

IC Dungannon

Dungannon

A College at the Heart of the Community'

Integrated College Dungannon (ICD) was founded in 1995 due to the demand from parents for the provision of integrated education. The college motto 'Alumni in Sociis' means 'Learning Together'. From its humble beginnings in a car park beside Windmill Integrated Primary School, ICD relocated to a new build on Gortmerron Link Road, opening its doors there in 1998. When Mr Aidan Dolan, the college's Founding Principal, retired in 2005, Mr Andrew Sleeth, one of the first cohort of teachers employed at ICD, was appointed as Principal.

ICD promotes an ethos carefully nurtured to ensure students will feel safe, happy and supported and thereby ready to learn when they enter the classroom. Caring for and accepting others for who they are promotes a culture of respect which permeates all that takes place in the college. The college's welcoming ethos was acknowledged with the presentation of the SELB Welcoming Schools' Award.



The college cares and caters for the full spectrum of academic ability, setting high academic and behavioural standards for all students. From those who have a Special Educational Need or English as an Additional Language to those who are gifted and talented, maximising learning is a priority. It does not matter where you came from, your religious affiliation nor your ability or disability – all are welcome to be educated together.

While meeting the needs of all, ICD ensures that gifted and talented children are challenged and nurtured to fulfil their potential. One such student, Michal, is testament to this. He received 9 A* grades and 1 B at GCSE, was awarded 100% in GCSE Art & Design and exhibited work at the 'True Colours' exhibition in the Ulster Museum. He received an A in ICT at AS Level before receiving 4 A* grades at A' Level in Mathematics, Physics, Art & Design and Further Mathematics. He achieved second place in Northern Ireland in CCEA Further Mathematics A' Level and now studies at Oxford University reading Mathematics with the aid of a JP McManus All-Ireland Scholarship. He is only one of many successful students from ICD who have studied from an early age in an integrated educational environment, encouraged to respect the ability, religious beliefs and culture of others; taught to have a clear understanding of people and society; and prepared for the world of study and work which lies ahead.

<http://www.intcollege.co.uk/>

Staff at ICD seek to enrich the life of their students outside the classroom too. This enrichment is an integral part of educating the whole child, preparing them for a more fruitful and meaningful life beyond the gates of ICD. The college offers more than 50 extra-curricular activities weekly. The college's commitment to promoting healthy activities for students and staff was recognised with the presentation of a Gold Award from Action Cancer as overall prize winner in the SELB Secondary Schools' Category.

ICD enjoys strong links with local community groups and the college's Social Action Committee encourages students to become involved in community events and to raise funds for local charities. Year 14 student, Katharine, a member of the Social Action Committee, was a finalist in the All-Ireland Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards for overall youth volunteer.

Promoting restorative justice within the college community, Integrated College Dungannon, was the first school in Northern Ireland to establish a fully trained Student Restorative Justice Team.

Minister for Education, Mr John O'Dowd visited ICD and listened to both staff and students explaining how restorative practice is alive in every aspect of college development and life, from the classroom to the college development plan. The Minister was intrigued to learn how the Student Support Team, Staff Support Team, Face to Faith programme, Paired Reading, Mentoring Programme, Social Action Committee, Student Council, the Restorative Team, and many more programmes in the college, are supported by restorative practices.

Speaking during his visit, the Minister congratulated the staff and students of ICD saying, "This school is certainly way ahead of other schools in relation to their restorative practices and I would recommend to any other school that they should pay a visit to this college. This college has reinforced the importance of giving the students the ownership of their learning, their behaviour and the contributions they can make. Students are aware of what the school expects the staff to do with them and vice versa – this is a quiet revolution and in a style that I have not witnessed in other schools. I am aware this is not the only innovative programme you are involved in as I remember your involvement in the project with Greiner Packaging (a reference to 'Project SCool', a project implemented by ICD and local firm Greiner Packaging who supply the college with free heating - one of only ten projects of its kind worldwide). This school thinks outside the box and I am very impressed".

Within the college community, all stakeholders are encouraged to have a say in the running of the college and representatives from the Student Council and Parent Council sit on the Board of Governors. By involving all stakeholders in the development of the college, ICD is truly a college at the heart of its community and has been acknowledged in the community and further afield for its innovative projects.

Nearly twenty years on from the foundation of ICD, built to cater for 500 students, enrolment has grown from 60 students in 1995 to 539 in 2014. Such is the success of the College that plans are afoot to allow the College to grow to an enrolment number of 750 students.