

utu NEWS

The journal of the Ulster Teachers' Union



SCHOOLS RETURN

After the upheaval over the past few months our pupils begin returning to classroom settings.

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PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT



As we go to press, there appears to be a little more certainty about the return to school for some year groups. The announcement on Thursday 18 February brought some reassurance that the return to face-to-face teaching in schools would be staggered, initially with P1-P3 followed by Y12 to Y14. However, on Tuesday 16 March the Executive decided that P4-P7 should return on **Monday 22 March**. Yet again the Education Minister gives little cogitation to teachers or school leaders with only a few days notice to change plans and prepare to welcome our pupils back. There are many points of view regarding the re-opening of schools, and during the past few weeks and months UTU have been engaging and speaking with many members. We have met school leaders last term, and in early January we held an emergency seminar to listen and respond to members in the Special Sector. The UTU continues to engage with DE, EA, CCEA and Political

representatives, communicating the issues that our members have been raising with us. We will continue to do so as schools reopen over the coming few weeks.

One area I think we can all agree is that we all want our young people back to face-to-face teaching, but in a sustainable and safe manner. To close schools again would be even more harmful to our young people.

“One area I think we can all agree is that we all want our young people back to face-to-face teaching, but in a sustainable and safe manner.”

I must salute teachers and all education workers who over the last few months have been juggling remote learning, family commitments and supervision duties to ensure that our young people continue to have the support and engagement from their school.

My second term as President will end later this month. It was a great honour to have been President of the Ulster Teachers’ Union again. Although it has been very different from what I imagined when elected to the position. Unfortunately, due to restrictions it was impossible to visit members in their schools, however my engagement with members has still transpired thanks to zoom and webinars.



PRESIDENTIAL COMMENT



The presidential duties of office will be handed over to **Mrs Alison Steen** at a webinar later this month. Over the past year, Alison has been fulfilling her vice-presidential duties, representing UTU on various external DE committees as well as managing the responsibilities of her school. She is well known in educational circles in the North West and wider afield, and I wish her every success as she begins her term of office. The UTU is in safe hands and you, the member, will be fervently represented by Alison over the next year.

I must also pay tribute to the staff at UTU. **Jacquie White** our General Secretary has represented members on the many, MANY, online meetings and telephone calls over the past year. She steadfastly puts the member at the heart of decisions and her regular updates during this time has been a reassurance to members. All our officials have experience of being in the classroom, a trait that over this year has supported and assured members that the advice and guidance we offer has their interests at heart. **Leigh Cooper, Rebekka Gilpin, Lewis Love** and, on a temporary basis we welcomed back

Audrey Stewart, continue to offer support and advice to members. The office staff at HQ have from last March been working from home. They have been able to ensure members' enquiries and emails are answered timely; and although physically we have not been connected to HQ, we have always been connected to our members via email, the web, or social media. At the end of 2020, **Annette Morrow** decided to leave her employment with the UTU. There is a short article on **page 17** dedicated to her. I also want to thank her for her dedicated service that she gave to members over the past twenty years. Her cheery no-nonsense service will certainly be missed at the front-desk of HQ. I wish her every blessing as she begins her retirement.

The next few weeks and months will continue to throw many challenges at us all. Be reassured that the UTU will always be there, advocating your voice and ready to offer support to you.

STEPHEN MCCORD
UTU PRESIDENT



GENERAL SECRETARY FOREWARD



Colleagues

At time of writing it has just been announced that the Executive has taken the decision that all primary school children will return to school as of **Monday 22nd March** with all post-primary children returning after the Easter break.

We, as teachers, have always said that we want our children to return to school as quickly as possible but in a safe and sustained manner. The phasing-in which commenced last week gave us the reassurance that the scientific information and data was being taken into account and being built in to a plan which would lead us down the path to a sustainable return. This sudden sprint to the finish line which has been announced today will be welcomed by some and will cause anxiety and consternation in others; indeed, it is highly likely that many of us will be experiencing a mixture of both. We can only hope at this stage that all of the health factors have been taken robustly into account and that we do not end up in another Groundhog Day.

Regardless of what we feel as individuals about the new way forward we can all agree on one thing – the communication throughout has fallen far short of timely. Information

issuing late afternoon on a Friday has become all too frequent and the two weeks' notice of change which we were assured of this time has become, in effect, two days. The landscape changes quickly – we know that – but respect being shown for those who have to implement the change appears to be sadly lacking, particularly when set against the backdrop of concern for the mental health and well-being of all involved.

We are victims of our own success. We are a workforce which has continually mobilised quickly and made what others may have thought impossible work. We have managed to respond to the needs of the children and young people in our care whilst simultaneously building our skill set – and have balanced this with the challenges which Covid19 has brought to our own family situations. We have received written recognition of our efforts from the Minister on a regular basis – but we now need this recognition to translate into the types of practical actions which bring real and meaningful support as we move forward.

It is imperative that we make every effort to keep ourselves safe in the coming weeks. Prior to this latest lockdown many of the mitigations were

revisited in the guidance and there are now much stronger messages around face coverings, parental gatherings, virtual staff meetings, etc. Risk assessments must be consulted upon and put in place whether these pertain to whole school staff or individuals depending on circumstance. There are also plans for testing at post-primary level although the detail around this is as yet unclear. Safety must be paramount and we would encourage you, as members, to contact UTU as a matter of priority if you have any concerns on your return.

It is perhaps an indication of optimism about a return to life as we used to know it that the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) has recently, in parallel with Covid engagement, moved some way towards resuming the negotiations with the employers around teachers' terms and conditions.

The pay issue for 2019/20 and 2020/21 has been resolved and there is further detail on what this means for you elsewhere in the issue. Our previous pay and workload agreement included a series of reviews many of which are aimed at tackling excessive workload and work is underway to put in place the structures to move these forward. I can assure those in leadership that the review dealing with your workload is top of the agenda in terms of priority.

The agreement also had three **'upfront asks'**. One focused on the work on time budgeting which has progressed well. The background work on Joint Consultative Committees has been carried out and we are now moving forward on processes to workload-assess new initiatives.

Following the reconstitution of the Teachers' Negotiating Committee two

working groups were established which are currently revisiting and addressing issues around family friendly policies and the attendance procedure.

'It is an ill wind that blows no man good' as the saying goes, and if anything has come out of this crisis it is a strengthening of the engagement and relationships between trade union and management side. It goes without saying that we don't always agree but the constructive approach and accessibility of DE and EA Officials and the desire on both sides to reach resolution is something which we can build on into the future. We have had similar experience of other bodies such as CCEA and ETI and it is important that we maintain the approach and commitment as we move forward into what promises to be a time of significant change in education in Northern Ireland.

So we are moving into the next stage of this Covid journey. We can only hope that we might be on the final lap. Please remember that UTU continues to be accessible and available to deal with your issues and take your concerns forward. Be aware that the work that you have done to date has been recognised and appreciated by parents, families and society as a whole. UTU also adds its appreciation and admiration for the work that you have done and will no doubt continue to do in these the most trying of times.

Keep safe.



