

NORTHERN Regional College

Media Review May 2020

from 30/04/2020 to 30/05/2020

Ballantyne conquers gruelling one-day 'Hell Freezes Over' Ironman challenge

A Portrush man has conquered the gruelling Ironman challenge - which he dubbed the inaugural 'Ironman Portrush' - in his garage to raise vital funds for the Extern Coronavirus Hardship Appeal.

Aaron Ballantyne, who is Head of Science and Service Industries at Northern Regional College, embarked upon his own 'Hell Freezes Over Tour (For a Good Cause)', developing and

His efforts formed part of a College-wide combined effort to support and raise vital funds for a range of charities in Northern Ireland.

With charities severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff at the College's six campuses came together to fundraise or volunteer for a number of local causes during its first dedicated Volunteer Day on Thursday, May 7 and over the weekend that followed.

Aaron explained: "I have previously completed four actual Ironman races and had decided to have a break from racing and competing at longer distances this year but when the lockdown came along and charities needed money, I thought I could complete an Ironman distance challenge indoors to help raise funds for a local charity.

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"In the spirit of social distancing and limited outside exercise time, I decided to complete the challenge in my garage in Portrush - opting to substitute the swim element with indoor rowing, rather than swimming thousands of lengths of the bath!" According to Aaron, a strong band of supporters were on hand virtually to cheer him on and get him through the toughest parts of the challenge.

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"Despite this, though, the huge amount of support and encouragement from colleagues and students at the College, as well as friends and family, really spurred me on and helped me to complete the Ironman faster than I expected.

"The best bit of the day was definitely putting on a handmade Ironman finisher's tee-shirt that one of my children designed and made for me!" So far, over £3,000 has been raised for Extern - a charity offering a unique continuum of specialist and dedicated services for families with new-born children right through to older people, covering a wide range of areas including: young people and families; housing and homelessness; mental health and suicide; alcohol and drugs; minority communities; justice services and skills/employability.

Grace O'Neill, Corporate and Community Relationship Officer at Extern said: "Extern wants to thank everyone from Northern Regional College involved in the tremendous fundraising activities that have raised over £3,000.00 for our Hardship Appeal.

"The Coronavirus crisis is our greatest public health emergency in living memory and means the families and individuals supported by Extern need our help now more than ever.

"Your support will ensure Extern can reach many more vulnerable members of the community who may need our help.

"Thank you for caring!" Donations can still be made by visiting JustGiving: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/around-the-campus>

Aaron Ballantyne in action before the lockdown

Aaron Ballantyne with his children after completing the gruelling Ironman challenge

Aaron Ballantyne on the run in his garage
Ballantyne conquered the Ironman challenge

The Ironman finisher tee-shirt made and designed by one of Aaron Ballantyne's children

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Virtual learning enables 100 per cent success rate for Northern Regional College Tour Guiding students

...to expect and how to do our best." Jakub, who is originally from Poland, said that his time at **Northern Regional College** studying for the Level 3 Extended Diploma in Travel and Tourism has had a "transformational...

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Coronavirus update in Tyrone and Mid-Ulster

Cancer Focus NI issues urgent Cookstown appeal

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Magherafelt mum continues her studies while working on the frontline during Covid-19

A MAGHERAFELT mother of three who is juggling part-time study at Northern Regional College with her work as a senior care assistant says the support from her lecturers has been excellent.

Carol McCready has two sons aged nine and six and a three-year-old daughter. She works as a senior care assistant in a local care home and decided to do a Level 4 in Healthcare Practice to help progress her career. Although she has more than eight years working in a healthcare environment and is an experienced care worker, Carol said the course has really helped in her role as a

senior care worker. "The course is very practice based so it has given me a better understanding as to why things are done in a particular way. Being able to follow a routine and do the work is one thing but knowing the reason for the routine really helps." Carol knew when she started the course at the College's Magherafelt campus last September that balancing family commitments with working nights in the care home was always going to be a challenge. Nothing could have prepared her for the challenge of doing it all during the COVID 19 pandemic. "I work nights and am responsible for looking after eight residents. "I enjoy my work and always try to have a friendly face and a

positive attitude but when we have to wear masks, it, it can upset the residents and some of them may need a lot of reassurance." She said studying through the pandemic has been challenging for a number of different reasons. "It's hard being out of the classroom and having to do the course online," says Carol. "I miss the face to face learning with my tutors and contact with other students and it can be hard to concentrate as I'm also helping the children with their schoolwork during the day." Carol completed a Level 2 Healthcare course in 2012 and although she had plenty of practical experience, she admits that it did take her a while to get back into the way of studying. "I did feel bit out of

my depth at times but the tutors have been excellent. They were always very understanding and supportive and now that we are having to do everything online, if I have any queries, I email and they respond very quickly." Healthcare lecturer Eimear Lennon, who co-ordinates the Level 4 programme at Magherafelt, said she had great admiration for students like Carol who are doing "a wonderful job in very stressful and challenging circumstances". She said: "I feel they deserve great credit for the selfless way they are risking their lives working at the frontline while continuing with their coursework and home schooling their children."



Magherafelt healthcare worker Carol McCready. SC202164



Magherafelt mum's fear for her son's cancer treatment during pandemic restrictions

New craft bakery set up in Magherafelt



Magherafelt College takes part in Volunteers Day

Hundreds of staff at Northern Regional College - which has a Magherafelt campus - volunteered some of their time and talents to mark COVID-19 Volunteer Day on Thursday 7th May - a bespoke initiative to support local communities and help raise vital funds for charities affected by the pandemic.

Members of senior leadership led by example, stepping out as one of the teams take part in a virtual walking challenge organised by Health and Social Care lecturer, Kate Pegram. Each team had a target of walking a combined total of 79 miles - completed as part of their daily exercise routine - the distance between the College's campuses in Coleraine, Ballymena,

Newtownabbey and Magherafelt.

Jenny Small, Vice Principal, Performance and Development, who oversaw the Volunteer Day explained: "Northern Regional College is rooted in a deep culture of corporate social responsibility (CSR) and community partnership. Throughout the academic year, we encourage our students and staff to participate in activities that raise awareness and funds for nominated charities. Our usual fundraising activities have been put on hold because of the lockdown but the College's commitment to achieving its CSR objectives remains as strong as ever.

"We designated May 7 as a COVID-19 Volunteer Day to

support staff members wanting to help their local community, as well as recognising and celebrating the many outstanding volunteering efforts already taking place.

"Adapting to online learning and home working as the new normal has been challenging and we realise that anyone looking after vulnerable relatives and neighbours or home schooling their children won't have much spare time, but we wanted to support staff who want to do something to help but perhaps haven't had an opportunity to do so yet."

She continued: "As we are all in this together, we felt designating a specific Volunteer Day was a way to give everyone working in the College an opportunity to

spend some of their time that day helping those who are most vulnerable. We have a strong and mutually supportive relationship with communities around our campuses so this was our chance to give something back. It was also our way of saying 'thank you' to the amazing frontline workers - many are past or present students of the College - across a wide range of sectors and services."

A wide variety of volunteering activities was planned for Thursday, May 9 including volunteering at local foodbanks, doing shopping and chores for elderly neighbours, donating blood, producing items of PPE, baking and cooking for vulnerable neighbours and supporting telephone helplines.

A **Northern Regional College** employee recovering from COVID-19 has led on efforts by her Scout Group to collect nighties and pyjamas, towels and toiletries for Craigavon Area Hospital. Dr Catherine Guy,...

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South West College | 20/05/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	59,803
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Better at Home with Local Higher Education

...shape future lives and careers. The six NI Further Education Colleges, North West Regional College, **Northern Regional College**, South West College, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College,...

