

MALONE MONTHLY

April 2023



MESSAGE FROM MRS MOORE

Welcome to our April newsletter. We are now coming into exam season and I want to wish our year 11-14 students who are sitting external exams all the best in the coming weeks. All we ask is that you do your best and remember that an exam result doesn't define who you are – it is only one piece of the amazing life there is ahead of each of you. I want also pay tribute to all our staff and parents who have worked so hard to get our learners to this stage of the year.

We are also looking forward to our 25th Anniversary events later this term, culminating in our event on the 23rd June – I look forward to seeing all our past pupils and staff at this – I cannot believe it's been 25 years since we opened the College! Despite the scepticism we faced back in 1997, we have continued to grow from strength to strength to make Malone an oversubscribed school in our community. Roll on the next 25 years!

ESSENTIAL EXAM KIT

We are delighted to be able to provide our senior students with a complete exam kit to equip them with all the necessary equipment to help them achieve their best. We would like to remind students of the importance of punctuality in all exams, no smartwatches or lids of calculators are permitted inside the exam hall, water is allowed but the label must be removed before entering. We wish everyone all the very best in the upcoming exams.



GOOD FRIDAY AGREEMENT 25TH ANNIVERSARY PROJECT

A selection of our pupils participated in the Good Friday Agreement Project 'The Possible exists within the Impossible' organised by Narrative 4 and led by Colum McCann, an award-winning Irish author and founder of Narrative 4. Colum addressed the pupils during a live zoom and took any questions the group had about the project.

Students from all participating schools in Dublin, Limerick and Belfast came together virtually to share in a virtual story exchange. This was an immersive experience designed to cultivate empathy and create connections across differences.

For the main event the pupils travelled to QUB on the 17th April for the opening day of the Good Friday Agreement commemoration conference. They passed through security before getting in position to hand out booklets with an extract of Senator George Mitchell's speech, written to commemorate 25 years since the signing of the agreement.

The pupils shook hands and got photos with Joe Kennedy Jr amongst other international and local political figures and VIPs. Speakers at the conference included the former president of the United States, President Bill Clinton, the Chancellor of QUB, secretary Hillary R. Clinton and Tony Blair.



INTEGRATION EVENT

Mrs Moore was accompanied by Keely and Gurbani to attend a momentous event celebrating the achievements of Integrated Education and on the progress made since the signing of The Belfast Good Friday Agreement. They enjoyed meeting Tanaiste Micheal Martin and Secretary of State Chris Heaton Harris. A big thank you to the girls for attending the event to represent our school during their Easter holidays.



EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO BARCELONA

The Easter school trip to Barcelona was a huge success and a fantastic experience for everyone involved. We were blessed with blue skies and 20-degree heat for the duration. Each day was packed with fun-filled activities.

On day one, we enjoyed a guided bus tour of Barcelona's famous tourist attractions. Mr Clarke particularly enjoyed his stroll down Las Ramblas! On day 2, we explored the ancient Roman city ruins of Tarragona and had a lovely lazy few hours soaking up the sun on its beautiful beach. Day 3 was spent screaming on the rollercoasters at the theme park Port Aventura. Not for the faint-hearted! On day 4, we set off early to visit Nou Camp football museum and stadium. Unfortunately we didn't see any Barcelona FC players in the flesh, however Mr Fulton made friends with the academy's Director of Football! Afterwards, we enjoyed a stroll around the impressive Parc Guell which is home to many masterpieces designed by the famous Catalan architect Antonio Gaudi. Our trip finished off with a visit to the affluent Port Vell area and Barcelona's aquarium.

Many memories were made throughout this cultural, social and linguistic experience. New friendships were formed and existing relationships strengthened. I would like to pay tribute to our amazing pupils. They were a credit to themselves and their families. Their behaviour was impeccable at all times and we were so proud of how they conducted themselves. Great ambassadors for Malone!

I would also like to give a big shout out to my lovely team of leaders. Thank you to Mr Fulton (our reliable photographer and cameraman), Mrs Clegg (the 'mummy' of the group), Miss O' Hara (the early morning wake-up call), Mr Rosato (the assistant interpreter) and last but not least, the comedy legend that is Mr Clarke! So many laughs had by all.

A special time. Hasta la próxima

Ms McIntyre



INTEGRATED CUP

It was our pleasure to host the 'Integrated Cup' with many Primary Schools from all over Northern Ireland attending. Well done to Cranmore IPS for organising the event.