JACQUIE WHITE
GENERAL SECRETARY

STEP INTO SPRING

with superb savings



Health & Fitness

Athlos Triathlon	10% off	Online
Cotswold Outdoor	10% off	Online
Fitbit	20% off	Online
Gotto Sports NEW	Up to 15%	Belfast
Les Mills Free trial + 25% off		Online
Mango Bikes	10% off	Online
Runners Need	10% off	Online
Tikiboo NEW	10% off	Online

Staycation savings

Causeway Cottages	10% off	Bushmills
Cottage Stay UK	Up to 10%	Online
Further.Space NEW	10% off	5 sites
Inishkeeragh Lodge	15% off	Kesh
Irish Landmark Trust	10% off	Online
Lusty Beg Island	15% off	Kesh
Millers Cottages	15% off	Kilcoo
The Tailor's House	20% off	Dungannon

www.membershipplus.co.uk

Home & Garden

Artificial Grass Co.	10% off	Countrywide
Beko appliances	25% off	Online
Bloc Blinds	10% off	Online
Creative Living	5% off	Belfast
Emma Mattress	30% off	Online
Halfords	10% off	Countrywide
The Solar House	Up to 20%	Countrywide
Tilemarket	20% off	3 locations

Tasty takeaways

Camile Thai	15% off	Belfast
Del Piero's	20% off	7 locations
Domino's Pizza	33% off	Countrywide
Ground Espresso	10% off	Countrywide
McDonald's Special offers		Countrywide
Pizza Hut Delivery	35% off	Belfast
Pyke 'N' Pommes	15% off	L'Derry
Roadhouse Takeaway	15% off	Portadown



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HELIMED ED



This year, Air Ambulance Northern Ireland is proud to be launching their primary school education programme entitled 'Helimed Ed.' Children across all primary schools will have the opportunity to learn about the flying emergency medical service and charity through areas of learning such as Literacy, Numeracy and World Around Us and more. It will also include real stories of people who required the service following a serious accident, profiles from some of the doctors, paramedics and pilots, and advice for a child on what to do if they ever find themselves in an emergency. **'Helimed Ed.'** is a play on words as all the air ambulance helicopters across the U.K. include **'Helimed'** as their call sign and **'Ed.'** is short for Education! The programme has been created and written by a qualified primary school teacher and has

been divided into three sections to cater for all age groups from 4-11 years old:

- Foundation Stage - (P1 and P2)**
- Key Stage 1 - (P3 and P4)**
- Key Stage 2 - (P5, P6 and P7)**

The pilot programme will be available for **FREE**, but schools are asked to support the life-saving charity service by holding a fundraising event of their choice. It could be a red themed day, a cake and bun sale or even a sponsored silence! Maybe the school student council could lead this fundraising event!

'Helimed Ed.' aims to inspire all children to become supporters of the service and charity. Air Ambulance NI is there for everyone when they most need it and we want the doctors, paramedics, nurses, pilots and engineers of tomorrow to become life-long supporters of the service.



Unfortunately, accidents can happen at any time and 14% of the 1,943 taskings we have attended to have been to children under the age of 18 years old, offering the best chance of survival.

“Air Ambulance NI saved my life, please help them to save others.”

Cillian Rogers, age 6

Air Ambulance NI look forward to releasing more details about this exciting programme later this year but for any more information in the meantime, please contact info@airambulanceni.org.

JUNIOR CLUB AANI

Air Ambulance NI is delighted to launch its exclusive membership programme for young people across NI, *Junior Club AANI*. The member club has been backed and promoted by **Cillian Rogers** and his family after the Air Ambulance was tasked to young Cillian on the 24th April 2019.

What started as a normal day for 4-year-old Cillian, playing with his dinosaurs and eating pizza, suddenly turned to tragedy when he was knocked down by a motorcyclist. The HEMS team arrived by Air Ambulance and working with NIAS paramedics, the team carried out critical care interventions at the scene before transporting to hospital. Cillian suffered a brain injury incurring several bleeds on the brain, a blood clot as well as a fractured skull and femur. He spent 9 days in Intensive Care at the Royal Victoria Hospital for sick children, 6 of those days he was in an induced coma. Cillian's recovery has been slow but, thankfully, he was able to return to

school part-time and is making good progress. His mum, Courtney recalls: “I remember Cillian being in the coma in Paediatric Intensive Care Unit and begging him just to wake up and it wouldn't matter what we had to face just as long as we could cuddle him one more time and because of Air Ambulance Northern Ireland we have the chance to do that every day”.

Now 6 years old, Cillian and his family are helping Air Ambulance to launch its very own Junior Club Membership programme to encourage other young people across NI to support the service.

Junior Membership is for younger Air Ambulance NI supporters aged **0-18 years** and is only **£5** per month for a lifetime membership or just **£50** for the whole year.

Among a host of branded gifts, Junior members will also receive **educational sheets and activities four times a year** and get the opportunity to visit the helicopter at the Air

Ambulance Northern Ireland base at the Annual Members get-together. Teenagers will also hear more about the different roles within the team that may help some budding doctors, paramedics or pilots out there.

To find out more about our junior club membership and sign up, please visit: www.airambulanceni.org/junior-club-aani/.

The charity also offers a membership programme to the rest of the population, Club AANI, for a weekly donation of just £2. It is a really easy way for people to donate and we hope that those who can, do so as every little bit really does go a long way to keep us in the air.

To find out more about the charity, Club AANI, how you can help fund a life-saving mission or to send Air Ambulance Northern Ireland a birthday donation, visit Air Ambulance Northern Ireland's Facebook page, visit www.airambulanceni.org or call **028 9262 2677**.

JUNIOR CLUB AANI



Sign up to be a Junior Club AANI Member for just £5 per month!

Ages 0-18



Help Air Ambulance NI save lives & receive exclusive benefits including:

- A Branded Teddy / Gold Heli Pin Badge
- A Member Card
- A Certificate
- Education and Activity Sheets
- An Annual Members Get-Together



**Perfect
Christmas Gift**



Sign up your kids now at:

www.airambulancenir.org/junior-club-aani/



Be A News Reporter!



Imagine you are a news reporter working for a TV and you are reporting on an accident in which the Air Ambulance NI helicopter has been to.

Create a 30 second news report for T.V. You may want to use

- the table below to help you make a note of what you want to say.

1. Introduction	2. Accident
<p>Name:</p> <p>News Channel:</p> <p>Where are you?</p>	<p>What has happened?</p> <p>How many people are hurt?</p>
3. Accident Details	4. Finish
<p>What emergency services came to help?</p> <p>Interview an eye-witness!</p>	<p>Everyone has been taken to hospital and they are going to be ok thanks to the Air Ambulance team.</p>

Learn your lines and then present your news report in front of your class.

Optional

To make it even more realistic, do it using 'Green Screen' technology! Add an image of the Air Ambulance NI helicopter into the background (ask your teacher to help you with this).

Good luck! 😊





Aughier CPS Home Learning Journey Supporting Children's Wellbeing and Mental Health

During this period of Remote Learning *Aughier CPS pupils* have been very busy completing lots of activities and challenges as part of their learning journey. Children who access supervised provision in school and those at home have been involved in online live lessons each week interacting with their teachers for new concepts and meeting their peers online to support their Mental health and wellbeing.

Some highlights have included their live session with NI First Minister, *Arlene Foster*, who joined them as part of their topic '**Wonderful, Marvellous Me**', as they explored the history of NI and found out all about local government and how it operates. Children enjoyed the opportunity to

ask questions about the current pandemic as well as hearing what motivated and inspired the First Minister to take up a role in politics. Sentinus also joined KS2 classes to support the class with their topic on Bridges and children enjoyed working with a wide variety of materials to make and build different bridge structures. Children enjoyed meeting together using online platforms to continue their World Around Us studies. Children have also participated in PJ day and '**Wear Red Day**' to help support and motivate children as they continue their remote learning journey.

Each week, school Principal, *Andrea Sawyers*, sends out a video shout out to families and sets a family challenge which the children have been eager to complete with lots of prizes and goodies up for grabs. Recently, the PTFA





The Rooney Family taking part in the school Active Family challenge at Augher CPS



held a 'Family Bake Off' competition to promote wellbeing amongst families and provide opportunities to bring families together and engage with the school community.