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Northern Regional College | 20/05/2020

Media Source	Online	Visits	46,089
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Student Support Services Continue Despite College Closures

The outgoing Student President at **Northern Regional College** has reminded students that even though the College is closed, Student Support Services are still available. Since the lockdown caused by COVID-19,...

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SENIOR CARE ASSISTANT HOPES TO PROGRESS HER CAREER

Mum juggles studying with work on frontline

By STAFF REPORTER
news@midulstermail.co.uk
@midumail

A South Derry mother-of-three who is juggling part-time study at Northern Regional College with her work as a senior care assistant says the support from her lecturers has been excellent.

Carol McCready, from Magherafelt, has two sons aged nine and six years and a three-year-old daughter.

She works as a senior care assistant in a local care home and decided to do a Level 4 in Healthcare Practice to help progress her career.

Although she has more than eight years working in a healthcare environment and is an experienced care worker, Carol said the course has really helped in her role as a senior care worker.

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Carol explained that she works nights and is responsible for looking after eight residents.

"I enjoy my work and always try to have a friendly face and a positive attitude but when we have to wear masks, it can upset the residents and some of them may need a lot of reassurance," she continued.

She said studying through the pandemic has been challenging for a number of different reasons.

"It's hard being out of the classroom and having to do the course online.

"I miss the face to face learning with my tutors and

contact with other students and it can be hard to concentrate as I'm also helping the children with their schoolwork during the day," she went on.

Carol completed a Level 2 Healthcare course in 2012 and although she had plenty of practical experience, she

admits that it did take her a while to get back into the way of studying.

She said: "I did feel bit out of my depth at times but the tutors have been excellent.

"They were always very understanding and supportive and now that we are having to do everything online, if I have any queries, I email and they respond very quickly."

Healthcare lecturer Eimear Lennon, who co-ordinates the Level 4 programme at Magherafelt, said she had great admiration for students like Carol.

She said they were all doing "a wonderful job in very stressful and challenging circumstances".

Ms Lennon added that they deserved great credit for the selfless way they are risking their lives working at the frontline while continuing with their coursework and home schooling their children.

Carol McCready.



Belfast Metropolitan College | 20/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 161,632

Also published in Causeway Coast Community [+ 1 more]

Student Support Services Continue Despite College Closures

...colleges of further and higher education (Belfast Metropolitan College, North West Regional College, **Northern Regional College**, South Eastern Regional College, South West College and Southern Regional College)...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Larne Times | 19/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 5,000

Also published in Ballymena Times [+ 1 more]

NRC producing PPE shields

Protective face shields produced by **Northern Regional College** at the College's Farm Lodge **campus** using 3D printers. Copyright: Other 3rd Party Engineering staff at **Northern Regional College** are using...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press Page 12
 Circulation 13,725
 Also published in Ballymoney Chronicle [+ 1 more]



Aaron Ballantyne with his two children.

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In just 10 hours 28 minutes, Aaron completed a 12,000m indoor row, a 112-mile-cycle and a 26.2-mile marathon, with his bike and treadmill linked to the Zwift platform.

His efforts formed part of a College-wide combined effort to support and raise vital funds for a range of charities in Northern Ireland.

With charities severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, staff at the college's six campuses came together to fundraise or volunteer for a number of local causes during its first dedicated Volunteer Day on Thursday, May 7 and over the weekend that followed.

Aaron explained: "I have previously completed four actual Ironman races and had decided to have a break from racing and competing at longer distances this year but when the lockdown came along and charities needed money.

"I thought I could complete an Ironman distance challenge indoors to help raise funds for a local charity. I upped the training a bit so I could complete the challenge rather than being well prepared for it.

"In the spirit of social distancing and limited outside exercise time, I decided to complete the challenge in my garage in Portrush – opting to substitute the swim element with indoor rowing, rather than swimming thousands of lengths of the bath!"

According to Aaron, a strong band of supporters were on hand virtually to cheer him on and get him through the toughest parts of the challenge.

"The main problem on the day, apart from the underprepared legs, were technical difficulties with apps that were recording distances on virtual platforms," he said.

"Despite this, though, the huge amount of support and encouragement from colleagues and students at the college, as well as friends and family, really spurred me on and helped me to complete the Ironman faster than I expected. The best bit of the day was definitely putting on a handmade Ironman finisher's t-shirt that one of my children designed and made for me!"

So far, over £3,000.00 has been raised for Extern – a charity offering a unique continuum of specialist and dedicated services for families with new-born children right through to older people, covering a wide range of areas including: young people and families; housing and homelessness; mental health and suicide; alcohol and drugs; minority communities; justice services and skills/employability.

Grace O'Neill, Corporate and Community Relationship Officer at Extern said: "Extern wants to thank everyone from Northern Regional College involved in the tremendous fundraising activities that have raised over £3,000.00 for our Hardship Appeal.

"The Coronavirus crisis is our greatest public health emergency in living memory and means the families and individuals supported by Extern need our help now more than ever. Your support will ensure Extern can reach many more vulnerable members of the community who may need our help. Thank you for caring!"

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Media Source Press Page 12
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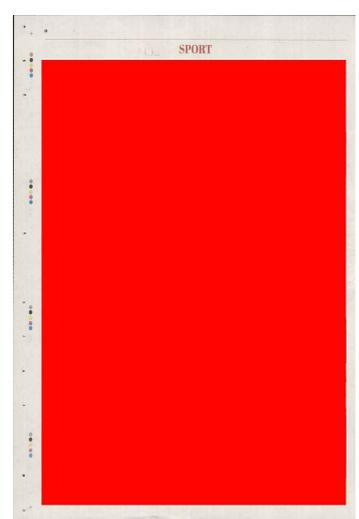
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THE PORTRUSH MAN COMPLETED A 12,000, ROW, 112 MILE CYCLE AND 26.2 MILE MARATHON

Aaron conquers gruelling one day 'Hell Freezes Over' Ironman challenge

By Sports Desk
sportdesk.ni@press.co.uk

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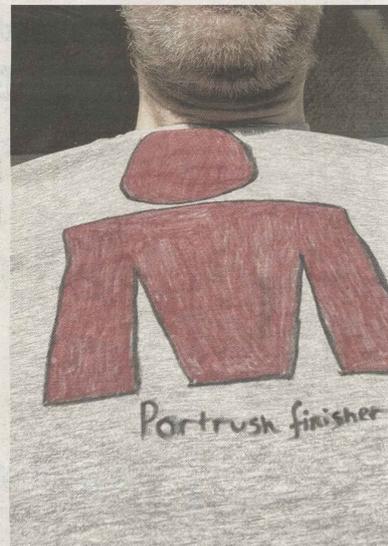
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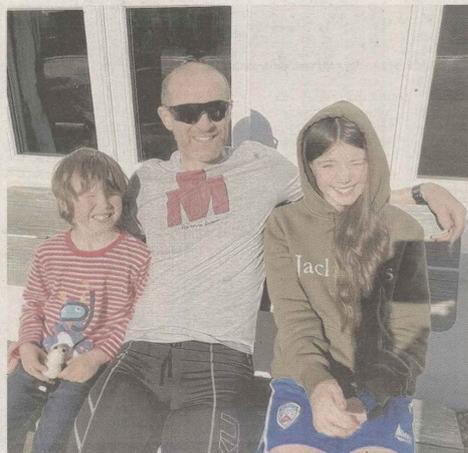
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Aaron in action before the lockdown



The Ironman finisher t-shirt made and designed by one of Aaron's children



Aaron with his children after completing the gruelling Ironman challenge for charity



Aaron on the run in his garage



Aaron conquered one-man 'Ironman' challenge to raise funds for charity

Media Source Press
Circulation 3,357

Page 5



NRC producing PPE shields

Engineering staff at **Northern Regional College** are using 3D printers to produce protective face shields to help cope with the unprecedented demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Using a design developed by a group of Spanish engineers which was modified by academics in the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University in Belfast, the College has answered the call to provide PPE for health-care workers. To date over 250 masks have been produced at the College's Farm Lodge campus and distributed to hospitals, nursing homes and GP surgeries in Ballymena, Coleraine, Antrim, Larne, Newtownabbey, Magherafelt and Belfast. The College has placed an order for additional materials to allow the production of 3D protective masks to continue.



THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY STUDYING A UNIVERSITY STANDARD HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE LOCALLY MAKES SENSE

Better at home with local Higher Education

By STAFF REPORTER
editorial@derryjournal.com
Twitter: @derryjournal

The message to stay close to home to support families and the wider community has never been more important.

That's exactly what thousands of students do each year by choosing their local Further Education (FE) College for post A-Level and Leaving Cert study.

This is a crucial time of year for many students, pivotal decisions are being taken that will shape future lives and careers. The six NI Further Education Colleges, North West Regional College, Northern Regional College, South West Regional College, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College, and Belfast Metropolitan College, offer a nearer to home option that can help make career ambitions a reality.

There are many reasons why studying a university standard Higher Education



ROE is a former Higher Education student.

(HE) course locally makes sense. As well as the extensive range of courses available, FE colleges are often the more affordable option, with much lower tuition fees. Students

also have to option to live at home, reducing the substantial living and maintenance costs that come with moving away. Award winning musician

ROE, who recently supported Snow Patrol and Robbie Williams on tour, chose her local FE college to study for a Higher National Certificate in Music. The straight A's Grammar school student, who was the winner of the Northern Ireland Music prize for Best Emerging Artist, and last year performed on the BBC Introducing Stage at Glastonbury, chose FE for her post 16 studies with a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music, and continued her education with a HNC.

ROE said the support she received at her local FE college was pivotal in helping to shape her music career.

She added: "The Music department were so supportive to me. They helped me develop myself as a musician and I felt like I could always go to them for advice and guidance. It's helped me become a better musician by giving me the experience I needed and helped me meet so many of the people who have supported me throughout my career so far."

Across the six Colleges, students can choose from range of full and part time HE courses, including Higher Level Apprenticeships, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and Foundation Degrees. Completion of these vocationally led courses often lead to direct employment, continued education and training, or they serve as a stepping stone to a Full Honours Degree.

Working in partnership with local Universities, FE Colleges offer a range of professional and technical options – focussed on meeting the needs of the regional economy. Indeed, the further education sector currently delivers around 18% of all higher education provision in Northern Ireland. Foundation Degrees (completed in 2 years full time, or three years part time) combine hands on practical learning with academic study which can later be topped up to a full degree.

Higher National Diplomas (HND) and Higher National

Certificates (HNC) focus on 'learning by doing' providing skills that can be used in a particular job and are highly valued by employers. Students traditionally progress to employment or full Degree study.

Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) are open to Post 'A' Level students and those who have undertaken Level 3 qualifications. HLAs allow students to jointly study and work in paid employment in their chosen profession. The HLA is a unique work based programme that enables participants to earn while they learn, while gaining a recognised Level 5 qualification. Courses are funded by the Department for the Economy so students never have to worry about tuition fees.

FE Colleges will be running online Information sessions for students receiving A Level and Leaving Certificate examination results, and who need support and guidance with their next career move.

Contact your local College for further details.



Co Antrim man takes on Ironman challenge in own garage

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Triathlete completes 'Ironman' in garage

SIMON DOYLE
s.doyle@irishnews.com

A TRIATHLETE has conquered a gruelling 'Ironman'-type challenge in his own garage to raise money for charity.

Aaron Ballantyne, who is head of science and service industries at Northern Regional College (NRC), developed and completed a one-man 'Ironman Portrush'.

He took 10 hours and 28 minutes to finish a 12,000m indoor row and 112-mile cycle before running the full marathon distance of 26.2 miles.

His efforts formed part of a college-wide combined effort to support and raise funds for a range of charities.

With charities severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, staff at NRC's six campuses came together to fund-raise or volunteer for several causes.

"I have previously completed four actual Ironman races and had decided to have a break from racing and competing at longer distances this year but when the lockdown came along and charities needed money, I thought I could complete an Ironman distance challenge indoors to help



ACHIEVEMENT: Aaron Ballantyne – wearing an Ironman T-shirt made by his son – with his children

raise funds for a local charity," Mr Ballantyne said.

"I upped the training a bit so I could complete the challenge rather than being well prepared for it.

"In the spirit of social distancing and limited outside exercise time, I decided to complete the challenge in my garage in Portrush – opting to substitute the swim element with indoor rowing, rather than swimming thousands of lengths of the bath."

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"The best bit of the day was definitely putting on a handmade Ironman finisher's T-shirt that one of my children designed and made for me."

So far, more than \$3,000 has been raised for Extern – a charity offering specialist and dedicated services for families with newborn children through to older people.

Grace O'Neill, corporate and community relationship officer at Extern, praised the college's "tremendous fundraising activities".

"The coronavirus crisis is our greatest public health emergency in living memory and means the families and individuals supported by Extern need our help now more than ever," she said.



irishnews.com | 16/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 499,565

Portrush man conquers one-man 'Ironman' challenge in his garage to raise vital funds for charity

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Coleraine Times | 15/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 17,190

Also published in Ballymoney Moyle Times

Portrush man conquers one-man 'Ironman' challenge in his garage

Aaron Ballantyne, who is Head of Science and Service Industries at Northern Regional College Copyright: User (UGC) Aaron Ballantyne, who is Head of Science and Service Industries at Northern Regional...

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Causeway Coast Community | 15/05/2020

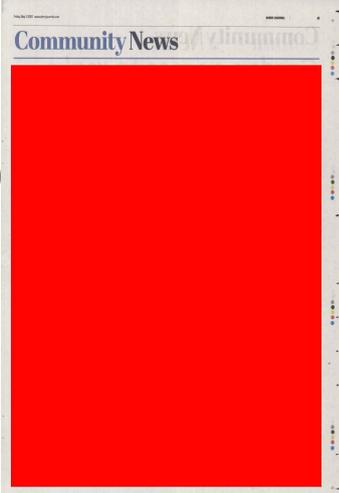
Media Source Online Visits 26,353



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Media Source Press Page 41
Circulation 16,721

Colleges come together to help the battle against effects of Coronavirus

EDUCATION

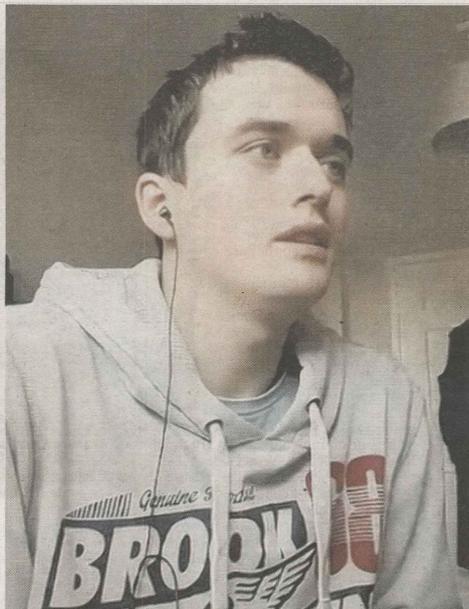
By STAFF REPORTER
editorial@derryjournal.com
Twitter: @derryjournal

Students at the North West Regional College have joined forces with people from the other five further education colleges across NI to help battle the worst effects of the Coronavirus outbreak.

In recent weeks, thousands of students and staff from Northern Ireland's Further Education (FE) colleges have combined their time, talents and skills gained through their college courses to support frontline efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking on behalf of the heads of the six Colleges, Derry native Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive at Northern Regional College explained: "As a network of six regional FE colleges, we are at the heart of every community in Northern Ireland and this is reflected in the outward-looking culture and strong sense of community spirit that underpins every one of our campuses."