YOUTHLINK

Our Post 16 students started working on the Forth Meadow Project with Youth Link in September 2022. The project focused on building skills such as teamwork and communication in order to create a social action to help the school community. We raised money for local charities by taking part in a number of activities including a sponsored marathon. The project has come to an end and we are proud of all the pupils who took part. A big thank you goes to Darren and the Youth Link Team for all their hard work.



25 YEARS OF INTEGRATION CELEBRATION WITH CRANMORE PS

Pupils from 8E have worked hard since January with local actress, Antoinette Morelli. Collaborating with Cranmore's P7 class, they created a thought-provoking performance to celebrate 25 years of integrated education in South West Belfast. The show was performed on Friday 21st of April and was enjoyed by family members from both schools. Thank you to Antoinette and to our friends in Cranmore who made the experience so special!



WORK EXPERIENCE WITH PAT JAMISON

Year 12 attended an experience of work talk from Pat Jamison from Sentinus on Monday 24th April. The workshop is aimed at Years 10-14 to raise awareness of careers within specific areas.

It covered not only the academic requirements for careers but covered the other essential employability areas including skills, attitude, determination, presentation, research and personality.





BEING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMPETITION

Big congratulations to Katie who has won joint 3rd Place for the 'Being Entrepreneurial' schools competition run by Ulster University. Students were tasked with coming up with a 5 slide presentation to pitch a new business or product.

ZOO VISIT FOR TRAVEL & TOURISM STUDENTS

The year 13 Travel and Tourism students are using Belfast Zoo in their customer service coursework. They had a presentation by John Fisher about how the Zoo look after staff and customers. After the presentation the students met the resident snake 'Sam' a 6 year old Python. Thank you yo John and the Zoo for their help with the students' assignments.



QUEEN'S SENIOR ACADEMY PROGRAMME 23/24

Congratulations to Year 13 students, Jethro A, Eimear B, Laura B, Ernis M, Toni N, Yucheng S, Sandhya S who have been accepted onto the Queen's academy programme next year. The students underwent an application process, including an application form and online meeting.

Each student will now receive study skills help, university application guidance and 18 hours of free tuition for one subject.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR ENGLISH

- Unit 1 English Language- May 12th
- Unit 4 English Language- May 31st
- English Literature (Y11)- May 17th
- English Literature (Y12)- May 24th
- Every Tuesday- Unit 1 revision for Year 11s



Like many others, at the start of the Covid lockdown period, an immediate response was needed with Google being the chosen platform.

Post-Covid, the leadership team were determined to build on what had been achieved, through the 'Covid Keepers', and to prepare their young people for the future, that is, wanting them to be skilled and ready for a world in which technology is of huge significance in the workplace. As part of this process, they looked at what big businesses in NI need, to identify any potential skills gaps, and to ask the question: "Can we fill the gaps in our curriculum?" Their approach was shaped by the '10X Economy', an economic vision for a decade of innovation published by the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland, with the ambition that Malone's pupils would have an advantage in job interviews.

The use of technology in the College was audited and needs were identified. This led to decisions to: – build up staff skills in various platforms/apps; – improve digital communication with parents through the use of QR codes on their smartphones to:

- keep them involved and aware of what their children were doing in College;
- make them aware of homework set;
- equip pupils with the skills they needed in respect of using the Google suite, including Google Classroom, and various apps used in school and at home to communicate back and forth effectively;
- support the Erasmus programme involving Bulgarian, Slovak and Italian school partnerships through 'Slack' (a productivity tool where organised spaces called channels [a different one for everything that users work on] through which the people, messages and files related to a topic are kept in one place). This was used to share ICT experiences and stories. The College has since progressed to Facebook for this purpose;
- support improvements in wellbeing/reduce anxiety improve attendance through digital/other channels, such as:
- the Stem 4 app for managing anxiety/self-harm among teenagers which is advertised around the school in QR codes in the toilets, corridors for which pupils can use their smartphones in order to overcome any home 'device deficit' that may exist;
- the Text a Nurse service , which is heavily used by pupils – a service launched by the NI Public Health Agency – a secure, confidential text messaging service to a school nurse for advice/support; • the Self-harm Intervention Programme 8 (SHIP) in NI which provides those who self-harm with quick access to support and counselling; and
- Lighthouse, Belfast and – the Belfast South Community Resources (BSCR) – the Digital Hub, which offers a variety of equipment including 3D printing, laser cutting, coding, photography, STEM activities, and sublimation.