Last week the school held its

'Mental Health & Wellbeing Week' which promoted fitness activities by joining with local stakeholders to provide fitness and dance activities each morning for families throughout the week. Fivemiletown College, Omagh Academy, Ryan's Gym Fintona, The Edge Gym Augher and Clogher Valley Rugby Club, all got involved supporting Augher CPS as they

supported school families and the wider community. During their remote learning, children's mental health tasks included looking at themselves

and what made them unique and special and how important they are. *'It has been wonderful to see the engagement from so many families and as a staff we have realised the important role of embracing new ideas and encouraging fun and active challenges to keep children engaged and enthused during this very difficult time.'*



Cooley PS's Leyla inspires others to travel actively to school with her award-winning poster

Sustrans schools' officers are adapting to become more flexible, and offering children innovative ways to stay active whether they are travelling to school or learning at home. The latest activity came in the form of a poster design competition, where pupils were encouraged to create colourful, bold messages to continue inspiring others to stay active. **Leyla Lyons**, a Year 3 pupil at **Cooley Primary School**, was chosen as the overall winner, out of 140 entries from 22 schools in the west, due to her clear and concise motto about staying active.

Ann-Marie McManus, Sustrans Schools' Officer for the South West area, said: "Congratulations to Leyla and all the pupils who drew fantastic posters with such important active travel messages. We at Sustrans are delighted that so many children continue to motivate themselves to keep healthy and fit during this unexpected time at home. Sustrans is the charity making it easier for people to walk and cycle. We connect people and places, create liveable neighbourhoods, transform the school run and deliver a happier, healthier commute."

Cooley Primary School principal, **Mrs Karen Atchison**, remarked on the fabulous efforts her pupils put into their posters, using lots of different materials and media to make them stand out: "I am very proud of how engaged the boys and girls are with each activity we send their way, not to mention the support from parents in participating in all our extra-curricular lessons too. Leyla's poster is a fine example of the range of talents we have in our school." Leyla wins a fitness activity tracker and her poster will be made into an outdoor banner for use outside Cooley Primary School gates.



Winner of the Northern Ireland-wide Sustrans art competition, six-year-old Cooley PS, Sixmiletross, pupil, Leyla Lyons, proudly displays her winning entry alongside her Principal, Mrs Karen Atchison and her P3 teacher Mrs Hazel Clements



Maisie Kerr, Year 3, with her poster for the Sustrans art competition to promote healthy travel to school.



Cooley PS pupil Adam Monteith, Year 6, with his poster for the competition



Pupil Ella Kerr, Year 7, with her colourful entry.



Charlie Kerr, Year 6, got creative with his entry.



Grace Alexander, Year 5, with her poster for to promote healthy travel to school.



Pupil Olivia Alexander, Year 3, with her entry in the competition



Cooley PS pupil Katie Clarke, Year 5, with her entry in the Sustrans art competition.



Cooley PS pupil Hannah Cuthbertson, Year 5 with her entry in the Sustrans art competition.

AGREEMENT REACHED FOR TEACHERS' PAY AWARD FOR 2019/2020

At a meeting of the Teachers' Negotiating Committee held today (Tuesday 2nd March 2021), the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council (NITC) formally accepted Management Side's offer for teachers' pay **2019-20 and 2020-21**.

The Agreement reached on pay will give effect to a pay award for all teachers in Northern Ireland of **2% payable from 1 September 2019** and an additional **2% payable from 1 September 2020**. The pay award is applicable to all salary scales and teaching allowances.

Subject to receipt of final approval of the pay remit by the Department of Finance, it is anticipated that the pay award will be implemented in the **May / June payrolls**.

Both sides believe this pay award represents a good deal for teachers in the present circumstances and creates the optimum environment to ensure the reviews that formed an integral part of the **2017-19 Pay and Workload Agreement** can be taken forward to completion in the most positive and constructive manner.

A year on from the onset of the pandemic, both Management Side and the NITC acknowledge and pay tribute to the extraordinary commitment, dedication and leadership demonstrated by all our school leaders and teachers to ensure the continuity of learning for all our children and young people.

Their roles and contribution in the fight against the global health crisis cannot be overstated.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A teacher who was on scale point **UPS3** (£39,498 pa) at 1 September 2018 will receive the following increase:

1 September 2019 – revised salary = £40,288

1 September 2020 – revised salary = £41,094

If the pay award is included in May 2021 pay, the gross pay for the month will be £5,279. This is comprised of £3,425 gross salary plus £1,854 arrears for the period 1 September 2019 to 30 April 2021.

NOTE: These figures do not include the additional amounts for those with teaching and learning allowances.

	SEPT	SEPT	SEPT	SEPT	SEPT
Scale Point	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
	£	£	£	£	£
				Agreed	Agreed
M1	22,243	22,744	23,199	23,663	24,137
M2	24,001	24,542	25,033	25,534	26,045
M3	25,931	26,515	27,046	27,587	28,139
M4	27,926	28,555	29,127	29,710	30,305
M5	30,127	30,805	31,422	32,051	32,693
M6	32,509	33,241	33,906	34,585	35,277
UPS 1	35217	36010	36731	37466	38216
UPS 2	36521	37343	38090	38852	39630
UPS 3	37870	38723	39498	40288	41094

BREAKING NEWS

Our lives are so different this year because of the covid19



DRUMGOR MEDIA

NEWS REPORT FROM NOJUS

2021

I went back to school but covid didn't go anywhere. School was different.

Our lives are so different this year because of the covid19. I want to tell how it was different for me. January started as normal. I went back to school. I was learning, playing and having fun. Time went quickly. I was looking forward to mid-term break.

Me, 2 brothers and mum planed to go to visit my grandparents in Lithuania. We went and there were people meeting travellers with masks and gloves in airport. They asked us are we travelled to China. Of course we didn't.

It was the first time I heard about covid19 in China. It was in the middle of February.

We back home in a week time. I back to school as normal. However not for long soon covid 19 kicked in our country and all normal changed. My birthday at the end of March. I was looking forward to it. I have invited my friends to Airtastik. I couldn't wait. Time went and I heard more and more about covid19. It didn't sound good, got really serious. I was told that school will be closed. It happened 1 week before my birthday. So my party had to be cancelled. I had to tell my friends that and it made my so sad.

However my mummy baked me cupcakes, to bring to school on last day. I shared them with my friends. That day we all got our learning packs home. I thought it will be so great not to get up early and to go to school. Home learning starts. It wasn't that fun as I thought. Mummy tried to do her best with a teaching but it wasn't the same like at school.

I started missed my teacher and friends. Yes, I did enjoyed learning with mum, measuring ingredients for cake, counting real money money.

However it was the same like with friends. I missed fun. I was told that I can't even visit my friends. No friends - not even my loved activities ... football, Take Wan Do, Sunday school, kids club. It was so so sad.

Then it come up to my little brother's first birthday in May. I thought we will have proper party.

No one could come again but we put a lot of decorations and had a cake and sung happy birthday. I hoped that I could be back to school for few last week's to see my P3 teacher and friends before summer holidays. However it didn't happened. When summer holidays started I didn't feel excited, more sad. No more tasks and different challenges to do from school. I was looking forward to it every day but it was over. Summer started boring. I couldn't go to playgrounds. I still kept in contact with my friends by phone. And it is good that I have 2 brothers to pay with.

Mum took us to parks and wood for a walk and climb trees. To keep us happier we even made a big birthday party for our guinea pig Any. There were same guest me my 2 brothers and mum. Eventually to the end of the summer I could meet friends and play in play grounds. It got better with covid19. I thought it would be away for September. I went back to school but covid didn't go anywhere. School was different.

First week my P4 teacher was taking about covid19. How to

Sinead

David Huntley from C2k Newsdesk shared the article written by Nojus about his experience during Covid. What a really insightful and moving story, well written and so interesting to hear about someone else's Covid experiences. I have passed it on to Michele Corkey, our Director of Education, so that she can read it too. Please pass on all our best wishes to Nojus and everyone else in the class. Averil

Averil Morrow | Head of Professional Learning and Development : Learning and Teaching

be safe. Stay in class bubble! Important to wash and sanitase hands! Cones outside in play area! Arrows all over the school floor showing us where to go! However it was good to be back to school and meet friends. Time went well had lots of fun. Covid19 didn't want to go away as well. It started making more an more people ill. So pupils were told they will have 1 week extra week of holiday at

Halloween. So we weren't allowed any Halloween party and disco at school. I was so sad.