"As college principals, we have been greatly inspired by the tremendous demonstrations of solidarity and support from thousands of our students and staff in proac-



Above: Students at NWRC produced two recorded online performances as a special tribute to the NHS Right: One of the 3D printers used by the colleges to produce PPE face shields.



tively giving their skill, talent and time to support others during these unprecedented times.

"Alongside their efforts to study and teach remotely from home, we have seen them really pull together to

make what is, collectively, a very tangible and even lifesaving contribution to the frontline efforts to fight Coronavirus in Northern Ireland."

All six colleges have been involved in the production of

PPE equipment, with North West Regional College and Southern Regional College arranging the production and delivery of hundreds of PPE face shields for frontline workers in hospitals and care homes across local health trusts. Engineering staff at Northern Regional College have also used 3D printers to produce over 250 face shields, with Belfast Met supporting local medical firm Axial 3D in its production of hundreds of face shields by loaning the firm eight 3D printers.

Other students and staff have used more traditional methods to support the cry for PPE equipment, hand sewing hundreds of pairs of scrubs and face masks.

Music students at North West Regional College, meanwhile, produced two recorded online performances as a special tribute to the NHS, receiving unprecedented levels of social media reach and engagement.

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Birnie has created craft kits for students, which they are using to make face masks and ear savers for staff in local hospitals and care homes. Belfast Met Level 3 City and Guilds Textiles student Maria O'Prey has also sewn dozens of cotton face masks for local care homes, as well as for colleagues in her part-time job at Tesco.

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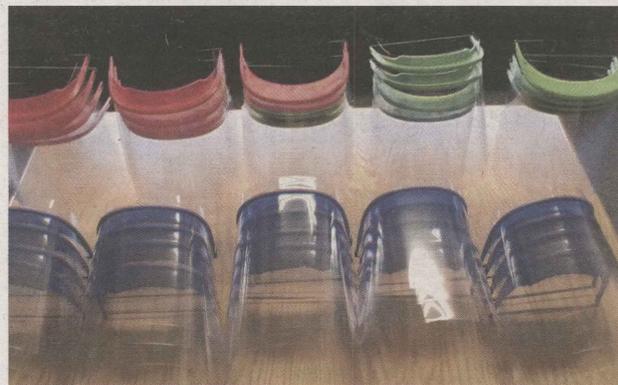
Students from a range of courses across the Colleges have also been involved in the fit out of COVID-19 facilities at a number of hospitals. Stanley Chapman, a Level 3 Electrical Apprentice from South East Regional College, has been working 12-hour shifts as part of the team installing the lighting system in a new part of the Ulster Hospital, working around the clock to get it ready for

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Northern Regional College lecturer Jacqui McAlister is volunteering as a healthcare assistant on the COVID-19 wards at Antrim Area Hospital during her weekends off, choosing to donate her pay for this work to Ulster University's COVID-19 testing fundraising appeal.

More than 61,000 students are currently studying further and higher education courses at Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Regional College, North West Regional College, Southern Regional College, South East Regional College and South West College.



PPE face shields 3D printed by NRC.

Media Source Press Page 25
Circulation 13,710

Colleges continue support for local industry

Further and higher education colleges across Northern Ireland are urging businesses to avail of the wealth of resources and new approaches to accredited training and upskilling opportunities quickly adapted by the colleges to meet current circumstances.

The online provision, mentoring and bespoke offerings will be essential to meeting the needs of the business community, learners in employment and those returning to employment in the drive to revive the economy.

The six colleges of further and higher education - South Eastern Regional College, South West College, Southern Regional College, North West Regional College, Northern Regional College and Belfast Metropolitan College - continue to offer a range of facilitated programmes designed

to upskill individuals and work teams in a range of industry sectors including business, leadership and management, construction, healthcare and hospitality along with digital transformation skills.

The colleges have helped many small businesses move to an online presence so they can continue operating remotely during lockdown. The colleges can also create bespoke courses to meet the needs of individual businesses and work with individuals to upskill.

Neil McCauley, turned his career experience into Professional Recognition achieving the equivalent to a vocational masters with a Level 7 City & Guilds Professional Recognition Engineering Management through support from a college of further education.

He said: "I would encourage anyone working in industry, who maybe didn't take the traditional degree route, but who have been working their way up their company to gather the evidence they need to achieve professional recognition with support from their local college."

Skills Focus programmes, which are fully funded by the Department for the Economy (DfE) and usually delivered in the workplace or college facilities, have been adapted for online delivery.

This means that employees who are currently working remotely can join programmes, available now, to upskill whilst they are furloughed or continue to work from home.

For more information contact your local college of further and higher education for details.

Neil McCauley from McQuillan Envirocare

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Colleges continue support for local industry

...Eastern Regional College, South West College, Southern Regional College, North West Regional College, **Northern Regional College** and Belfast Metropolitan College - continue to offer a range of facilitated programmes...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press
Circulation 5,960

Page 5



NRC producing PPE shields

2 Engineering staff at **Northern Regional College** are using 3D printers to produce protective face shields to help cope with the unprecedented demand for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Using a design developed by a group of Spanish engineers which was modified by academics in the School of Pharmacy at Queen's University in Belfast, the college has answered the call to provide PPE for healthcare workers. To date over 250 masks have been produced at the college's Farm Lodge campus and distributed to hospitals, nursing homes and GP surgeries in Ballymena, Coleraine, Antrim, Larne, Newtownabbey, Magherafelt and Belfast. The college has placed an order for additional materials to allow the production of 3D protective masks to continue.



northernirelandchamber.com | 12/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 19,955
Also published in South Eastern Regional College

COLLEGES CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY

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[CONTINUE READING](#)



Northern Regional College | 12/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 46,089

Magherafelt mum continues studies alongside working on the frontline during COVID-19

A County Derry mother of three who is juggling part-time study at **Northern Regional College** with her work as a senior care assistant says the support from her lecturers has been excellent. Carol McCready,...

[CONTINUE READING](#)



Better at Home with local Higher Education

THE message to stay close to home to support families and the wider community has never been more important. That's exactly what thousands of students do each year by choosing their local Further Education (FE) College for post A-Level study.

This is a crucial time of year for many students, pivotal decisions are being taken that will shape future lives and careers. The six NI Further Education Colleges, North West Regional College, Northern Regional College, South West College, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College, and Belfast Metropolitan College, offer a nearer to home option that can help make career ambitions a reality.

There are many reasons why studying a university standard Higher Education (HE) course locally makes sense. As well as the extensive range of courses available, FE colleges are often the more affordable option, with much lower tuition fees. Students also have to option to live at home, reducing the substantial living and maintenance

costs that come with moving away.

Award winning musician ROE, who recently supported Snow Patrol and Robbie Williams on tour, chose her local FE college to study for a Higher National Certificate in Music. The straight A's Grammar school student, who was the winner of the Northern Ireland Music prize for Best Emerging Artist, and last year performed on the BBC Introducing Stage at Glastonbury, chose FE for her post 16 studies with a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music, and continued her education with a HNC. ROE said the support she received at her local FE college was pivotal in helping to shape her music career.

She added: "The Music department were so supportive to me. They helped me develop myself as a musician and I felt like I could always go to them for advice and guidance. It's helped me become a better musician by giving me the experience I needed and helped me meet so many of the people who have supported me throughout my career so far."

Across the six Colleges, students can choose from range of full and part time HE courses, including Higher Level Apprenticeships, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and Foundation Degrees. Completion of these vocationally led courses often lead to direct employment, continued education and training, or they serve as a stepping stone to a Full Honours Degree.

