



Our Shared Education Partnership Newsletter

June 2018



Created in co-operation with our Shared Student Council

Student Council Members:

Year 8: Ronan Stuttard, Roisín Daly, Jaydon McKee, Seán Kelly

Year 9: Shane Cumiskey, Mollie Duffy, Holly Donaldson

Year 10: Lauren Gibson, Shane Malone, Mary McBride, Jessica Hannan, Jessica McClatchey

Highlights of the Year

Amazing the Space

In March, pupils involved in our Shared Education Signature Project (SESP) choir travelled to Belfast to participate in the Co-operation Ireland 'Amazing the Space' event. 'Amazing the Space' is a youth-led peacebuilding initiative that empowers young people to become ambassadors for peace within their communities. Our pupils were thrilled when the surprise guests, Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle, joined the celebration.



Artsekta

In October, our Year 9s attended a dance workshop in a studio in Belfast. The pupils learnt different dances from different cultures around the world. They made arts and crafts, listened to different types of music from these cultures, and learnt the languages that the native people speak from these different countries.

As they made their way around each station at the workshop, each lesson was taken by a person from that country; for example a Chinese instructor taught them a traditional dance from China.

Ulster Rugby Club

Newtownhamilton High School, Abbey CBS and St Paul's High School Year 8 and LSC rugby teams visited the Kingspan Stadium in Belfast, as part of the 'SESP through Sport' initiative. The students took part in a tour of the ground, gym, changing rooms and pitch before using the Nevin Spence Interactive Centre.

Following this, The Abbey and St Paul's Year 8 teams played their first fixture, with The Abbey coming out on top, 29-26.

"In addition to the many benefits that shared education brings to our pupils inside the classroom environment, I believe that these partnerships have also played a key role in enhancing community relations in the South Armagh area. I have witnessed big changes in my 9 years at Newtownhamilton High School".

Neil Megaw, Principal, Newtownhamilton High School

Our Shared Student Council

The founding of our 'Shared Student Council' this year has added greatly to our partnerships. The students meet throughout the year to feedback on the project and to work on joint projects e.g. 'A-Z of our Shared Partnership' and this newsletter. The students are a credit to their schools and communities and their reflections and input have helped shape the plans for Shared Education next year. We are very grateful for all their hard work and co-operation



Ardnabannon (By Year 8 Council members)

Ardnabannon was an exciting day out for the SESP program with many activities to do all throughout the day. It was a great way to make friends from other backgrounds and schools. Most of the first year students made friends and got to know each other. There was good weather especially when we were in the water, making rafts. After we arrived in Ardnabannon, we went into the re-centre and had a brief on safety and were split into teams; half of us went outside to the totum pole and half of us stayed inside and climbed the rock wall. After that, we switched over and finished both climbing challenges. We got our lunch; chips and sausage rolls. When everyone finished their meals we went rafting. For the raft to float properly, we all had to work together and follow the instructions e.g. line the wood up and attach with rope, we then added plastic barrels to make it float. We all got to go into the lake to try our rafts out and most of them worked (apart from one breaking in the water). All in all, Ardnabannon was a great day out and was really enjoyable. We hope to all have trips like this in the future.

Coding

This year we launched a year 10 'Beginner Coding Programme'. This course was designed to give year 10 students an insight into computer programming in a fun and game based environment. After completing the 6 week programme students received a 'Fundamentals in Coding' certificate.

We are grateful to Mr Gary McKinley for designing and delivering this programme.



Key Stage 4 and 5 Events

SESP has developed into Key Stage 4 this year and our partnership works closely together to facilitate the 'Princes Trust' programme. Students have worked together on their days out in Bloody Bridge and Newcastle.

Our Key Stage 4 and 5 students completed an 8 week course and achieved an International Leadership and Management qualification.



"The programme has allowed the concept of children being educated together to become embedded as a normal part of their education and the funding has allowed us to be creative in how we achieve this. As a result, the outcomes at every level have been spectacular."

