

Media Source Press
Circulation 13,725
Topic CITB

Page

14



Ballymena Academy Principal Mr S Black with pupils who were placed in the top three of Northern Ireland in their GCSE exams and who received PF Martin awards. GB0709D20

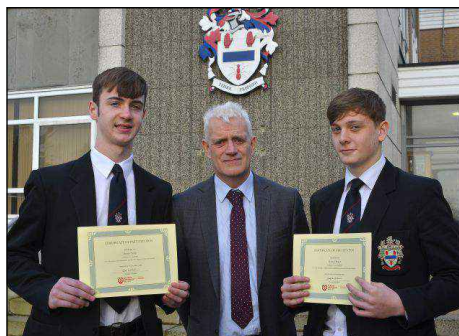


Ballymena Academy pupils who took part in the Bar Mock Trial in Londonderry Court House. GB0708D20



Ballymena Academy boys mini and minor cross country teams who took part in the District Cross Country Championships at Stranorlar, Donegal. Included are teachers James Turtle and Laura Reid. GB0710D20

School picture focus on Ballymena Academy



James Craig and Daniel Payer pupils of Ballymena Academy who participated in the Queens University school of Mathematics and Physics are seen with Principal Mr S Black. GB0710D20

Dunclug College students help launch NI Apprenticeship Week

STUDENTS from Dunclug College in Ballymena had the honour of being the first school pupils to board the state-of-the-art

CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) Mobile Training Unit as part of the inaugural Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week (NIAW).

The Unit allows employers to facilitate training such as manual handling and health and safety, and is also used to deliver advice and information on construction as a career option.

Throughout the day, groups of pupils attended information sessions delivered by **CITB** and Radius Housing highlighting the diverse range of career opportunities, current skills shortages and apprenticeship routes within the construction and property management sectors.

The students also heard Kathryn McClune, Assistant Contracts Manager at Forrnie Ltd, Aine McNicholl, Project Manager at

Combined Facilities Management and Orlagh Flaherty, Radius Housing's first Higher Level Apprentice, talk about their job roles, training and work experience.

NI Apprenticeship Week is run in conjunction with the Department of the Economy and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.

Mayor, Cllr Maureen Morrow, said: "This is the first time Apprenticeship Week has been dedicated to Northern Ireland and what a positive initiative it is in raising awareness of the importance of educating young people, schools and employers about the opportunities for on-the-job training."

"Students are being given an insight into the numerous ways in which they can earn while they learn, while companies and employers can showcase the various routes available to future workforces to gain essential skills while also contributing to the wider economy."

Dunclug College Principal, Ruth Wilson, said afterwards: "The students were very excited at the

prospect of a visit from the **CITB** bus, in conjunction with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and were really looking forward to hearing more about the career opportunities in the Construction Industry."

Barry Neilson, Chief Executive of **CITB** NI, said: "Apprenticeships are the first step on the career ladder as many construction managers and other construction professionals started their careers as apprentices. We encourage the young people we have met at Dunclug College to consider a career in construction and a construction apprenticeship."

Grainne Mullin, Community Investment Manager at Radius Housing, said: "We believe apprenticeships are an extremely valuable route into the industry and are committed to creating opportunities in partnership with our contractors and within our own workforce. In 2019 we employed our first Higher Level Apprentice in Asset Management, a qualification developed in partnership with SERC and one which we hope to develop further in future."



Barry Neilson (Chief Exec, **CITB**), Phillip Moorhead (Year 12), Grainne Mullin (Community Investment Manager, Radius Housing), Ruth Wilson (Dunclug College Principal), Sean Keenan (Mid and East Antrim Borough Council) and Laura Dubois-Pidgeon (Year 14).