Working in partnership with local Universities, FE Colleges offer a range of professional and technical options – focussed on meeting the needs of the regional economy. Indeed, the further education sector currently delivers around 18% of all higher education provision in Northern Ireland

Foundation Degrees (completed in 2 years full time, or 3 years part time) combine hands on practical learning with academic study which can later be topped up to a full degree.

Higher National Diplomas (HND) and Higher National Certificates (HNC) focus on 'learning by doing' providing skills that can be used in a

particular job and are highly valued by employers. Students traditionally progress to employment or full Degree study.

Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) are open to Post 'A' Level students and those who have undertaken Level 3 qualifications. HLAs allow students to jointly study and work in paid employment in their chosen profession. The HLA is a unique work based programme that enables participants to earn while they learn, while gaining a recognised Level 5 qualification. Courses are funded by the Department for the Economy so students never have to worry about tuition fees.

FE Colleges will be running online Information sessions for students receiving A Level and Leaving Certificate examinations results, and who need support and guidance with their next career move. Contact your local College for further details.



THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY STUDYING A UNIVERSITY STANDARD HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE LOCALLY MAKES SENSE

Better at home with local Higher Education

By STAFF REPORTER
editorial@derryjournal.com
Twitter: @derryjournal

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Electrical Magazine | 08/05/2020

Media Source Press
 Circulation 8,100

Page 3

ABB adds Cylon Controls to its Smart Buildings portfolio

ABB has recently announced it has signed to acquire Cylon Controls Ltd (CCL). The acquisition enhances ABB Electrical's business position in the commercial building segment, with a particular focus on delivering new innovations in energy optimisation and control.

Sean Cullen, Chief Executive Officer of Cylon, said: "This is an exciting development for ABB, a company that shares our commitment and passion for increasing control, energy and operational efficiency within buildings."

www.abb.com/uk

Sean returns home

The eldest son of an electrical installation firm, Sean Cullen has been returned to his family home in Donegal, County Donegal. The return home is a result of the company's decision to close its operations in April 2020. Sean will continue to work for the company as an electrical engineer and will be involved in the company's progress of re-organisation. In the meantime, Sean will be based at a family that continues to handle the local challenges created with the virus and daily commutes.

Sean Cullen, Chief Executive Officer of Cylon, said: "This is a day we as a family have been looking forward to for a long time."

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Pictured at the launch of the NI Apprenticeship Week in Belfast are Heather Cousins from the Department for the Economy and the Chairs and representatives from the Departmental Working Groups set up to oversee the NI Apprenticeship Week 2020 and plan key events and regional activity across Northern Ireland: (l-r) Chris Corken, Belfast Met; William Greer, South Eastern Regional College (SERC); Heather Cousins, DfE; Barry Neilson, Construction Industry Training Board (CITB); and Rhonda Lynn (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council).

#NIAW2020

February 3-7 marked some very important days for the electrical industry in Northern Ireland - the first ever Apprenticeship Week. The week saw educational events take place across the province, with many companies showing their support on social media, encouraging prospective apprentices to take the leap and celebrating those that already had. Many colleges and schools took part as well, offering information to employers and the future generation of the industry. During the week,

PAC Group Apprentice, Ben Brown participated in the Inter-Campus Skill Build competition. Ben is a first year Electrical Installation Apprentice at **Northern Regional College**, Newtownabbey. The judge couldn't believe that Ben is a first year when he commented on his standard of work, which just shows how quickly and effectively young people can learn on the job. The first Northern Ireland Apprenticeship week proved to be a massive success and we can't wait to see what's in store for 2021!





Media Source Online Visits 19,955

Also published in BUSINESSFIRST [+ 1 more]

Northern Regional College launches COVID-19 Volunteer Day

Hundreds of staff at **Northern Regional College** will be volunteering some of their time and talents to mark COVID-19 Volunteer Day this Thursday 07 May - a bespoke initiative to support local communities...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

Media Source Press
Circulation 6,715

Page 11



FULL MARKS FOR **NRC** STUDENTS

NRC Tour Guiding students secure 100% success rate

Students studying for the OCN Tour Guiding accredited qualification at **NRC** completed their studies and achieved a 100 per cent success rate last week thanks to the power of technology.

Despite challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the college introduced measures to ensure that the 13 students at its Newtownabbey campus could complete their accredi-

tation via online learning.

Travel and Tourism lecturer Karen McLeod said: "Through practical and interactive sessions on Zoom, we have been able to ensure that all required learning outcomes are met - including understanding the role of a Tour Guide, planning routes, itineraries and evaluation and the health and safety considerations of the role."



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Karen McLeod.

The Antrim Guardian looks back at the ignominious end to an education dream

The rise and fall of Antrim Tech

It is hardly cause for celebration, but there can be few towns the size of Antrim that have so few schools and colleges for its young people.

Post primary education in the town now comes in two distinct flavours - Parkhall Integrated College or Antrim Grammar.

What a difference two decades make. Back in the 1990s students were flooding through the gates of Ardaveigh, Antrim High and St Malachy's - before, one by one, the house of cards collapsed.

Incredibly, first in the firing line was Ardaveigh, Antrim's youngest school.

Dogged by debts and battling falling numbers, the North Eastern Board decided that it was no longer making the grade and prepared to pull the plug. The parents had other ideas, however, and the closure went to Judicial Review - and the Board lost.

But the champagne corks had barely hit the ground when the Board moved to Plan B - and turned their attention to Antrim High.

The shutters duly came down, with principal Robin Smyth moving across town to take up the helm at Ardaveigh. A couple of years later he would be clearing his desk again when it too closed.

In a bid to stave off closure it had been relaunched as Massereene Community College, but the rebranding failed.

Loyalist protests outside the gates of neighbouring St Malachy's also took their toll, and Antrim's only Catholic secondary called time.

And then there was Antrim Technical College.

The original 'Tech', with its rather austere grey facade, opened on Railway Street in 1931.

It boasted 13 rooms, but the manner in which they were exploited for maximum effect was a lesson in economy.

The building was used by 210 full-time, 22 part-time day release and 461 part-time evening students.

It was a timetabling nightmare, and with the growth of Antrim in the early 1970s it was clear that something had to give.

The wheels turn slowly, but by November 1977 they were finally turning - to the delight of then principal John Bell.

Mr Bell notched up 27 years at the helm, just one less than predecessor John McCoubrey.

This new college on Fountain Street would cater for 400 full-timers, and would boast a modern new building, including a sports hall, with a focus on commercial, science, engineering and the arts.

Among the innovations was a new book-keeping room, incorporating 'a new accounting machine', and a cluster of typing rooms.

The engineering department would boast a brickwork and plasterers' area, along with a garage workshop for maintenance.



The austere exterior of the 'old' Antrim Technical College which was built in 1931. It stood alongside the former workhouse, opposite to where Antrim Primary now stands. It was demolished when the new Tesco superstore was built.

The final bill was a then-hefty £1.5 million and it finally opened, a little over schedule, in Easter 1979. The formal opening came in October of that year, with former Parliamentary Under Secretary with Responsibility for Education Lord Elton doing the honours.

At first the college was its very own limited company - formed in 1981 - complete with teenage managing directors, marketing executives and accountants.

Indeed, in 1982 it was reported that 'ATECH Ltd' was showing a 20 per cent profit.

Little more than a decade later, however, change was in the air again.

In 1993 it was announced that Antrim was to merge with campuses in Ballymena and Magherafelt. No-one could have guessed, but it was the beginning of the end.

Over time key courses were lost. This was death by a thousand cuts and soon the Tech was haemorrhaging students.

The end finally came in the summer of 2011 despite a spirited campaign to keep it open.

The dream was over. The gleaming

new campus was left a skeletal ruin, ravaged by vandals, the bones picked over by enterprising thieves.

Since the closure the Northern Regional College has lost control of the property.

