the list, including business recovery, digital transformation and more.

At Queen's, courses including advanced composites and polymers, energy management and green technology, professional software development, artificial intelligence and biomedical engineering are among the offering.

At Belfast Metropolitan College, more than 18 STEM-related courses are part of the funded offering. Its courses include everything from digital marketing to cyber-security essentials and analysing data with Microsoft Power BI.

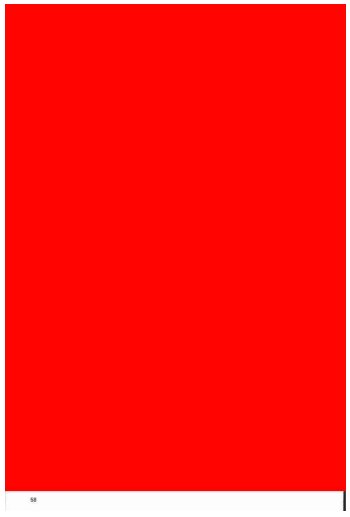
Northern Regional College availed of funding for seven STEM courses while North West Regional College has over 45 courses spanning green technology, digital, healthcare and more.

At the South West College five courses are on offer while schemes with the Open University aim to further support those who are seeking a career change as a result of Covid-19.

"In addition, the Assured Skills pre-employment programme has continued throughout the pandemic," DfE said.

"It quickly responded to the needs of business and working closely with both further education colleges and universities, transitioned from classroom teaching to online delivery of academies from the start of lockdown in March."

It said since April, 203 people have been upskilled with 192 of those gaining >



STEM

Diane Dodds

employment in areas such as financial services, business consultancy and data analytics.

Engineering and IT, particularly software development, have been some of the most popular higher level apprenticeship programmes in recent years, it added.

Complementing the free courses is an Apprenticeship Recovery Package. The package includes short-term interventions which are intended to minimise apprenticeship job losses, maintain and grow the supply of apprenticeship opportunities and support apprentices who have been displaced and lost their apprenticeship.

The department's Careers Service is also offering support to those made redundant and facing redundancy or unemployment as a result of the pandemic.

It says the Careers Service offers a "range of employability interventions including providing up to date advice on current vacancies, help with job searching, skills assessment, CV compilation, online interview techniques, and advice on education and training options".

The Careers Service Occupational Information Unit (COIU) also produces regular Northern Ireland sector-focussed information resources.

These Ezine-format resources follow themes emerging from the Skills Barometer and the department's Economic Recovery Plan, and include key growth sectors.

It's a move that has been welcomed by some of the most successful STEM companies in NI.

Insurance firm Liberty IT, which is set to recruit up to 150 new members to its teams here and in Dublin over the next nine months, has been working alongside the universities here to protect its pipeline of talent.

It has also recently taken on its biggest haul of recruits, with 90 people set to join its graduate and intern programme in 2021.

Willie Hamilton, managing director, said: "That indirect support of growing skills is much needed and various departments have been proactive and we endorse recent steps but what we need to remember is that this is a long-term game and it's not going to be completely supported by a Covid-related programme. We need many years of support. Doing it ourselves has been challenging and lots of companies say the same. These recent actions are most welcome and overdue."

Ellie Francis, managing director, Nepturnal, an employer branding agency, said IT firms often have to compete fiercely to attract talent, and

hopes such moves from the DfE will widen the talent pool.

"Talent in the tech sector is most definitely in short supply. However, this is much more of an issue when recruiting more specialist or experienced hires," she said.

"As the skills required for these roles are specific and not quick to train, it means that recruitment can be extremely competitive. In addition to this, we are starting to see many global organisations offer remote opportunities which may dilute the talent pool here in Northern Ireland.

"It is very much an employees' market and they are interviewing employers just as much as they are being interviewed for the role. Candidates are approaching the recruitment process in a measured and sophisticated way and therefore it's essential that employers can stand out from the crowd when they are communicating with their talent market."

For some, it may be too little too late, but for others it's a welcome move. The amount of in-house apprenticeship programmes already on offer at STEM businesses is testament that regardless of Executive support, businesses are proactive when it comes to protecting their talent pipeline. ■



Catherine made her apprenticeship count!

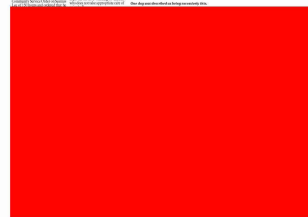
...accountant. As a trainee accountant, Catherine Shiels successfully completed a two-year Higher Level **Apprenticeship** (HLA) in Accountancy at the College's Coleraine campus in 2017. For the next three years, while...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725

Page 10

Couple banned from keeping animals for five year period



allmbas.

£850 million regional investment plans are nearing an important milestone

PLANS for an £850 million regional investment are nearing "an important milestone", according to the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel, which met last week in Mid and East Antrim.

Drawn from across the political spectrum, the Council Panel is made up of 24 elected members representing the six BRCD council partners.

Working collaboratively with council officers, the Panel is overseeing the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for transformational projects across the innovation and digital, tourism and regeneration, infrastructure, and employability and skills pillars.

Hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, the meeting was chaired by the borough's Mayor, Councillor Peter Johnston.

The Mayor said: "The BRCD has been a catalyst for increased collaboration between the six councils and our partners, led by our Council Panel.