The College reports that significant progress has been made in respect of: –

Staff:

- undertaking collaboration and professional learning conversations more frequently;
- using the Google suite including Google Classroom heavily and Google Translate alongside applications like Bedrock, Poll Everywhere (good for moderating live responses), Kahoot, Seneca Learning and others;
- routinely attending webinars as a form of TPL;
- attending meetings virtually, whereas they would have been unable to undertake distant and expensive travel;
- wanting to learn more and being more inquisitive/ reflective;
- being empowered to show leadership through the digital leader programme; and
- providing feedback online.

Pupils:

- using smartphones for educational purposes particularly where they might not have a PC or laptop at home and/or where wi-fi is an issue, and being given access to expensive technologies like the Adobe suite for free to help develop opportunities in graphic design;
- finding applications like Bedrock particularly helpful as they can see simpler wording for questions;
- handing in homework digitally through Google Classroom rather than on paper (with the associated environmental benefits of reduced printing etc.);
- becoming far more engaged, active learners;
- being empowered to show leadership through the digital ambassador programme;
- closing the IT skills gap to match what employers want, in particular addressing this by working with Amazon on programming training, especially for girls (the College, like many others, have had to bridge the gap in respect of the potential disconnect between the computing curriculum and the 'downgrading' of digital literacy; teaching pupils skills in the use of Excel and Word); and
- benefiting from business links through which they are gifted laptops and wi-fi or from the 'tablets for families' scheme.

All stakeholders and community groups:

- Google Translate being of real significance in support of the College's Language Ambassadors in an institution with 35+ languages spoken;
- the SIMS Parent app allowing children's attendance to be monitored; and
- a local primary school being in receipt of access devices for their families to use.



The College makes good use of the Safer Schools app and CPOMS which cater for pastoral needs, and for which parents get a code when they download the app for their child's year group. This has been of particular benefit in tracking pupils who have come from other schools, with data used to manage interventions. The Management Information System is also used to manage student homework. Collectively, these technologies assist in identifying the need for interventions like the homework club which benefits those struggling to work at home, encourage attendance and pick up difficulties, like a lack of hardware access.

The College is also strong in respect of assessment for learning with each student tested academically and pastorally using Cat 4, and in some subjects being given an alpha test at the start of the year which informs staff as about setting both academic and vocational targets.

The College identifies the specific need of each student, enabling them to be taught at an appropriate level, with the choice between vocational and academic subjects being made with each student. One outcome of this data-driven approach has been a rapid growth in the GCSE pass rate which has been positive for both staff morale and for incentivising pupils.

In conclusion, the judges felt it was clear that Malone Integrated College is on a very successful journey to embed the use of digital technology in collaboration and professional learning in a school with significant challenges in terms of local disadvantage and deprivation. What they are doing is clearly having a very positive impact on learning, with the clear progress achieved. The approach is well planned, relevant to its context and coherent, and clearly involved the whole school. It scored well on all judges' scorecards and was deemed to be 'Highly Commended' in the Post-Primary Category.

Dr Mark Browne, Permanent Secretary of Education, acknowledged the high-quality use of ICT to enhance the Teaching and Learning within Malone Integrated College when he wrote to Mrs Moore and stated

"I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to your school on receiving 'Highly Commended' at the ICT Excellence Awards 2022.

I understand you have been on a very successful journey to embed the use of digital technology in collaboration and professional learning.

Your achievements are to be commended, with a very positive impact on pupils' learning as a result of the well planned, relevant to its context, coherent and all-encompassing approach to the use of digital technology."





ATTENTION ALL PAST PUPILS

To celebrate our 25 years
we invite you to a
NIGHT OF NOSTALGIA

COME AND VISIT YOUR OLD SCHOOL,
MEET THE STAFF AND CATCH UP WITH
YOUR OLD FRIENDS

FRIDAY
23RD
JUNE

MALONE INTEGRATED
COLLEGE
45 FINAGHY ROAD NORTH
BT10 0JB
028 90381988

6.30PM
-
8.30PM

**REMEMBER TO FOLLOW US ON
ALL OUR SOCIAL MEDIA
PLATFORMS TO SEE
EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENS
AT MALONE DAILY!**