Even I was told no trick or treat this year. It wasn't good at all. I dreamed to how I dress up and go for trick or treat.

I my 2 brothers and mum still decorated house. We draw same decorations ourselves and scooped pumpkins.

I was so exited when my mum said we will go that night for trick or treat. Because our neighbours were so good to us and left some treats for us outside.

That night we had great Halloween party lots of sweets, popcorn, chips and movie wit my 2 brothers and mum. But sad not one friend.

However I so happy our school have seesaw and Google classroom. I can get in touch with my friends and teacher when I want even on holiday time.

And when we all back to school we know bout each other and not miss much. We keep having fun.

Now I am bit worried about Christmas and Santa. I hope naughty elf will be back to our house from 1 of December as he will trick covid19. However Santa is old and covid19 is spreading so much now. My 2 brothers and mum preparing for Christmas. I know we will have a good one. I will write a letter to Santa hope he is ok. I'm looking just 2 things for myself a robo cat and phone. If it's ok.

Santa has magic - it keeps him safe in a bubble. I ask him to take covid19 into his sack when he gives all presents away and sack will be empty. Than Santa can take it to North pole and turn into snow. This year was so different. For me as well lots of time spent with 2 brothers and mum. Was some sad moments as well.

But I know this Christmas will be the same as always for me with my 2 brothers and mum. Our house will be decorated, lots of lights, we will have Christmas mummy will make big, nice dinner light a fire, we play, laugh and have good day and I'll get my presents.

And hope no covid in 2021!

It's all my year's story.

Hello Sinead
I want to congratulate you on the amazing work you are doing with you pupils on the C2k NewsDesk. David told me about you and pointed me towards the very brilliant article that Nojus wrote. He captured this period of time so fantastically. I am sure you are very proud.

I work for C2k to manage and maximise the use of the NewsDesk in our schools. Hearing from David about you and reading what it means to your pupils makes this work so worthwhile. David does amazing work with the ND and this will motivate him greatly also.

Have a great weekend and keep up this inspirational work.

Regards
Eamon McAteer | Curriculum Consultant



OUR NEW PRESIDENT ELECT

MRS ALISON STEEN

The incoming president of the Ulster Teachers' Union is Mrs Alison Steen, and she will be installed on Friday 19 March 2021 at the end of our online Conference.

Alison graduated from St Martin's College (University of Lancaster) in July 1992, having married a week previously! She moved into a farmhouse "in the middle of nowhere" on top of a Lancashire Fell and began her teaching career in a rural village Primary School near Clitheroe. She taught the Reception and Year One class.

Moving back home she covered a maternity leave in Castleroe PS and then taught for 13 years in Gorrans Primary School, near Garvagh. While there she had the privilege of teaching her own three children in P1 & P2. She was invited to meet the Queen and Prince Philip at a reception inside Buckingham Palace in May 2000, recognising achievement in schools across Northern Ireland.

In June 2008, Alison was appointed teaching principal of a brand-new amalgamated school – Drumrane, near Dungiven. Alison is well known in the North West where her hobbies include playing the piano, helping out with music in churches, New Horizon, singing in choirs, and she is also the Secretary of Coleraine Music Festival and also is on the committee of the North Coast SU (E3).

Alison's involvement with the UTU has been lifelong! Her mother was also a member and taught alongside our General Secretary at Milburn Primary school in Coleraine. Alison brings to the role a passion for teaching and will be a strong voice for our teaching principals. As vice-president, she has been a representative on the Northern Ireland Teachers' Council, the Covid-19 Restart Team and has also been involved in meeting the Education and Training Inspectorate. She is also an Associate Placement Assessor with Stranmillis College.



The end of an era...

For so many members, very often the first person that we were in contact with at UTU HQ was Annette Morrow. Having worked in our office for almost 20 years, Annette was the voice at the end of the phone or the person emailing back when members contacted the office with queries. Annette also had responsibility for maintaining the members' database, ensuring all records were up-to-date and that it matched the Teachers' Salaries Department team in Waterside House.

For members who had attended any of the pre-retirement events or any meetings at HQ, it was Annette who laid on the in-house hospitality, and to great acclaim especially to our Trade Union and Management-side colleagues. Her mid-morning brunches were legendary, and the scones, pancakes and many other tasty delights have helped make many meetings so much more palatable and (dare I say) enjoyable! At conference each year, Annette was on the "front-desk", ensuring the delegates and guests were registered and provided with handbooks and goodies!

Annette left employment with the Ulster Teachers' Union at the end of 2020, and the staff at HQ, the Central Executive Committee and Members will very much miss her cheerful calls and efficient no-nonsense approach to queries.

Denamona PS Remembrance Rocks to mark Armistice Day



The oldest pupil in the school, **Ted**, and **Principal, Mrs Janet Burke** are pictured laying a wreath on behalf of the school on *Remembrance Sunday* at *Fintona RBL*. **Denamona Primary Students** looking at the poppy wreaths and paying their respects in remembrance to mark Armistice Day.

TEACHERS FEEL POWERLESS TO AVERT PUPILS' SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS

Mental health could be children and young people's biggest barrier to recovery after the pandemic, Northern Ireland teachers fear. They're calling on the Education Minister to allocate part of Stormont's unspent Covid funding to ensuring young people have the support they need to re-engage with their education.

"Before the pandemic almost half of children had experienced at least one Adverse Childhood Experience and the pandemic has only added to that," said Jacqui White, General Secretary of the Ulster Teachers' Union.

"If they are to re-engage with learning our young people need a recovery plan and schools need adequate and sustainable funding to support that. "The pandemic has shown in the starkest reality the central role schools and teachers play in children's lives, far beyond the remit of education.

"During the last 10 months the drop in the level of referrals to social services, for instance, which would've come via schools has been frightening and we can only imagine what's going on behind the closed doors of some of our most vulnerable children's lives.

"So there is no doubt about the centrality of teachers in the pastoral care of children beyond the classroom and this will doubtless extend to helping pupils return to normality and come to terms with

the staggering and cruel upheaval they have faced. "Our young people have been endlessly swamped with an onslaught of negativity, from being cut off from their support networks and friends and family to worrying about health issues, from the relentlessness which can be social media to the slew of never-ending grim headlines and sound bites.

"Indeed it wouldn't be going too far to say we worry that there is a degree of hopelessness creeping into some young people's outlook and teachers feel relatively powerless to avert that as things are.

"Evidence from a recent Young and Wellbeing survey from Action for Children showed that one in eight children and young people are struggling with emotional difficulties across Northern Ireland, with anxiety and depression 25% more common in children and young people here compared to other parts of the UK.

"However, that is no surprise given that this pandemic has rolled across Northern Ireland which was already a region with some of the grimmest mental health statistics and highest levels of poverty in Europe. "If we are to save this cohort of children, children

we will all be relying on to take Northern Ireland forward, we must ensure that they are mentally ready and able to maximise the opportunities which will undoubtedly re-emerge in the wake of this year.

"However as schools will play a central role in this it is vital that early planning and adequate funding is provided so they are supported and enabled to provide interventions at the earliest possible opportunity."





COVID-19 Impact on Retirement

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on everyone, not just here but across the entire globe. Most people have had to adjust to a 'New Normal', with teachers particularly on the frontline continuing to support and educate our children in very trying circumstances. As governments and authorities continue to wrestle with controlling the pandemic, the effect of the virus has prompted many to take stock and consider their retirement.

We too have had to adjust. As the Ulster Teachers' Union recommended independent financial consultants, we have been delivering retirement seminars to members considering retirement for the last 16 years. These have always been very well received but, with social distancing measures becoming a way of life, it was no longer possible to deliver these educational workshops in the same way. As a result of the pandemic we moved these presentations online and we have seen a marked increase in the number of members wishing to attend.