"Despite significant challenges posed by COVID-19, our combined efforts have seen us continue to make great strides throughout the pandemic in the development of detailed OBCs for more than 20 projects.

"Now nearing completion, the submission of business cases to the UK and NI Governments in just a few weeks'

time represents an important milestone in the BRCD journey so far. It takes us one step closer to the delivery phase and seeing this £850 million investment start to flow into our region from as early as April 2021."

Councillor Johnston said BRCD will be "critical" to the economic recovery of the Belfast Region following the global pandemic.

He said: "Significant work has been undertaken in recent months by all partners involved to ensure the BRCD proposals align closely to the short to medium-term needs of the region's economic recovery following the COVID-19 crisis. This ambitious programme is also about realising the full economic growth potential of the region in the longer term.

"As well as creating and sustaining employment, the BRCD will help strengthen the region's business offer in growth sectors such as life and health sciences, the digital and creative industries, and advanced manufacturing. It will also support next generation digital capabilities, boost tourism, and support the regeneration of the region - underpinned by infrastructure developments and investment in skills to connect people to jobs and services."

The BRCD will see the UK Government invest £350 million into the Belfast Region, with a further co-investment of £150 million from Belfast Region City Deal partners. In May 2020, the NI Executive confirmed



The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel, which met last Wednesday in Mid and East Antrim.

that it will provide match funding of £350 million towards the BRCD.

The six partner councils in the BRCD are Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City

Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The collaboration also includes Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; Northern

Regional College; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College).

For further information about the Belfast Region City Deal, visit: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastregioncitydeal.

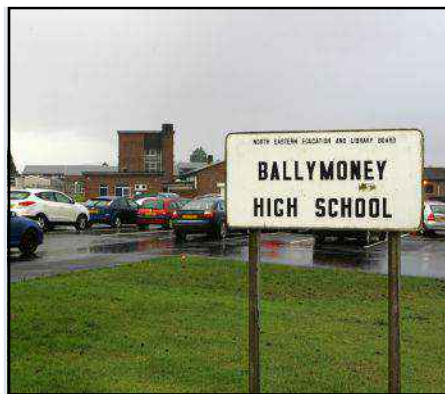
Updates are posted at #BRcitydeal

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725

Page 1,3



Ballymoney High School sixth form consultation



Ballymoney high School. WK05-67TMBM

by Jonathan **McNabb**
jonathan.mcnabb@thechronicle.co.uk

A CONSULTATION is currently taking place that will, if agreed, see the establishment of a post-16 provision and a phased increase enrolment number at Ballymoney High School.

The move to roll out a sixth form at the school has been described as “a very positive step” by local MLA and former High School pupil Mervyn Storey.

At the 12 November 2020 meeting of the Education Authority’s Education Committee, it was agreed to initiate pre-publication consultation with the Board of Governors, staff and parents of Ballymoney High School, and with the managers of other schools likely to be affected by the proposal to establish post-16 provision in Ballymoney High School and increase its enrolment number from 670 to 810 with an annual phased increase, with effect from 1 September 2022, or as soon as possible thereafter.

● *Story continued on page 3.*



Ballymoney High School set to offer sixth form provision?

Continued from front page

The Education Authority is also seeking to engage in consultation with other interested parties in the local community before making their final recommendation.

The consultation started on 17 November and will finish on January 26 next year.

Statistics revealed that on average, 85.5% of pupils in Year 12 at Ballymoney High School over the last six years have chosen to remain in some form of education beyond GCSE.

The pre-publication document – which can be assessed online – explains that the rationale for the proposal will cater for 70 pupils and will provide an opportunity to access 11–19 education in a non-denominational school in the local community including the opportunity to access some courses at Dalriada School through Learning Community provision.

It is also stated that Ballymoney High School pupils who wish to continue post-16 education in the town are unlikely to get a space due to the ‘high retention rate’ at Dalriada School and therefore have to travel to Coleraine, Ballymena, Portstewart, Ballycastle or further afield to continue their education.

The report also acknowledges that “the educational benefits of this proposal are that pupils will be able to remain at Ballymoney High School from Year 8–Year 14. These pupils, and others from the Ballymoney area, will have access to a broad range of appropriate subjects at post-16, which will be delivered in collaboration with Dalriada School and the **NRC**. At present pupils from

the non-selective sector have to travel beyond Ballymoney to access post-16 education.”

The proposed subject offer at Ballymoney High School at Level 3 includes: Business, Travel and Tourism, Health and Social Care, Childcare, Sport Applied Science, Engineering, Performing Arts and Creative Media.

The document revealed that this offer is likely to appeal to the 57% of Ballymoney High School pupils who go on to other schools/institutions to pursue these areas of study at either Level 2 or 3.

It may also attract pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes, who are also currently travelling out of Ballymoney to access these/similar courses at post-16.

It is stated that the Governors at Ballymoney High School recognise that the budget continues to be in deficit but that the proposed increase in pupil numbers, alongside careful managing of the teaching footprint has stabilised the current situation.

However, the establishment of post-16 will require additional staffing. It is estimated at 2.6 teachers will be required for the provision with an approximate cost £141,000. Funding for the post-16 provision will be through LMS funding for pupils in post-16, Years 13 and 14.