The seclusion may have made for quiet classrooms, but after the shutters came down chaos reigned - and from the road passers-by could hardly tell.

Within months of the closure the vultures were circling over the carcass. First to strike were the thieves who stripped the lead flashing from the property.

In April 2012 a dumper truck was used to 'attack' the building, damaging the fencing, the garage and the rear doors.

Then it was open season, with intruders systematically destroying anything to hand in the classrooms.

On October 20 2012 more than 40 windows were smashed in a single evening.

The following month horses were abandoned in the grounds and reports

of criminal damage soared. In January 2013 the criminal gangs were back, gaining entrance to the buildings and stripping metal wiring. Shielding to the boiler house as its doors were also removed.

In January 2014 a blaze tore through parts of the complex. It was eventually brought under control and the main building was saved. But for what?

Most agree that it is now awaiting a date with the wrecking ball, if the vandals don't get there first. Its predecessor has already gone, demolished to create the access road to Tesco.

All in all, an ignominious end to a courageous educational experiment. Which leaves Antrim Grammar and Parkhall College as the last two standing.

Is that enough? Surely thousands into two simply does not go?

The fleets of buses which were routinely leaving town before the COVID-19 outbreak each morning suggests that it is not.



The Northern Regional College on Fountain Street pictured days before the shutters came down almost a decade ago.



The last straw: firefighters battling a malicious blaze at the Tech complex in January 2014.



It may have stood for more than three decades, but it took less than three years for Antrim Tech to fall into a ruin.

Media Source Press Page 9
Circulation 3,357



EDUCATION: CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE

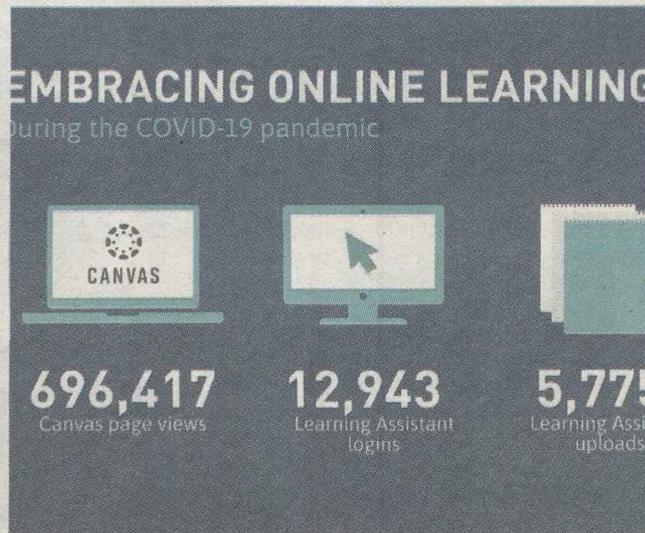
NRC embraces online learning

BY COMMUNITY REPORTER
news@ballymenatimes.com
www.ballymenatimes.co.uk

Northern Regional College (NRC) has embraced a wide range of technology and digital platforms to deliver online learning to its students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thanks to the power of technology, around 4,000 of the College's students who normally attend classes at its five campuses, including Ballymena, are now learning from home.

Figures released by the college show that during the past few weeks its Canvas e-learning platform, currently being used by students at home, has received hundreds of thousands of views (696,417). Students have logged into the NRC's Learning Assistant platform almost 13,000 times, uploading 5,775 pieces of work, and have viewed 1,912 videos via LinkedIn Learning. Lecturing staff

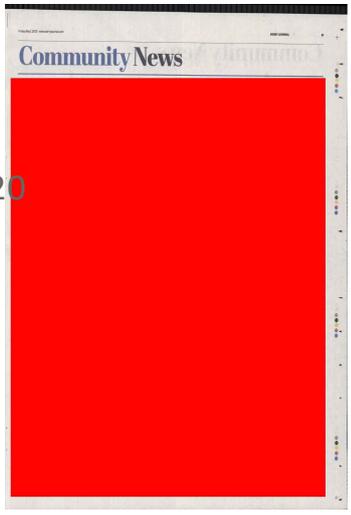


NRC students are now embracing learning from home

have also embraced technology and are staying in touch with their students by email and phone using Zoom and Skype to carry out online assessments to ensure students can complete their studies.

Prof. Terri Scott, Principal and NRC Chief Executive Professor, said: "Regular communication is crucial during

this period and, alongside fulfilling our teaching requirements as usual, the use of digital solutions such as Canvas and LinkedIn Learning is enabling us to engage regularly with our students – providing guidance and support, and allaying any concerns they may have about their studies."



Colleges come together to help the battle against effects of Coronavirus

EDUCATION

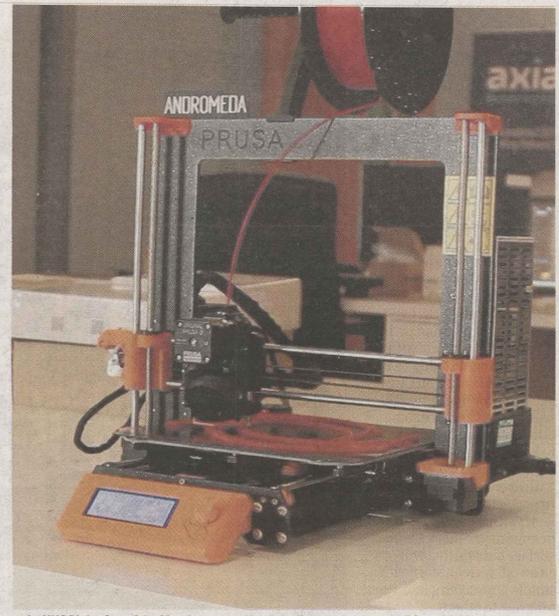
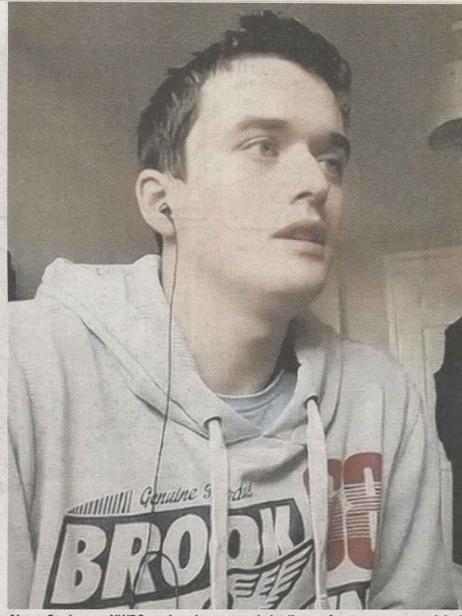
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"As college principals, we have been greatly inspired by the tremendous demonstrations of solidarity and support from thousands of our students and staff in proac-



Above: Students at NWRC produced two recorded online performances as a special tribute to the NHS Right: One of the 3D printers used by the colleges to produce PPE face shields.

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"Alongside their efforts to study and teach remotely from home, we have seen them really pull together to

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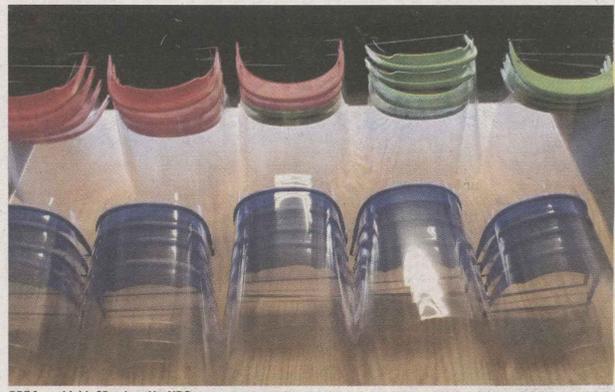
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PPE face shields 3D printed by NRC.