There is no doubt the digital format makes it easier for people to attend, rather than having to travel to a physical location after a hard day at school, but it has also highlighted the fact that the pandemic has prompted many teachers to reconsider their retirement plans. We conducted a survey during a recent webinar for UTU members and 52% of the teacher's surveyed felt that their retirement plans have changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the major advantages of the NI Teachers' Pension scheme is the fact that it is a 'Defined Benefit' Scheme. As the benefits are defined, your pension is not subject to the same risks you find with 'Defined Contribution' schemes which are commonly found in the private sector. These can have a dramatic impact, particularly during periods of economic uncertainty. The certainty offered by the Teachers' Pension scheme makes it much easier to plan your retirement, but we know that does not make the decision to retire any less daunting.

While the benefits are defined, it is worth noting you do still have options. Phased retirement, for example, provides for a more gradual transition into retirement by enabling you to continue working in a reduced capacity by reducing your hours of work or relinquishing some of your responsibilities. At the same time, you can access a percentage of your pension benefits to supplement your reduced income, potentially resulting in little to no difference in your take home pay each month. However, like all things, it is important to make the right decisions.



Philip Andrews
Independent Financial Advisor
Platinum Financial Planning

We also know the pandemic has encouraged lots of younger teachers to start thinking about their retirement planning. Younger teachers don't always understand their pension schemes and some don't engage with their pension until they get closer to retirement. However, given the number of the changes we have seen over the last 15 years, it is more important than ever to understand your pension and plan accordingly. It is for this reason we are also now delivering a series of 'mid-career' financial planning workshops in conjunction with UTU. We hope by engaging with these members earlier in their careers, we can help them plan for a comfortable retirement.

So, whether you are considering retirement now or planning for the future, you may want to consider registering for one of our upcoming webinars. As a member of UTU, you are also entitled to a complimentary initial consultation with one of our financial consultants. We are here to help you make those key decisions around your retirement.

A pension is a long term investment. The fund value may fluctuate and can go down. Your eventual income may depend on the size of the fund at retirement, future interest rates and tax legislation.

You should always seek professional advice before making any financial decisions.



T: 028 9065 5305
E: info@platinumgroup.co.uk
www.platinumgroup.co.uk

Platinum Financial Planning Ltd. is an appointed representative of TenetConnect Ltd. which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

Union supports children overseas throughout Covid

2 020 is a year we will always remember being extremely challenging for the projects of A Ray of Hope, not only because the global consequences affected our volunteers and their ability to complete tasks, but also as our means of transferring funds was interrupted for 3 months. During such demanding times we appreciate even more the generous support of the Ulster Teachers' Union and though the time available for planning, preparation and fulfilment of projects was greatly diminished due to social distancing in the countries where we have a presence, it did not prevent approximately 95 % of the scheduled supporting tasks being brought to fruition. Projects took place in India, Nepal, Myanmar, Uganda, Nigeria and the Gambia these included library support in India, school supplies, equipment and furniture



in Nigeria, Uganda and the Gambia, educational field trips in Myanmar.

Also 24 workshops, presentations, demonstrations and road shows covering the themes art, music, dance, drama, environment and ecology, health and safety, personal hygiene culture and catering, all creating awareness and bringing reality to classroom learning.



Projects took place in India, Nepal, Myanmar, Uganda, Nigeria and the Gambia these included library support in India, school supplies, equipment and furniture in Nigeria, Uganda and the Gambia, educational field trips in Myanmar.





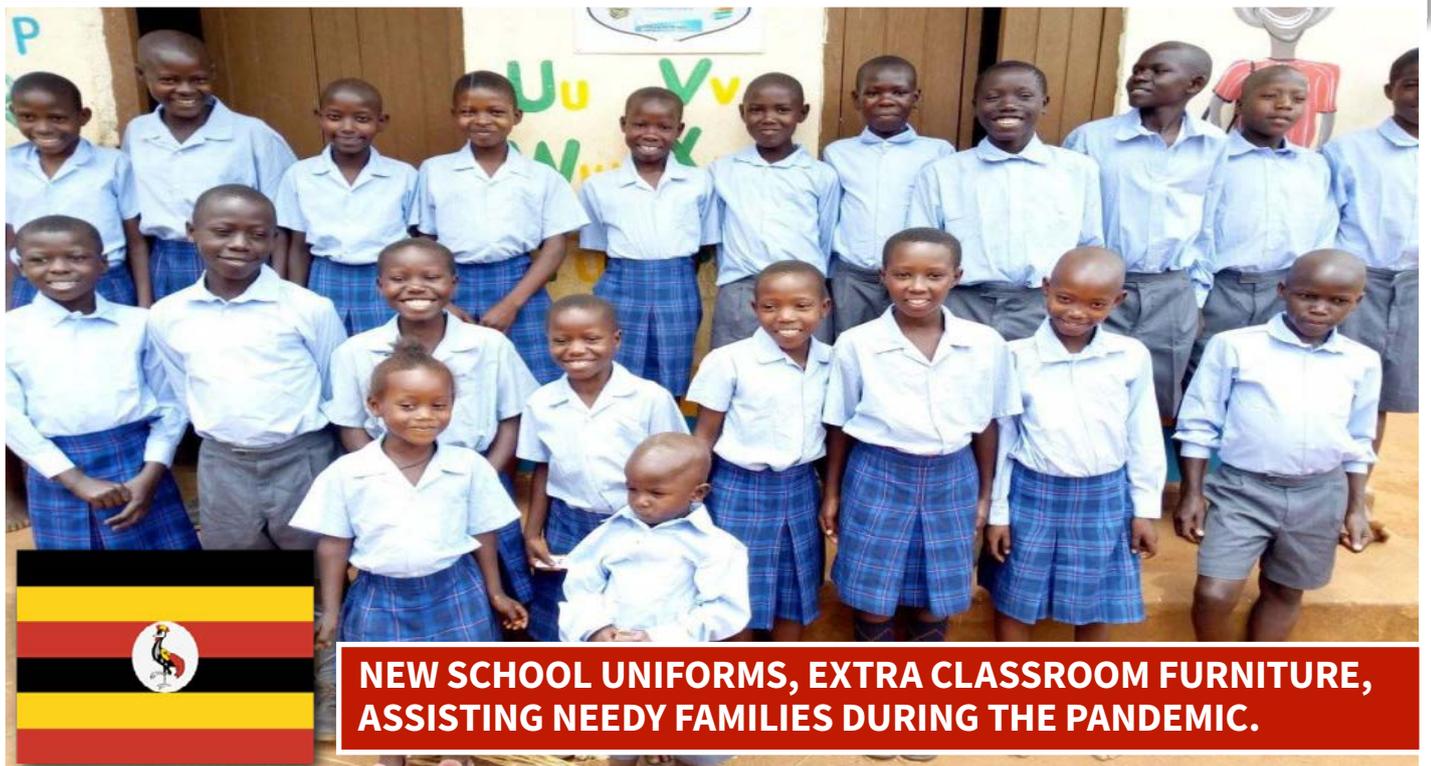
OPENING OF NEW LIBRARIES AND LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES



DANCE WORKSHOPS, MUSIC AND COSTUME PRESENTATIONS, NEW SCHOOLBAGS AND EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES.



DOMESTIC SCIENCE DEMONSTRATIONS, HEALTH AND HYGIENE WORKSHOPS AND COMPUTER DESIGN TECHNIQUES.



NEW SCHOOL UNIFORMS, EXTRA CLASSROOM FURNITURE, ASSISTING NEEDY FAMILIES DURING THE PANDEMIC.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO ZOOLOGICAL AND BOTANICAL GARDENS.

ULSTER TEACHERS UNION URGE INTEGRATED APPROACH TO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS IN FUNDAMENTAL REVIEW

The Ulster Teachers' union are calling for a more integrated approach to support for children with special educational needs.

It comes as closure date for consultation into fundamental changes in the SEN sector looms.

"This sector has been in crisis for some time now, something which we have endlessly highlighted to the Minister," said Jacquie White, General Secretary of the Ulster Teachers' Union.

"Anything which can be done to alleviate the stress and anxiety caused to children, their families and their teachers is to be welcomed.