Furthermore, additional accommodation will be required in the form of post-16 provision incorporating common room and study space, a Technology room, a Home Economics room and 3 general classrooms. The overall cost of this additional accommodation is

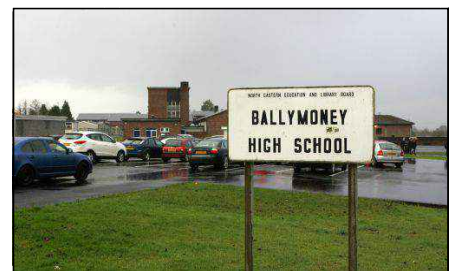
approximately £2m.

In March next year, the Education Committee will seek Approval To Publish, as well as a Case for Change to be taken to the Education Authority’s Education Committee for consideration. If approved to publish, a Development Proposal will be published in the local newspapers which begins the start of a two month statutory objection period.

North Antrim DUP MLA and former Chairman of the Assembly’s Education Committee Mervyn Storey has welcomed a decision of the Education Authority to proceed to consultation on the provision of a 6th Forum for Ballymoney High School.

Mervyn Storey who is also a member of the Board of Governors of Ballymoney High said,

“At the end of what has been a challenging year for all at the school, this is good news. For a long time it has been the desire of the School to have a 6th form, various options were considered which included a joint 6th form provision with



Ballymoney high School. WK05-67TMBM

others schools in the town. However the Education Authority have now concluded that consultation should begin on a new 6th Form for Ballymoney High.

“This is a very positive step forward for pupils in the area and will enhance the educational experience and opportunity of those pupils.”



Media Source Online Visits 888,531

The push to retrain and reskill

...Engineering and IT, particularly software development, have been some of the most popular higher level apprenticeship programmes in recent years, it added. Complementing the free courses is an Apprenticeship Recovery...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Local lady takes top post at NRC

A BALLYMONEY woman has been appointed as the new Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning at the Northern Regional College.

With an established career of over 20 years in the further education sector, Christine Brown, took up her new role in September.

Her previous experience, as lecturer, curriculum manager and more recently, Head of Department at another Further Education college, has given her a strong insight into the essential components of successful teaching and learning.

As VP for Teaching and Learning, Christine will be responsible for ensuring that the learner experience at the college is relevant and fit for purpose in today's fast changing business environment.

Under her watch, she is determined that all students attending Northern Regional College will be given an opportunity to reach their full potential.

"One of the challenges facing the FE sector today is that we are educating people for jobs in an ever-changing workplace and for jobs that may not even exist yet," she said.

"We need to flexible and adaptable so all learners can achieve to the best of their ability and maximise their opportunities for success."

She said the College's response to the Covid-19 lockdown earlier in the year, which had necessitated an accelerated introduction of online learning, had



Local woman Christine Brown has been appointed by Northern Regional College as their new Vice Principal for Teaching and Learning.

proved beyond doubt the willingness of students and staff alike to be flexible.

The changing work environment has put a renewed focus on apprenticeships and training programmes and Christine predicts that they will play a key role in building Northern Ireland's future workforce.

She continued: "Apprenticeships and training programmes are an increasingly popular way to earn while learning the 'hands on', practical skills that employers are looking for.

"They help create a strong economy while improving a young person's employment prospects and earning potential. It's a win-win situation."

Acknowledging that the Covid-19 pandemic and uncertainty around Brexit had created many challenges for both employers and employees, Christine said that FE colleges had a key role to play in helping to upskill or retrain the workforce in these ever-changing times.

Northern Regional College is very well placed

to help drive regional entrepreneurial activity.

In addition to the part-time courses and business support programmes, the college offers bespoke training programmes to help people upskill or retrain to move into new job roles or indeed other sectors.

Christine said that while she is delighted after many years of a long daily commute to be working closer to home.

However, she hopes to be able to make a difference at a regional level by working with staff, students and other stakeholders across the

college wide catchment area, which includes campuses in Coleraine, Ballymoney, Ballymena, Magherafelt and Newtownabbey.

"The College's geographical reach covers four different council areas, and each has its own area of specialist economic activity," she said.

"The College has well established partnerships with the councils and local business communities and, as I settle into my new role, I hope to be able to build on these strong foundations and this ultimately will benefit our students."

Welcoming the new appointment as Vice Principal to the College, the Principal & CEO Professor Terri Scott said: "Christine joins us at an exciting time in the College's development.

"We have just announced the first building phase of £86m DfE funded capital investment for our Coleraine and Ballymena campuses.

"The multimillion-pound project will result in a world-class learning environment, enabling staff to deliver transformational education not only for students at the College but for the wider local community.

"I am delighted that Christine has joined our Senior Leadership Team to drive forward our response to evolving demands and oversee the support arrangements that will enable students to achieve their qualifications."



NMD Council Chair excited by benefits to the district from £850 million city deal

NEWRY Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson Councillor Laura Devlin has welcomed the progress made across the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel.

Drawn from across the political spectrum, the council panel is made up of 24 elected members representing six BRCD council partners.

Working collaboratively with council officers, the panel is overseeing the development of outline business cases for "transformational projects across the employability and skills, infrastructure, innovation and digital, and tourism and regeneration, and pillars".

The meeting revealed that plans for an £850 million regional investment are nearing "an important milestone".

The submission of business cases to both the UK and Northern Ireland governments in just a few weeks' time represents an important milestone in the BRCD journey so far.

The BRCD will see the UK Government invest £350 million into the Belfast Region, with a further co-investment of £150 million from Belfast Region City Deal partners.