Mr Jarlath Burns, Principal, St Paul's High School, Bessbrook

5 minutes with SESP students

To make our SESP events more beneficial, we asked some of the pupils who are part of our council questions on how we can improve. We have really benefited from the feedback from our pupils and have taken all the information on board!

We interviewed the following pupils:

Shane Cumiskey (SC) St Joseph's High School, Jessica Hannan (JH) Newry High School , Jaydon McKee (J McK) Newtownhamilton High School. Mollie Duffy (MD) St. Pauls High School

Q1: What do you do as part of our Shared Education programme?

SC: I have meetings and I help design the newsletter we are putting together and I talk a lot.

JH: I go to Saint Paul's to do meetings with the Shared Education Council.

J McK: I learn mostly about other people's backgrounds and cultures.

MD: I go to meetings and I help with the newsletter.

Out of everything that you do with the other schools , which event was your favourite and why?

SC: My favourite event was Ardnabannon because I enjoyed building the rafts that we made to go out into the water.

JH: My favourite event was Sky Park because we got to do a lot of things involving water and a lot of teamwork stuff.

JMcK: Ardnabannon was my favourite trip with the other schools as we got to meet new people who are still my friends today.

MD: My favourite event was the Ardnabannon because it was really fun. I enjoyed making the water rafts.

What new skills have you learnt so far from working with students in the other schools?

SC: I have learnt new co-operation skills and new communication skills.

JH: I learnt new communication skills and learnt to talk with people. I used to be shy and quiet.

JMcK: I have learnt tips on how to be safe and secure while using the internet and social media and to be myself and not let anyone else dictate that.

MD: I have learnt new communication skills and co-operation skills.

"The programme has enabled pupils and staff from all the four schools to learn from each other, develop new relationships and improve the educational experience of our pupils."

Mr Iestyn Brown, Principal, Newry High School

Staff Training

Shared Education played a fundamental role in Staff Training in our 4 partner schools this year. Funding from the Shared Education programme was used to enable staff to access a wide range of staff development programmes from Middle Management to Online Learning.

SESP staff from all 4 partner schools have been trained in the use of the GSuite programmes available in all schools through C2k.

A very successful Joint Professional Development programme was delivered in the area of metacognition and this training will be disseminated throughout the partnerships.

SESP staff also attended the SELF (Shared Education Learning Forum) conference in May 2018 where they listened to Key Speakers and participated in feedback sessions to help shape the future of Shared Education.

Funding was utilised for 2 other training projects involving our PE Departments and our Learning Support Centres.

Our Shared Education Co-ordinators

As Shared Education Co-ordinators, we work very closely together to create a programme of learning for our SESP students. We meet regularly and work closely with external agencies to deliver a very comprehensive programme to the students of South Armagh and Newry involved in SESP.

Ms Clare Maguire, St Paul's Bessbrook cmaguire830@c2kni.net

Miss Ciara McCoy, St Paul's Bessbrook cmccoy605@c2kni.net

Miss Amanda Blakely, Newry High School, ablakely675@c2kni.net

Mrs Rosie Burns, St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen
rburns721@c2kni.net

Mrs Joanna Ferris, Newtownhamilton High School
jferris859@c2kni.net



Upcoming Events 2018/19

Shared Education Week

We are looking forward to celebrating the inaugural Shared Education week in October 2018.

Keep in Touch

Our Shared Education Partnership is very vibrant and active. Keep up-to-date with all developments and opportunities by following our Twitter page



@SES_Project

"Knowledge and mutual understanding empower our young people and enable them to live effective and productive lives in our increasingly diverse world. The pupils in our four school partnership have embraced the tenets of shared education and I have no doubt that they will all go forward and spread the message of cooperation, respect and tolerance in their schools, families and communities."

Mr John Jones, Principal, St Joseph's High School, Crossmaglen