"However, for it to be fit for purpose in the long term it needs to be focussed, integrated and sustainable.

"Ensuring that children with special educational needs get the education they are entitled to and so a chance to live their best lives is not solely a challenge for the education sector.

"Their needs are often complex and multi-faceted, learning as well as health related and we hope the Minister will take this into account when it comes to budgeting for the support these children so desperately need and deserve.

"For too long now teachers have been struggling to cope with shrinking SEN budgets which burden them with decisions they are not qualified to make.

"Cuts in the educational psychology services, for instance, have meant that not every child who should be assessed for SEN even can be.

"Schools are given a quota of referrals and it's up to teachers who are not qualified to do so, to decide which children should be prioritised.

"Breaking down barriers and discrimination by educating together children of varying abilities as well as social, learning and behavioural challenges is a laudable ideal but it can only work with joined up thinking and a fully integrated and, crucially, funded approach.

"If the child's challenges are learning as well as health related, that must be taken into account so that learning needs are met from an

education budget while health needs are met from a health budget.

"The Minister has called for representations and we will be delivering our expertise. We just hope he not only listens but takes on board the wealth of experience – academic and practical – which we

offer."

The Education and Policy Sub-Committee have met many times over the past few months and have discussed all four consultations at length. Draft responses are available at the UTU website for members to consider. Feedback is also welcomed from members. Members are also encouraged to respond to each consultation using the UTU response as a template.

The Consultations documents can be found at:

Public Consultation on the Draft Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools and Draft Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools - Pilot | Education Authority Northern Ireland (eani.org.uk) **Closes 12 April 2021**

Public Consultation on the Draft Special Schools Area Planning Framework | Education Authority Northern Ireland (eani.org.uk) **Closes 12 April 2021**



Like and follow the Ulster Teachers' Union on our social media channels



Don't forget our web page www.utu.edu

Louise Creelman

the incoming UTU Vice-President

The incoming vice-president for 2021-2022 is Louise Creelman. Louise from Ballymoney teaches in Bushvalley Primary School and is currently numeracy co-ordinator and is also the Designated Teacher for Child Protection. She is vice-chair of the Causeway Branch and has served as an elected member of the North Eastern Area Association on the Central Executive Committee for the past six years. Louise has also been the convenor of the ICT sub-committee for the past two years.





ASK THE OFFICIALS

Dear UTU,

I have a 4 year-old child and would like to be considered for flexible working. How should I do this? AJC

The Education Authority have details about flexible working at TNC 2009-6 Flexible working scheme | Department of Education (education-ni.gov.uk). There is a form to complete (FW1). When this is submitted your Principal will have a meeting, within 28 days, to discuss things in more detail with you. You can be accompanied by a TU representative or a colleague. Should you be unsuccessful in your flexible working request we would suggest you contact us for advice on how to lodge an appeal – you have 14 days to do so. Again, at this meeting you can be accompanied by a TU rep or colleague. As always contact us via HQ if you need any information. One last point to note is that flexible working can be a temporary arrangement and is for up to three years. After 3 years you may revert back to your substantive contract or, if you wish, the change to the contract of employment will become permanent.

Hello Ulster Teachers' Union,

I have had to take some time off work due to an illness. I have only been in my current school since September but this is my third year of teaching. What will happen with my sick pay? My doctor has suggested that I could be off for two months and my principal has said I will only get paid for 25 days. PT

A full time teacher's entitlement to sick leave/ pay depends on the number of years service

they have completed and the number of days they have been absent owing to illness in the current year, which is from 1st April until 31 March. So as you are now in your third year of teaching you are entitled to 75 working days on full pay and 75 working days on half pay. (From 4th year of teaching this is 100 days full and 100 days half pay). So, if you were not off due to illness from last April that should be your entitlement.

Hi UTU,

A number of UTU colleagues and I have concerns regarding timetable issues and also unreasonable expectations at times when we are in teaching, they aren't related to Covid but we would like to address them before the end of this academic year. What should we do? EM

It can often be difficult to raise issues at the moment due to remote learning and the situation we are in. In the first instance you should speak to your UTU representative in school or contact HQ. Together with the rep and your colleagues the concerns should be raised with the Principal and or Senior Leadership/Management Team. This could be in an email requesting a meeting setting out the issues that are causing concerns. Informal meetings can very often solve issues that the school leaders may not have been aware of. Failing that there are formal routes to air you and your colleagues' concerns. Contact the office at UTU and speak to one of the officials.



ASK THE OFFICIALS

Hi Office @ UTU,

I have been invited to my friend's wedding next June and it is on a weekday. I have been asked to be his best-man. The wedding, hopefully, will take place outside London. I am a permanent member of staff, how many days leave can I request? LM

As a member of the bridal party you can request a 1 day Leave of Absence, with pay. As your wedding is in England you may be able to request a second day for travel. You should speak to your Principal and place in writing to your BOG your request for leave of absence. This is at the discretion of your BoG.

Leave of absence documents can be found at Teachers Absences Not Exceeding Three Working Days (education-ni.gov.uk)

Dear UTU,

My husband and I have been working from home like so many teachers. A teaching colleague has said I can claim back electricity and get a tax refund. How do I claim back this money? Anon

The HMRC changed the system for the 2020/21 tax year last October. It means if you worked from home at any time since 6th April, you only need to claim once and you'll automatically receive the whole year's tax relief (£62.40 for basic rate or £125 for higher

rate taxpayers). This is tax relief on £6 per week. If you believe you have higher increased costs than £6 a week, you can claim more, but you will need evidence of the cost increases and be able to apportion these specifically to the fact you are working from home.

The quickest way to claim is via the government website and make an online claim. You will need your PAYE number (found on your pay slip or P60). Register for a Government Gateway account, you will need to fill in a P87 form. The section you need to fill in is titled: 'Using your home as an office'.

Further details can be found at Claim tax relief for your job expenses: Working from home - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

If you complete a Self-Assessment return each year you must add your working home claim to this document.

**Contact us at
office@utu.edu
with your Name/
TR number and an
official will get back
to you ASAP!**

Teaching Applications and Interview tips with University of Ulster PGCE Students

UTU representatives welcomed University of Ulster PGCE students to a short webinar regarding teaching application and interviews. Rebekka Gilpin, Alison Steen, Aaron Davison, Stephen Gilmore and Stephen McCord shared experience and advice with the teachers-to-be. With teacher posts for the next academic year already being advertised the post-graduates were able to ask experienced Senior Leaders some of the burning questions about what to include in application forms, CVs and how to answer questions.

The discussion was wide ranging with lots of anecdotal examples. President Stephen McCord wished the PGCE students the very best for their their second placements and also for their future careers as teachers.

If you are a student or FIT member and require any further information regarding applications or interviews email office@utu.edu



Comments

Brilliant Session! Thanks so much!

Thank you to you all for such a brilliant session!

Thank you for your time and a very informative session.

...thank you for a fantastic session.

Thank you for such a great session! Definitely learnt a lot!



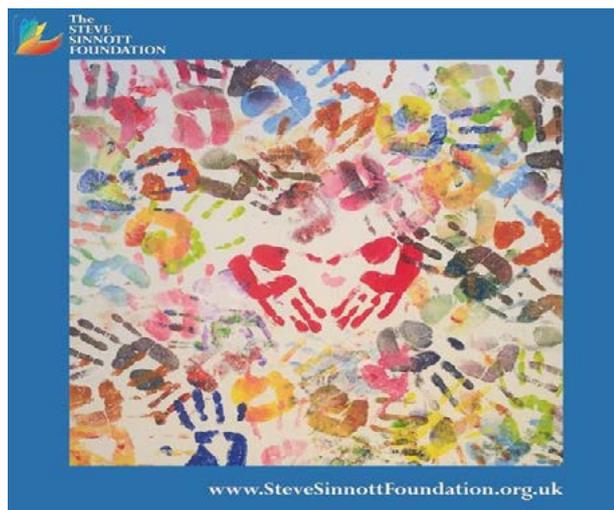
MAKING A CHANGE TO GLOBAL EDUCATION

The Steve Sinnott Foundation is working at a grass roots level to make a change to education across the globe. We do this by working in partnership with educators on the ground, who scope and manage each project locally, so it is fit for purpose, respects the local culture and is sustainable and where possible replicable. We work with teachers to create independence not dependency.