In May 2020, the NI Executive confirmed that it will provide match funding of £350 million towards the BRCD.

Commenting after the meeting, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chairperson, Councillor Laura Devlin said: "The Belfast Region City Deal is critical to the future recovery



Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chair Laura Devlin has expressed her excitement at the potential benefits for the district as part of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).

of the region, and importance has been placed on ensuring the progression of those projects that will stimulate transformative investment right across the

Belfast Region City Deal.

"It takes us one step closer to the delivery phase and see investment start to flow into our region.

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has worked towards the completion of Outline Business Cases for both the Newry City Centre Regeneration Scheme and the Gateway to the Mournes visitor attraction as part of this progress.

"Alongside these projects is the progression of the Southern Relief Road, a high quality digitally enabled innovation space, and a robust employability and skills programme that will ensure we have the people and skills to drive future growth and investment.

"The proposals taken forward by the council are critical to ensuring that we unlock investment and implement our strategic priorities which will aid the recovery of our district."

The six partner councils in the Belfast Region City Deal are Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

The collaboration also includes input from Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; **Northern Regional College**; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College).

Media Source	Press	Page	3
Circulation	32,538		
Also published in	Northwest Telegraph		

College construction creates 100 new jobs

THE construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) was a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

That was the message from the Economy Minister, Diane Dodds following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus.

Funded by the Department, the development of the new campus forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for NRC in Coleraine and Ballymena. The project team has undertaken a significant amount of work to date, with the support of the Department, to bring these projects through the design stages.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone. Along with these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

The Minister also recently granted approval to proceed with the tender process for

construction of the new Ballymena campus at Farm Lodge. Combined these projects will deliver a significant transformation to accommodation, curriculum provision and will significantly rationalise delivery across the catchment area for Northern Regional College.

Minister Dodds said: "I am delighted to be able to support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state of the art facilities at Coleraine and Ballymena.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery."

The Minister added: "Further Education plays a key role in building a skilled workforce and supporting economic development and recovery. These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges

are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, added: "Our new Coleraine campus will result in a world-class learning environment, enabling the delivery of training, skills and transformational education not only for our students, but for the wider local community.

"We are working closely with the local business and industry sectors to determine the skills needs which will drive economic growth, sustain and produce new jobs and opportunities for the people of the area. In the coming years there will be many exciting opportunities."

The construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) is set to create over 100 jobs. Pictured are (left) Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, and Bob McCann, the Chair of the College's governing body.

[CONTINUE READING](#)



The Coleraine Chronicle | 08/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 23,421
Also published in The Ballymoney Chronicle

100 new jobs

College £40m rebuild to sustain 300 jobs, Minister reveals An computer generated image of NRC's new Coleraine Campus. Tuesday 8 December 2020 13:10 OVER 100 new construction jobs will be created when...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press Page 31

Circulation 13,725

Also published in Northern Constitution - Limavady Chronicle



Fiona McDowell, Northern Regional College's Equality and Wellbeing Manager, advocating the College's new smoke free policy.

Northern Regional College goes smoke free

NORTHERN Regional College has gone smoke free – the first Further Education College in Northern Ireland and one of the few in the country to ban smoking completely.

The smoke free policy, which was introduced at the start of the new academic year, means that smoking is no longer permitted anywhere inside College buildings or in the grounds.

Previously smoking was only allowed in designated outdoor smoking areas.

The change in policy reflects the college's ongoing commitment to creating and maintaining a healthy environment for all staff, students and visitors.

The smoking ban, which includes e-cigarettes, applies to all College campuses in Ballymoney, Ballymena, Coleraine, Magherafelt and Newtownabbey.

Fiona McDowell, Equality and Wellbeing Manager at Northern Regional College, said the College's plans to introduce an outright smoking ban had been accelerated because of COVID-19 restrictions.

"In the past, smokers would have congregated together in small groups but in line with social distancing guidance, this is no longer feasible," she said.

"Underlying the ban though is the fact that the college is only too aware of the damage cigarette smoking does to the smoker, both financially and from a health point of view. We are also very conscious of the damage that can be caused by passive smoking."

Head of Student Services, Stephen McCartney added that he would respectfully ask smokers to smoke off campus and away from any access points to college property.

"Some of our campuses are in residential areas so, as a courtesy to the health and well-being of our neighbours, we would ask smokers not smoke in these areas or leave cigarette litter lying around."

Local councils in the College's catchment area are supportive of the move to 'Smoke Free' campuses, both to promote health and wellbeing and to reduce potential littering.

Media Source Press Page 31

Circulation 13,725

Also published in Ballycastle Chronicle



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Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725

Page 6

New training aids for Hair and Beauty students at NRC

Students at Northern Regional College (NRC) have been provided with new training aids for their Hair and Beauty courses. The aids, which include mannequin heads and hairbrushes, were donated by the local business community. The NRC principal, Professor Terri Scott, said: "We are delighted to receive these donations as they will greatly assist our students in their learning. The aids are of high quality and will be used by all of our students. We would like to thank the local business community for their generous donation."



Man had an imitation firearm

A man has been charged with possession of an imitation firearm after being caught by police. The man, who is in his late 20s, was arrested on suspicion of possessing a replica handgun. He is currently being held at the local police station. The police are investigating the circumstances of the possession.