Meet the NI students making the most of lockdown learning

...embracing learning in lockdown. 13 students studying for the OCN Tour Guiding qualification at Northern Regional College's Newtownabbey campus completed their final assessment this week - which is usually...

[CONTINUE READING](#)

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CONTINUE READING



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By STAFF REPORTER
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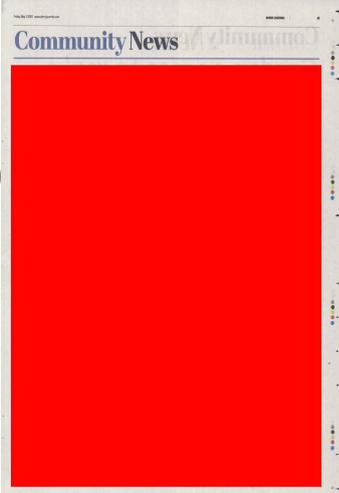
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Media Source Press Page 41
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EDUCATION

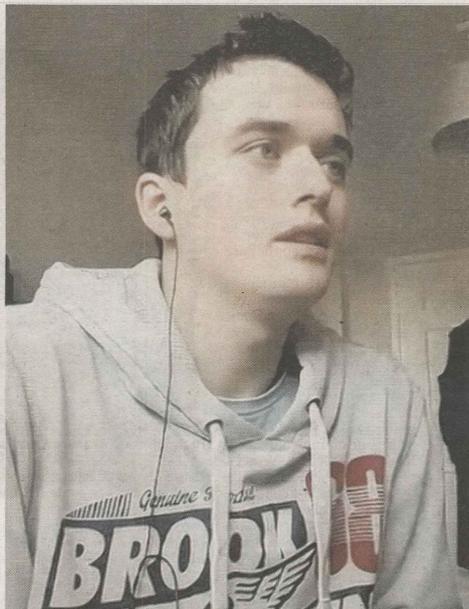
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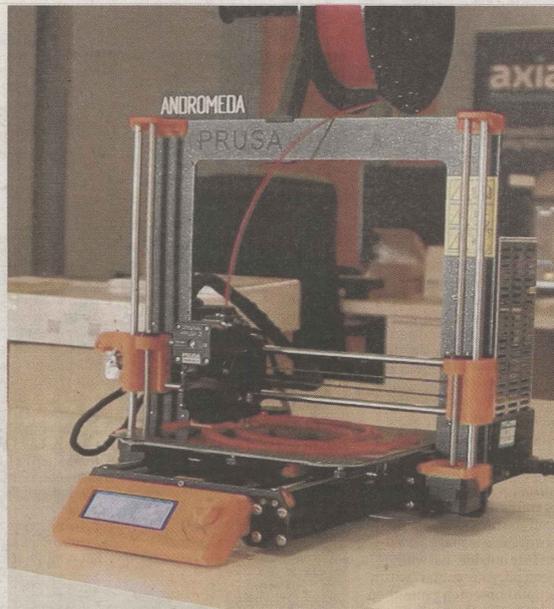
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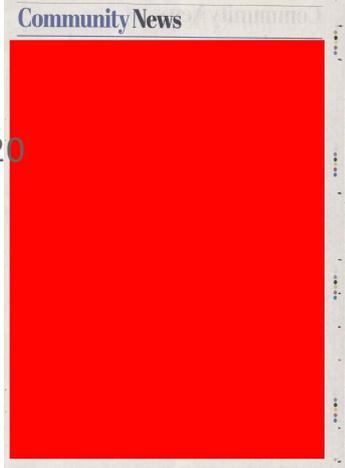
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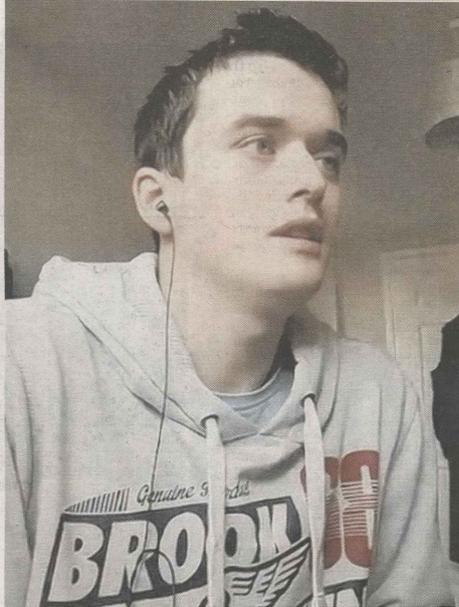
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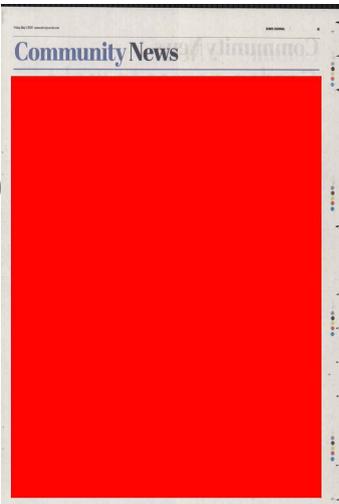
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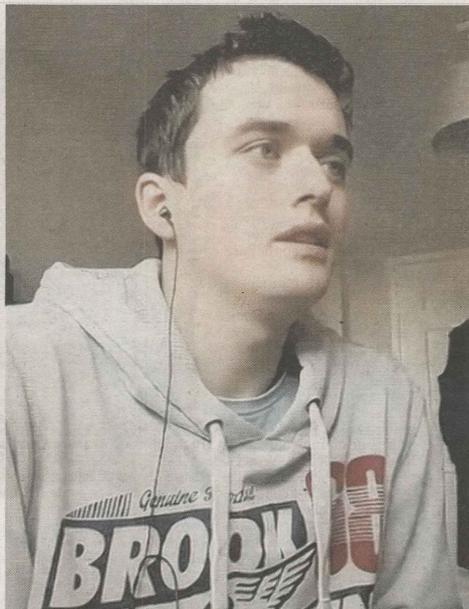
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News Letter | 12/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 233,910

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northernirelandchamber.com | 12/05/2020

Media Source Online Visits 19,955

Also published in South Eastern Regional College

COLLEGES CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY

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Media Source Press
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Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) are open to Post 'A' Level students and those who have undertaken Level 3 qualifications. HLAs allow students to jointly study and work in paid employment in their chosen profession. The HLA is a unique work based programme that enables participants to earn while they learn, while gaining a recognised Level 5 qualification. Courses are funded by the Department for the Economy so students never have to worry about tuition fees.

FE Colleges will be running online Information sessions for students receiving A Level and Leaving Certificate examinations results, and who need support and guidance with their next career move. Contact your local College for further details.



THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY STUDYING A UNIVERSITY STANDARD HIGHER EDUCATION COURSE LOCALLY MAKES SENSE

Better at home with local Higher Education

By STAFF REPORTER
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The message to stay close to home to support families and the wider community has never been more important.

That's exactly what thousands of students do each year by choosing their local Further Education (FE) College for post A-Level and Leaving Cert study.

This is a crucial time of year for many students, pivotal decisions are being taken that will shape future lives and careers. The six NI Further Education Colleges, North West Regional College, Northern Regional College, South West College, Southern Regional College, South Eastern Regional College, and Belfast Metropolitan College, offer a nearer to home option that can help make career ambitions a reality.

There are many reasons why studying a university standard Higher Education



ROE is a former Higher Education student.

(HE) course locally makes sense. As well as the extensive range of courses available, FE colleges are often the more affordable option, with much lower tuition fees. Students

also have to option to live at home, reducing the substantial living and maintenance costs that come with moving away.