We have seen schools closed to over 1.6 million students globally and although schools have reopened in many countries, globally many children may never return to school and for those that do their education has been interrupted. We have had to be flexible and open-minded to how projects might work in the future and adapt our work to fit the local needs.

One thing that the pandemic has illustrated to everyone is how connected we all are to each other. We do not exist in bubbles, our groups are made up of people in other groups, who are connected to more groups and so on. We have seen not just the virus spread rapidly through a country but also across the world. We are all connected across the world.

Lack of education, and therefore opportunities, is something we are passionate about changing, we believe that Education is a human right for all children, it should not matter where they were born, who they were born to or their gender, children should expect access to a quality education as that gives them choices for their future.



When we have problems in the U.K. people may be concerned about how we can fix our own problems, but without fixing problems globally, new challenges will be created, which affect us all equally. The thing about the international work we do, is that it can get forgotten at a time like this, as we are all heads down dealing with similar problems here in the U.K.

We want to let you know that we are continuing to work in solidarity with our colleagues across the globe

who are doing amazing work, educators who are often on very low salaries, who often do not have electricity and running water let alone connectivity to on-line learning. In some places gender-based violence has doubled during the pandemic, women and girls are still using rags when they have their period and children are not learning at all.

Education is a human right for all children around the world.



We are continuing to invest in safe learning and we are asking you to continue to support us, where you can:

- Girls in many countries are missing 50 days a year just because they have their monthly period. We are investing in a training programme in The Gambia, Sierra Leone, Malawi, Uganda, Cuba and Haiti which teaches girls and women about menstrual health, how to take care of their bodies and to make their own period pads. These pads are locally made using locally sourced materials, affordable, sustainable, reusable and washable, yet long lasting, comfortable and very importantly eco-friendly.

- Global digital divide – In some rural areas the internet is not available or if it is, it is not affordable. We have so far kept over 5,000 children learning in The Gambia through the provision of solar radios.

- In The Gambia and Sierra Leone, gender-based violence has more than doubled during the pandemic in some areas. We are investing in a teacher training programme which works to prevent, recognise and support women who have experienced GBV.

- We have been sharing learning through the Lifelong Learning webinar series. The partners and teachers we work with are doing amazing work across the globe, and we have been trialling ways to share some of this learning so it's available to an ever-widening audience. The webinars are carefully selected to support teaching and learning, mental health and wellbeing and creativity and entrepreneurial skills.

- You can read more about our work here: <https://www.stevesinnottfoundation.org.uk/projects>

- What can you do to support us?
- It costs £25 for a good quality solar radio which provides lessons for at least 10 children.
- The materials and training for a making 5 reusable period pads which last a girl up to 3 years is £5 so if you donate £10 a month that is supporting 24 girls in a year. Once a girl has learned this skill, she can manage her periods independently and with dignity and pride.

- Sign up to a webinar and learn something new or take an hour out just for yourself. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/the-steve-sinnott-foundation-31041261381>

Or maybe you have some learning you want to share with a wider audience? If so, please get in touch. For learning and inspiration you can watch videos of previous webinars here: <https://www.youtube.com/user/sinnottfoundation/videos>

To make a donation: <https://www.stevesinnottfoundation.org.uk/donate>

To join us in supporting access to education for all children everywhere email ann.beatty@stevesinnottfoundation.org.uk

Ann Beatty
Chief Executive
The Steve Sinnott Foundation

Share your smile.
www.SteveSinnottFoundation.org.uk

Change starts with education.

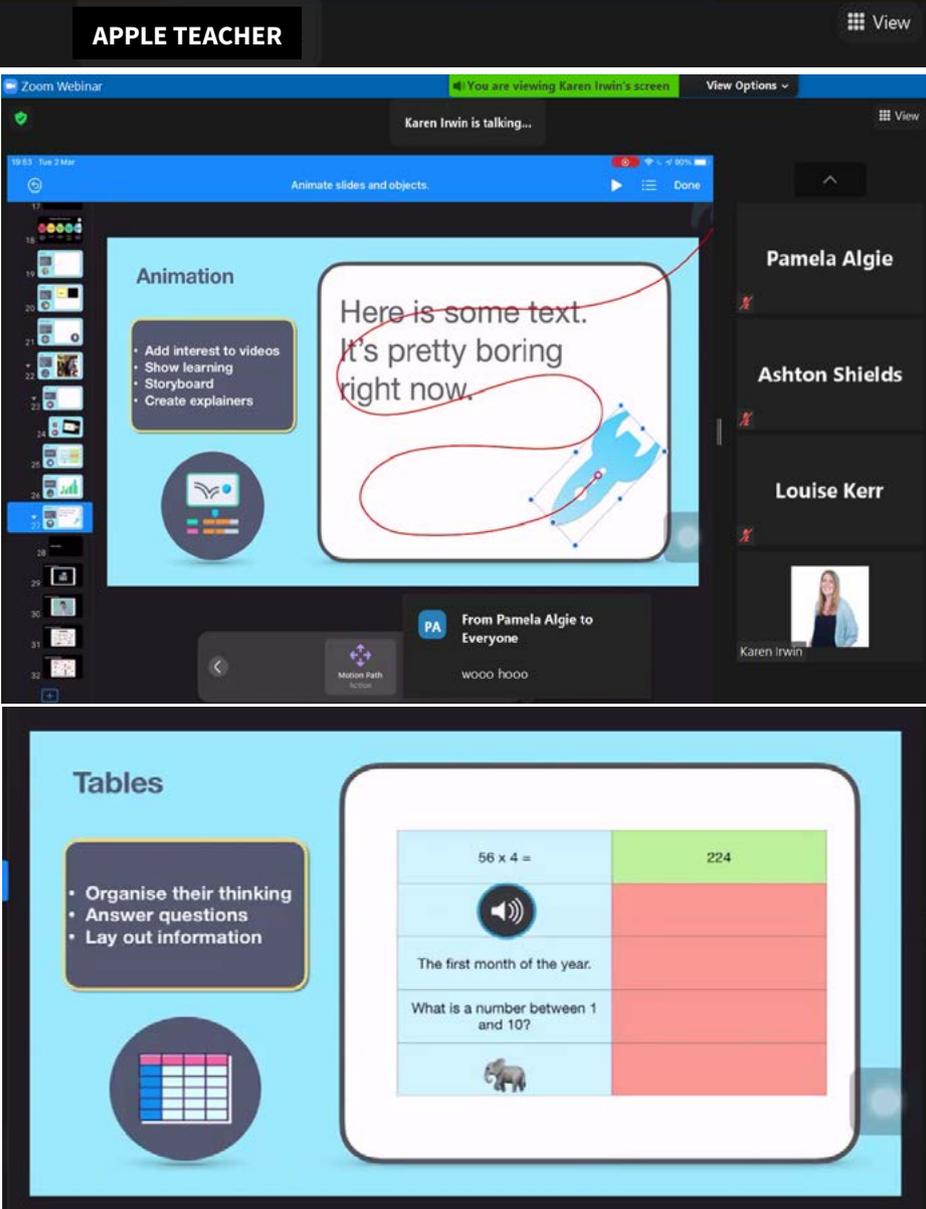


The **UTU Future in Teaching (FIT)** Group welcomed BlendEdNI to speak with UTU members this term and assist them in building iPad skills and completing the Apple Teacher Certificate. With over 700 people registering for the events the turnout has been phenomenal and positively reflects current teacher outlook on the drive to improve skills.

Each week members are encouraged to complete a series of tasks gaining badges towards their Apple Teacher Certificate. Feedback from members has been very positive and we are very grateful to have the BlendEd Team giving up their time to support our members.