DfE's £85million investment in NRC college campus projects will boost economy says Dodds

BALLYMENA'S Northern Regional College Campus is set for a new build facility at the Farm Lodge site, after Economy Minister Diane Dodds granted approval to proceed with the tender process for the construction of the new campus.

This follows the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus.

The Minister described the construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College as a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for NRC in Ballymena and Coleraine.

The project team has undertaken a significant amount of work to date, with the support of the Department, to bring these projects through the design stages.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone.

Along with these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

Combined these projects will deliver a significant transformation to accommodate, curriculum provision and will significantly rationalise delivery across the catchment area for Northern Regional College.

The Minister said: "I am delighted to be able to



Ballymena is set for a new NRC college campus, similar to this one planned at Coleraine.

support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state of the art facilities at Ballymena and Coleraine.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery."

The Minister added: "Further Education plays a key role in building a skilled workforce and supporting economic development and recovery. These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, said: "Our new Coleraine campus will result in a world-class learning environment, enabling the delivery of training, skills and transformational education not only for our students, but for the wider local community."

"We are working closely with the local business and industry sectors to determine the skills needs which will drive economic growth, sustain and produce new jobs and opportunities for the people of the area. In the coming years there will be many exciting opportunities."

The new four-storey Coleraine campus will be located on an extended site in Union Street.

It will feature a fully integrated entrance to Anderson Park, enabling the park to be re-vitalised as an active, welcoming and safe outdoor space and facilitating strong links to the town centre.

Media Source Press Page 1,3
Circulation 13,725



Options to be considered for future of Ballymoney **NRC** building

100 new jobs

OVER 100 new construction jobs will be created when work starts on the £40m new Northern Regional College building in Coleraine.

The new building will bring the old Coleraine and Ballymoney campuses together under one roof.

News of the major boost to the local economy was revealed by Economy Minister Diane Dodds last week as she announced the appointment of the lead contractor for the Union Street project.

Work has already begun, securing the site ahead of demolition.

Staff and students of the old Coleraine Campus have been temporarily relocated to buildings formerly occupied by St Joseph's College with Ballymoney **NRC** remaining open until the new building is complete.

In welcoming the move, North Antrim MLA Mervyn Storey has said he is "reasonably content about where things are going in relation to the Ballymoney building, so it won't end up as a derelict property," adding that "all options are open to being considered!"

He admitted that demolition was one of those options describing the existing building dated from the 1960s as "past its sell by date!"

STATE-OF-THE-ART

In addition to providing state-of-the-art teaching facilities, the Coleraine project aims to revitalise the area by opening the campus out onto Anderson Park and linking it to the town centre.

Speaking following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd as lead contractor, Minister Dodds said she anticipated that over 100 new construction jobs would be created.



An computer generated image of **NRC's** new Coleraine Campus.

In total the building phase will sustain 300 jobs and provide over 1000 hours of training for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades, she said.

The Union Street campus rebuild is part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for Northern Regional College shared between Coleraine and Ballymena.

The Minister also recently granted approval to proceed with the tender process for construction of the new Ballymena campus at Farm Lodge.

The Minister said: "I am delighted to

be able to support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state-of-the-art facilities at Coleraine and Ballymena.

"This £85million investment by my Department will provide a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time, sustaining hundreds of construction related jobs and ultimately enabling the delivery of quality training and skills essential to economic recovery," the Minister said. "Further Education plays a key role in building a skilled

workforce and supporting economic development and recovery. These projects, along with my Department's ongoing investment across the sector, will ensure that colleges are well equipped to continue delivering for learners, business and wider society into the future."

Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive of Northern Regional College, said the Coleraine campus will result in a world-class learning environment, delivering transformational education not only for students, but for the wider community.

● Continued on page 3



detrimental impact on Dunluce Castle.

100 new jobs

Continued from front page

"We are working closely with the local business and industry sectors to determine the skills needs which will drive economic growth, sustain and produce new jobs and opportunities for the people of the area," he said. "In the coming years there will be many exciting opportunities." The new four-storey building will occupy an extended site on the corner of Union Street and Brook Street in Coleraine.

"It will feature a fully integrated entrance to Anderson Park, enabling the park to be re-vitalised as an active, welcoming and safe outdoor space and facilitating strong links to the town centre. The College successfully relocated over the summer to Beresford Avenue in Coleraine, where it has maintained curriculum delivery at a modified former secondary school building.

Mr Mervyn Storey MLA, adding to his previous remarks said:

"As the Finance Minister who signed off the business case for these new builds, I am pleased that work has now commenced.

"While I expressed my disappointment at the implications for the Ballymoney Campus I was well aware that failure to approve the business cases presented by the then Minister for Employment and Learning Stephen Farry would be detrimental to the long term capital investment of the NRC.

"As with any building programme there will be benefits to the local eco-

nomy and the various supply chains.

"I continue to have discussions with a number of Departments in relation to what the future plans will be for the Ballymoney NRC site. I trust early in the new year we can provide more detail as to what those plans will entail."

DfE's £85m investment in college campus projects will boost economy: Dodds

Economy Minister Diane Dodds says the construction of a new £40million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) was a significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time.

The minister was speaking following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus. Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for NRC in Coleraine and Ballymena.

The project team has undertaken a significant amount of work to date, with the support of the Department, to bring these projects through the design stages.