Award winning musician

ROE, who recently supported Snow Patrol and Robbie Williams on tour, chose her local FE college to study for a Higher National Certificate in Music. The straight A's Grammar school student, who was the winner of the Northern Ireland Music prize for Best Emerging Artist, and last year performed on the BBC Introducing Stage at Glastonbury, chose FE for her post 16 studies with a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music, and continued her education with a HNC.

ROE said the support she received at her local FE college was pivotal in helping to shape her music career.

She added: "The Music department were so supportive to me. They helped me develop myself as a musician and I felt like I could always go to them for advice and guidance. It's helped me become a better musician by giving me the experience I needed and helped me meet so many of the people who have supported me throughout my career so far."

Across the six Colleges, students can choose from range of full and part time HE courses, including Higher Level Apprenticeships, Higher National Diplomas, Higher National Certificates and Foundation Degrees. Completion of these vocationally led courses often lead to direct employment, continued education and training, or they serve as a stepping stone to a Full Honours Degree.

Working in partnership with local Universities, FE Colleges offer a range of professional and technical options - focussed on meeting the needs of the regional economy. Indeed, the further education sector currently delivers around 18% of all higher education provision in Northern Ireland. Foundation Degrees (completed in 2 years full time, or three years part time) combine hands on practical learning with academic study which can later be topped up to a full degree.

Higher National Diplomas (HND) and Higher National

Certificates (HNC) focus on 'learning by doing' providing skills that can be used in a particular job and are highly valued by employers. Students traditionally progress to employment or full Degree study.

Higher Level Apprenticeships (HLAs) are open to Post 'A' Level students and those who have undertaken Level 3 qualifications. HLAs allow students to jointly study and work in paid employment in their chosen profession. The HLA is a unique work based programme that enables participants to earn while they learn, while gaining a recognised Level 5 qualification. Courses are funded by the Department for the Economy so students never have to worry about tuition fees.

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Contact your local College for further details.



Colleges come together to help the battle against effects of Coronavirus

...the heads of the six Colleges, Derry native Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive at **Northern Regional College** explained: "As a network of six regional FE colleges, we are at the heart of every..."

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Colleges come together to help the battle against effects of Coronavirus

EDUCATION

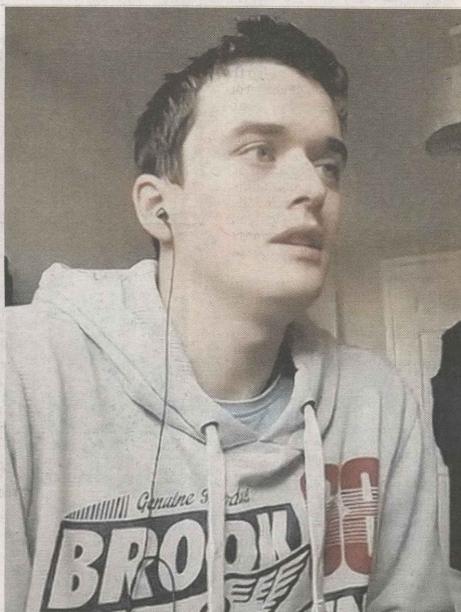
By Staff Reporter
editorial@derryjournal.com
Twitter: @derryjournal

Students at the North West Regional College have joined forces with people from the other five further education colleges across NI to help battle the worst effects of the Coronavirus outbreak.

In recent weeks, thousands of students and staff from Northern Ireland's Further Education (FE) colleges have combined their time, talents and skills gained through their college courses to support frontline efforts to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speaking on behalf of the heads of the six Colleges, Derry native Professor Terri Scott, Principal and Chief Executive at Northern Regional College explained: "As a network of six regional FE colleges, we are at the heart of every community in Northern Ireland and this is reflected in the outward-looking culture and strong sense of community spirit that underpins every one of our campuses."

"As college principals, we have been greatly inspired by the tremendous demonstrations of solidarity and support from thousands of our students and staff in proac-



Above: Students at NWRC produced two recorded online performances as a special tribute to the NHS Right: One of the 3D printers used by the colleges to produce PPE face shields.

tively giving their skill, talent and time to support others during these unprecedented times.

"Alongside their efforts to study and teach remotely from home, we have seen them really pull together to

make what is, collectively, a very tangible and even lifesaving contribution to the frontline efforts to fight Coronavirus in Northern Ireland."

All six colleges have been involved in the production of

PPE equipment, with North West Regional College and Southern Regional College arranging the production and delivery of hundreds of PPE face shields for frontline workers in hospitals and care homes across local health trusts. Engineering staff at Northern Regional College have also used 3D printers to produce over 250 face shields, with Belfast Met supporting local medical firm Axial 3D in its production of hundreds of face shields by loaning the firm eight 3D printers.

Other students and staff have used more traditional methods to support the cry for PPE equipment, hand sewing hundreds of pairs of scrubs and face masks.

Music students at North West Regional College, meanwhile, produced two recorded online performances as a special tribute to the NHS, receiving unprecedented levels of social media reach and engagement.

South West College Community Lecturer Nicola

Birnie has created craft kits for students, which they are using to make face masks and ear savers for staff in local hospitals and care homes. Belfast Met Level 3 City and Guilds Textiles student Maria O'Prey has also sewn dozens of cotton face masks for local care homes, as well as for colleagues in her part-time job at Tesco.

At South East Regional College, Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art & Design student Tetiana Nestorenko and Science lecturer Linda Lytle have also handsewn dozens of masks for staff at Ards Community Hospital.

Students from a range of courses across the Colleges have also been involved in the fit out of COVID-19 facilities at a number of hospitals. Stanley Chapman, a Level 3 Electrical Apprentice from South East Regional College, has been working 12-hour shifts as part of the team installing the lighting system in a new part of the Ulster Hospital, working around the clock to get it ready for

wards that will be required in the coming weeks.

Hundreds of current and former students and staff from across the six colleges' Health and Social Care courses are working as frontline healthcare workers and domiciliary assistants in hospitals, care homes and in communities across Northern Ireland.

Northern Regional College lecturer Jacqui McAlister is volunteering as a healthcare assistant on the COVID-19 wards at Antrim Area Hospital during her weekends off, choosing to donate her pay for this work to Ulster University's COVID-19 testing fundraising appeal.

More than 61,000 students are currently studying further and higher education courses at Belfast Metropolitan College, Northern Regional College, North West Regional College, Southern Regional College and South West College.



PPE face shields 3D printed by NRC.



U105 - Frank Mitchell Phone in | 15/05/2020

Media Source

Radio

Completing the Ironman Challenge at home

Frank speaks to Aaron Ballantyne about completing the Ironman Challenge at home.

[Radio-Clip](#)



COVID-19 experience inspires College employee to support local hospital

Published in: Northern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		58,008	48.34 €

Student Support Services Continue Despite College Closures

Published in: Causeway Coast Community, North West Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		222,019	185.01 €

NRC producing PPE shields

Published in: Ballymena Times, Newtownabbay Times

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		92,034	76.69 €

Portrush man conquers 'Ironman' challenge

Published in: Ballymoney Chronicle, Coleraine Chronicle

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
51,687	41,175		2,014.21 €

Portrush man conquers one-man 'Ironman' challenge in his garage

Published in: Ballymoney Moyle Times

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		47,285	39.41 €

COLLEGES CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR INDUSTRY

Published in: South Eastern Regional College

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		28,017	23.35 €

Northern Regional College launches COVID-19 Volunteer Day

Published in: BUSINESSFIRST, Causeway Coast Community

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		176,952	147.46 €

NRC staff to take part in COVID-19 Volunteer Day

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

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		20,000	16.68 €

Virtual learning enables 100% success rate for Northern Regional College Tour Guiding students

Published in: northernirelandchamber.com

Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		31,874	26.56 €

Student Support Services Continue Despite College Closures

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Total Printrun:	Total Circulation	Total Visits	Sum of AVE:
		222,019	185.01 €

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