Teachers are working tirelessly to produce creative and engaging lessons for pupils with little opportunities for professional development available. To have a team of teachers working together and forming BlendEdNI is incredible, the sessions are not just built for remote learning but also for continued use in a blended learning environment as we move back into the classroom. It is important for teachers to be learning from each other and I'm glad the partnership with the UTU and BlendEdNI has been so successful.

Ashton Shields, F.I.T Chair



Congratulations! You've earned the iMovie for iPad badge!

You got 5 out of 5 correct.

You're on your way to becoming an Apple Teacher. Visit [Profile](#) to view your badges and track your progress.

We are exploring further ideas and suggestions for training and hope to bring further webinars to members next term.



TEACHERS SEE BENEFITS OF SMALLER CLASSES INTRODUCED BECAUSE OF COVID

Northern Ireland children are beating the odds to find a positive amid the chaos of Covid, according to teachers.

As social distancing reduces class sizes, teachers are seeing first-hand the benefits that brings and now a new international report is also endorsing the importance of smaller learning groups. “For years we have been calling for smaller class sizes yet time after time we’ve seen teachers juggling growing class sizes with all the negative knock-ons for staff and children,” said Stephen McCord, President of the Ulster Teachers’ Union.

“Indeed, in recent years we have seen a catalogue of cuts too which have brought our schools to their knees.

“This is all despite the fact that more children with an increasing range of complex additional social, learning and behavioural needs are entering the so-called mainstream demanding more and more time and expertise from teachers.

“We have always maintained that class sizes should be smaller so teachers have some chance of delivering to every child the education to which they’re entitled and now PISA, an internationally acclaimed educational research body, is highlighting that.

“Its latest report states the need to resource disadvantaged schools to the same level or higher than non-disadvantaged schools and outlines how this leads to higher achievement in reading in disadvantaged schools. The report also finds that smaller class sizes, with fewer pupils, make an enormous difference to children’s educational attainment.



“The report also finds that smaller class sizes, with fewer pupils, make an enormous difference to children’s educational attainment.”

“Again, and again, we see new international reports set out a compelling case for lower class sizes yet we still we rank highest in Europe with some supersized primary classes. It cannot go on.

“Ironically, as a result of Covid the system has been forced to embrace smaller learning group sizes and both teachers and children are seeing the benefit of that, despite the many other challenges.

“This present situation is teaching us all many things but as we move forward to a post-Covid school I hope the decision-makers will allow us to take this positive with us and facilitate those smaller class sizes.

“We have newly qualified teachers every year who struggle to find teaching positions and are forced to leave Northern Ireland for work. This is a resource we cannot afford to lose.

“Manpower has never been the issue – it’s all about resourcing.”

Learning Without Walls

Northern Ireland Forest School Association work with schools to train teachers to become Forest School Leaders in order to take their lessons outdoors and give children that vital connection with nature.

Due to Covid-19 we are currently engaging with our teachers via zoom but we are also posting a daily activities on our social media pages. These activities don't require any specialist materials and are hoped to help families get outdoors for some fresh air, exercise, quality time and to engage with nature.



If you would like more information on this please visit forestschoolorwards.org or email **Danielle** at danielle@learningwithoutwalls.net



Tin Can Fondue

Make holes around the tin can with 4 at the top and a big hole at the bottom (closed end) of the tin, big enough to fit a tealight through. Break 2 skewers in half and push them through the 4 holes at the top of the can, so they make a cross. Put some tinfoil or a foil tray on the cross. Put the tealight in the bottom and light. Place a piece of chocolate or 2 into the foil and let it melt. Then dip in some yummy food, marshmallows, strawberries etc.



Stick Tower

Collect some sticks and build a stick tower. Work together to build a big one or turn it into a competition and see who can build the biggest tower. How many sticks will you use?



Education for a Fair and Sustainable World: Helping schools across Northern Ireland bring global learning into their classrooms



Supported Partnerships are designed for schools that are new to international collaboration and would prefer to start their global learning journey without applying for grant funding.

A cluster of no more than five NI schools will pair with a cluster of international schools and work together on a project linked to a Sustainable

Development Goal (SDG) that's related to Cop26 - the United Nation's Climate Change Conference that's being held in

Scotland during November 2021.

The project will be delivered during one term, starting in April 2021, followed by a final evaluation activity.

Global Learning Schools NI and the British Council will help you develop your project through three one-hour webinars delivered by an expert global learning practitioner. You'll be provided with CPD, guidance and general support to bolster your ideas.

If you would like to introduce global learning and the SDGs, as well as COP26 into your classroom or remote curriculum in 2021, our Supported Partnerships programme will meet both your teaching and international collaboration requirements .

Email

schools@centreforgloaleducation.com
for more information.



Primary and Post-Primary Teacher Professional Learning

The Centre for Global Education invites you to participate in our Teacher Professional Learning (TPL) sessions. Discover practical activities to help you engage your pupils in global learning, and build their knowledge, skills and confidence for participating in the world at this challenging time.

THEMATIC AREAS PRIMARY	
Promoting Mutual Understanding through Inquiry & Mapping	Introduction to Facilitating Pupil Action Projects
Communication & Literacy through a Global Learning Lens	Adding a Global Learning Dimension to Topic Based Learning
STEM for a Fair & Sustainable World	Eco-Schools: A Global Dimension
Global Learning at Foundation & Key Stage 1	Teaching Controversial Issues from Multiple Perspectives

THEMATIC AREAS POST-PRIMARY	
These workshops are relevant across all subject areas but may be of particular interest to teachers of Geography, STEM, LLW and Religious Education.	
Connected Learning: Using 'the Global' to Make Connections	Introduction to Facilitating Pupil Action Projects
STEM for a Fair & Sustainable World	Eco-Schools - A Global Dimension
Fact or Fiction?: Teaching Global Issues in a Digital World	Teaching Controversial Issues from Multiple Perspectives
The training sessions will be facilitated by one of our experienced trainers.	

Tailored Content

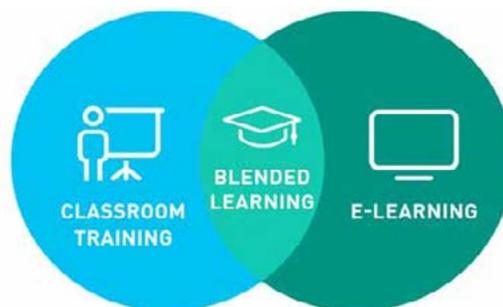
We can tailor free TPL sessions and package and deliver them in a way that is realistic and practical for you and your colleagues. During these sessions you'll be provided with:

- **practical global learning activities that can be delivered to students virtually and through blended learning approaches**
- **a chance to focus on a thematic area of your choice**

If you'd like to learn more **register your interest** at schools@centreforglobaleducation.com

Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning

All TPL sessions are provided as part of the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme, funded by the British Council and the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. To find out more about the wider programme and the funding and free support options available for your school, visit: www.britishcouncil.org/connectingclassrooms or email schools@centreforglobaleducation.com to find out how the programme can benefit your school.





 **ULSTER TEACHERS' UNION**

WHY JOIN?

SUPPORTING **ALL** THE TEACHERS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

The Ulster Teachers' Union is the only union based in Northern Ireland for the teachers of Northern Ireland. Our Headquarters are in Belfast and are staffed by highly experienced officers and administration staff who work only in Northern Ireland. They are therefore completely familiar with all issues relating to education in the Province and are readily available to answer calls and provide support at meetings.



Legal Protection and Advice

From a local Union with our headquarters based in Belfast



Only pay when you work

No salary, no fee - but still hold full rights of membership



Membership Plus Discounts

Access to over 1,500 special offers and discounts

SIGN UP TODAY TO JOIN THE ONLY UNION BASED IN NORTHERN IRELAND FOR THE TEACHERS OF NORTHERN IRELAND



Win a


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Hamper

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