It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with approximately 300 sustained during the building phase of the Coleraine project alone. Along with

these full-time jobs, over 1,000 weeks of training will be provided for new apprentices across a range of construction related trades.

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Minister Dodds said: "I am delighted to be able to support these vital Further Education projects that will enable Northern Regional College to deliver a modern, economically focused curriculum in new state of the art facilities at Coleraine and Ballymena.

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The new four-storey Coleraine campus will be located on an extended site at Union Street.

New £40million campus for Northern Regional College

[CONTINUE READING](#)



4ni.co.uk | 04/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 144,895

New £40m College Campus 'Significant Boost To Economy'

The development of a new £40 million **campus** for the **Northern Regional College (NRC)** has been welcomed as a "significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time". The Economy Minister Diane Dodds...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Cool FM | 04/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 1,219,815

Contractor appointed to build new Northern Regional College Coleraine Campus

...ReporterPublished 1 hour ago Heron Bros. Ltd. has been appointed as the lead contractor to build **Northern Regional College**'s new £40million **Coleraine Campus**. It's expected more than 100 jobs will be created...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



downnews.co.uk | 04/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

NMD Council Chair Welcomes Belfast City Deal Progress



...Belfast; Ulster University, and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; Northern Regional College; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College)." For further information...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



4ni.co.uk | 04/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	144,895
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New £40 College Campus 'Significant Boost To Economy'

The development of a new £40 million campus for the Northern Regional College (NRC) has been welcomed as a "significant boost to the economy at a very challenging time". The Economy Minister Diane Dodds...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Newry and Mourne Council District Council | 04/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	28,826
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Council Chairperson Welcomes Progress on £850M Belfast Region City Deal Projects

...Belfast, Ulster University and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; Northern Regional College; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College). For further information...

[CONTINUE READING](#)





Newswire NI | 04/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	5,000
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Diane Dodds announces funding for regional colleges - but not the North West

...from DUP Economy Minister Diane Dodds MLA that an additional £40 Million is to be provided to the **Northern Regional College**, Colum Eastwood MP for Foyle and Leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



derrynow.com | 03/12/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	89,397
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Foyle MP says it's time for the NI Economy Minister to 'step up' and deliver for Derry

...of a new state-of-the-art **campus** forms part of a wider £85million capital investment programme for **NRC** in **Coleraine** and **Ballymena**. It is anticipated that over 100 construction jobs will be created with...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



derrydaily.net | 03/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 14,662

Eastwood: Time for Economy Minister to step up

...today's announcement from the DUP Minister that an additional £40 Million is to be provided to the Northern Regional College. Said the Foyle MP: "I welcome the Ministers announcement of increased investment...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



derrynow.com | 03/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 89,397

£40 million campus investment for Coleraine

...College campus will result in 300 jobs. Plans to construct a £40 million Northern Regional College (NRC) campus in Coleraine will create 300 jobs and have the potential to boost the local economy, the Economy...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



The Coleraine Chronicle | 03/12/2020

Media Source Online Visits 23,421

Also published in Northern Constitution [+ 2 more]

First glimpse of what new NRC campus will look like



...Coleraine college campus projects will boost economy says Dodds An artist's impression of the new NRC campus at Union Street in Coleraine. Thursday 3 December 2020 12:56 ECONOMY Minister Diane Dodds...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



MSN UK | 03/12/2020

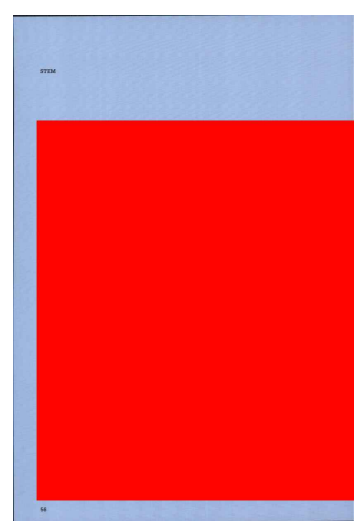
Media Source Online Visits 73,000,000

Also published in News Letter

DfE's £85m investment in college campus projects will boost economy: Dodds

...was speaking following the appointment of Heron Bros. Ltd. as the lead contractor to build the new NRC Coleraine campus. Funded by the Department, the development of the new state-of-the-art campus forms...

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The push to retrain and reskill

From government intervention at Stormont, to a raft of initiatives and courses across our universities and further education colleges, Northern Ireland is eyeing up how to train and reskill a generation in expanding sectors across STEM amid one of the most difficult periods in our jobs market, writes **Emma Deighan**

There has been no bigger push to reskill the NI workforce than now, during the current global pandemic – an event that has put NI unemployment at its highest level in eight years and exposed the fragility of specific sectors.

Unemployment now sits at 3.7% in Northern Ireland – an increase of 1.2% on March and a quarterly rise not seen since 2012.

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These statistics are born from the closure of many businesses, the downscaling of services

and reduced output and it has prompted a campaign to re-skill our workforce for future-proof careers in STEM roles (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) – a sector that has been under skilled but also a sector that has proven its value in a drastically digitalised world.

Developing the future of STEM industries has long been on the agenda for some of NI's biggest firms, which have taken the task on in-house, but external activity in recent months has increased with the brawn of the Executive behind it.

In March, the Department for the Economy (DfE) invested £6.3m in a Skills Intervention Support Package, which offers up to 5,000

free training places in further education colleges and universities.

The aim is to improve the employment opportunities for those facing job insecurity, as a result of Covid-19. The skills interventions will provide the opportunity for people to secure fully accredited qualifications up to postgraduate level. "This is particularly important for those considering moving into new sectors," a spokesman for DfE said.

These skills span industries that are the among the giants of the future for employment potential.

DfE breaks them down into digital skills, green technologies, healthcare and life sciences and



leadership and management.

Among the universities delivering the qualifications are Ulster University and Queen's University.

Ulster University is on its second intake of students for courses that include programming and cloud modules – a three-week postgraduate course that can be completed digitally and has room for up to 50 students. Further business courses have also been added to the list, including business recovery, digital transformation and more.

At Queen's, courses including advanced composites and polymers, energy management and green technology, professional software development, artificial intelligence and biomedical engineering are among the offering.

At Belfast Metropolitan College, more than 18 STEM-related courses are part of the funded offering. Its courses include everything from digital marketing to cyber-security essentials and analysing data with Microsoft Power BI.

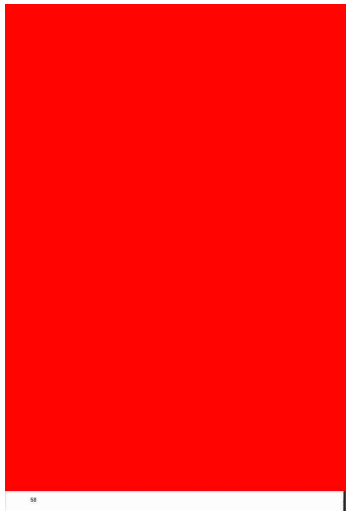
Northern Regional College availed of funding for seven STEM courses while North West Regional College has over 45 courses spanning green technology, digital, healthcare and more.

At the South West College five courses are on offer while schemes with the Open University aim to further support those who are seeking a career change as a result of Covid-19.

"In addition, the Assured Skills pre-employment programme has continued throughout the pandemic," DfE said.

"It quickly responded to the needs of business and working closely with both further education colleges and universities, transitioned from classroom teaching to online delivery of academies from the start of lockdown in March."

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STEM

Diane Dodds

employment in areas such as financial services, business consultancy and data analytics.

Engineering and IT, particularly software development, have been some of the most popular higher level apprenticeship programmes in recent years, it added.

Complementing the free courses is an Apprenticeship Recovery Package. The package includes short-term interventions which are intended to minimise apprenticeship job losses, maintain and grow the supply of apprenticeship opportunities and support apprentices who have been displaced and lost their apprenticeship.

The department's Careers Service is also offering support to those made redundant and facing redundancy or unemployment as a result of the pandemic.

It says the Careers Service offers a "range of employability interventions including providing up to date advice on current vacancies, help with job searching, skills assessment, CV compilation, online interview techniques, and advice on education and training options".

The Careers Service Occupational Information Unit (COIU) also produces regular Northern Ireland sector-focussed information resources.

These Ezine-format resources follow themes emerging from the Skills Barometer and the department's Economic Recovery Plan, and include key growth sectors.

It's a move that has been welcomed by some of the most successful STEM companies in NI.

Insurance firm Liberty IT, which is set to recruit up to 150 new members to its teams here and in Dublin over the next nine months, has been working alongside the universities here to protect its pipeline of talent.

It has also recently taken on its biggest haul of recruits, with 90 people set to join its graduate and intern programme in 2021.

Willie Hamilton, managing director, said: "That indirect support of growing skills is much needed and various departments have been proactive and we endorse recent steps but what we need to remember is that this is a long-term game and it's not going to be completely supported by a Covid-related programme. We need many years of support. Doing it ourselves has been challenging and lots of companies say the same. These recent actions are most welcome and overdue."

Ellie Francis, managing director, Nepturnal, an employer branding agency, said IT firms often have to compete fiercely to attract talent, and

hopes such moves from the DfE will widen the talent pool.

"Talent in the tech sector is most definitely in short supply. However, this is much more of an issue when recruiting more specialist or experienced hires," she said.

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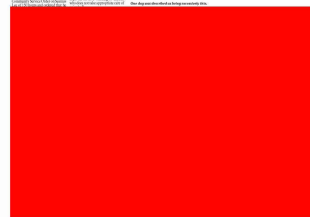
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For some, it may be too little too late, but for others it's a welcome move. The amount of in-house apprenticeship programmes already on offer at STEM businesses is testament that regardless of Executive support, businesses are proactive when it comes to protecting their talent pipeline. ■

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725

Page 10

Couple banned from keeping animals for five year period



allmbas.

£850 million regional investment plans are nearing an important milestone

PLANS for an £850 million regional investment are nearing "an important milestone", according to the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel, which met last week in Mid and East Antrim.

Drawn from across the political spectrum, the Council Panel is made up of 24 elected members representing the six BRCD council partners.

Working collaboratively with council officers, the Panel is overseeing the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) for transformational projects across the innovation and digital, tourism and regeneration, infrastructure, and employability and skills pillars.

Hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, the meeting was chaired by the borough's Mayor, Councillor Peter Johnston.

The Mayor said: "The BRCD has been a catalyst for increased collaboration between the six councils and our partners, led by our Council Panel.

"Despite significant challenges posed by COVID-19, our combined efforts have seen us continue to make great strides throughout the pandemic in the development of detailed OBCs for more than 20 projects.

"Now nearing completion, the submission of business cases to the UK and NI Governments in just a few weeks

time represents an important milestone in the BRCD journey so far. It takes us one step closer to the delivery phase and seeing this £850 million investment start to flow into our region from as early as April 2021."

Councillor Johnston said BRCD will be "critical" to the economic recovery of the Belfast Region following the global pandemic.

He said: "Significant work has been undertaken in recent months by all partners involved to ensure the BRCD proposals align closely to the short to medium-term needs of the region's economic recovery following the COVID-19 crisis. This ambitious programme is also about realising the full economic growth potential of the region in the longer term.

"As well as creating and sustaining employment, the BRCD will help strengthen the region's business offer in growth sectors such as life and health sciences, the digital and creative industries, and advanced manufacturing. It will also support next generation digital capabilities, boost tourism, and support the regeneration of the region - underpinned by infrastructure developments and investment in skills to connect people to jobs and services."

The BRCD will see the UK Government invest £350 million into the Belfast Region, with a further co-investment of £150 million from Belfast Region City Deal partners. In May 2020, the NI Executive confirmed



The Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel, which met last Wednesday in Mid and East Antrim.

that it will provide match funding of £350 million towards the BRCD.

The six partner councils in the BRCD are Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council; Ards and North Down Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City

Council; Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The collaboration also includes Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and the regional Further Education Colleges (Belfast Metropolitan College; Northern

Regional College; Southern Regional College and South Eastern Regional College).

For further information about the Belfast Region City Deal, visit: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastregioncitydeal.

Updates are posted at #BRcitydeal

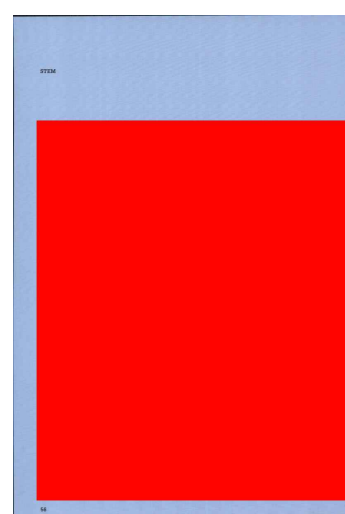


Media Source Online Visits 888,531

The push to retrain and reskill

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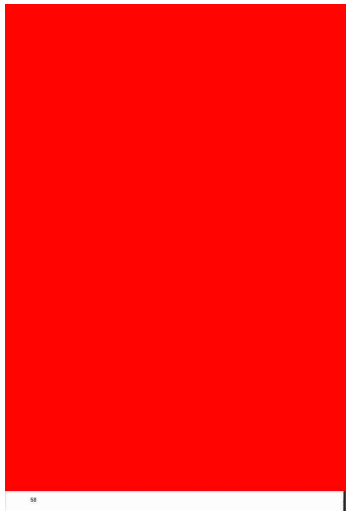
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Catherine made her apprenticeship count!

...accountant. As a trainee accountant, Catherine Shiels successfully completed a two-year Higher Level **Apprenticeship** (HLA) in Accountancy at the College's Coleraine campus in 2017. For the next three years, while...

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Cool FM - 08.00 News | 04/12/2020

Media Source Radio

Also published in Downtown Radio - 08.00 News

Contractor appointed for Coleraine campus

A contractor has been appointed for a new campus at North West Regional College.

[Radio-Clip](#)

Northern Regional College links up with Vuselela College in South Africa...via Zoom

Published in: Ballymena Guardian

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
34,458	27,450		1,749.02 €

PHOTO

Published in: Ballymena Guardian

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
34,458	27,450		279.11 €

New College - visuals of single Farm Lodge campus unveiled

Published in: Ballymena Guardian, Northern Constitution, The Ballymoney Chronicle, The Coleraine Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		45,450	37.89 €

£45million NRC campus investment out to tender

Published in: Ballymena Daily, Northern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		67,561	56.31 €

Students 'sock it' to the bullies!

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle, Ballymoney Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
68,916	54,900		1,518.06 €

Local lady takes top post at NRC

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle, Northern Constitution - Limavady Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
68,916	54,900		4,505.43 €

Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council welcomes NRC campus development

Published in: Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		18,667	15.56 €

College construction creates 100 new jobs

Published in: Northwest Telegraph

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
63,328	35,594		6,068.89 €

100 new jobs

Published in: The Ballymoney Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		28,421	23.69 €

NI Diversity and Inclusion Charter Mark for Northern Regional College

Published in: Ballymoney Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle, Northern Constitution - Limavady Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
68,916	54,900		4,337.24 €

Northern Regional College goes smoke free

Published in: Northern Constitution - Limavady Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
34,458	27,450		1,265.25 €

Northern Regional College goes smoke free

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
34,458	27,450		1,288.14 €

First glimpse of what new NRC campus will look like

Published in: Northern Constitution, The Ballycastle Chronicle, The Ballymoney Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		38,421	32.03 €

DfE's £85m investment in college campus projects will boost economy: Dodds

Published in: News Letter

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		73,146,379	60,955.31 €

Mannequins and fake hands help Hair and Beauty students at Northern Regional College continue their training despite pandemic

Published in: Northern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		14,702	12.26 €

Local lady takes top post at NRC

Published in: Ballycastle Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle, Northern Constitution - Limavady Chronicle

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			112.0 €