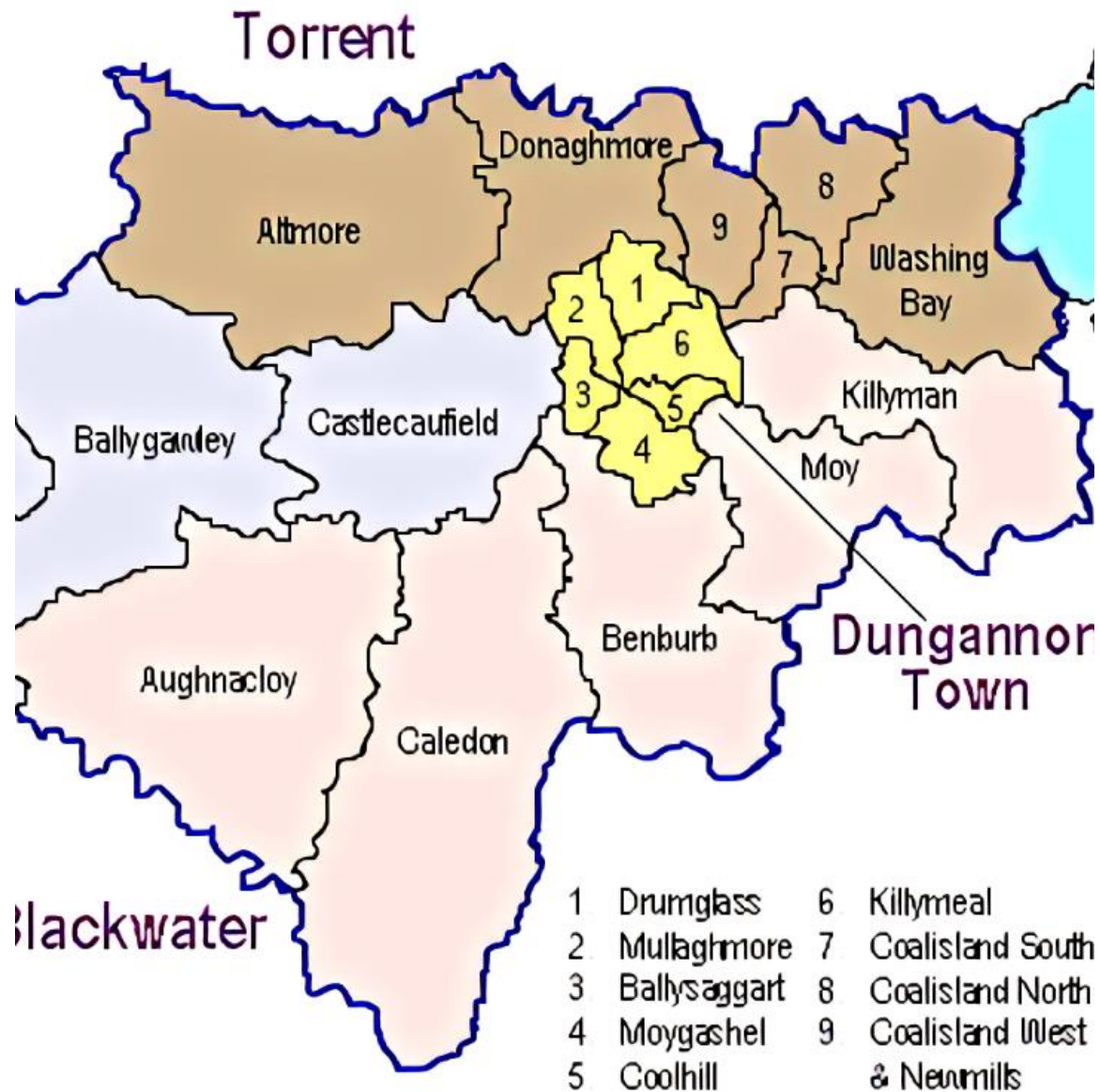




# Careers Connections Programme

St Patrick's College,  
Dungannon



# ABOUT US

- St Patricks College is an all ability Post Primary school in Dungannon, serving students from 11 – 18 years old. We have a school population which includes 53% of newcomer students. Many of these students require support in making connections with local business and industries, as they lack local and familial connections, which many of us take for granted

# STARTING WITH THE WHY?

- We decided to launch a Careers Connection programme, primarily, to support pupils in Yr 12 and Yr 14, who were uncertain of their career goals.
- We wanted in particular to support Yr 12 students, who did not want to progress into A Levels and didn't know which career avenue to go down.
- We had a group of Yr 12's at the time who knew they wanted to go into the skills sector, but not which area. So we wanted to provide a platform for them to connect with company's and the industries within the skills sector. We wanted them to both find out about the range of opportunities, what work in each of the fields would involve and especially make links for the future.



# ACTIONS

- **Year 1** - 8 local companies/business took up the opportunity to become involved in the Careers Connections programme.
  - 36 students in the first year attended an introductory session. This involved meeting with the range of companies/business' hearing about the work, opportunities and entry requirements.
  - Students then signed up to the particular company they wanted to connect with.
  - The next stage was for one to one opportunities to meet the employer and discuss skills and courses that would lead to opportunities in the area students had selected.
  - The students then had one to one sessions to review CV's and also advice for interviews – followed by mock interviews.
  - Groups of students then had a day visit to the industry/business within their chosen areas – this was followed by a week of work experience.
  - The close to the programme was applications for jobs and apprenticeships.
- **Year 2:** 42 students with 7 companies with the same format.
- **Year 3:** 121 Year 12 students with 8 companies

- **The feedback from students and employers was that this programme enabled an opportunity for identifying skills and potential talent on the part of the employer, and built confidence and awareness in career avenues.**
- **Since the launch of the programme we have supported students in securing the following over the 3 years:**
- **52 students securing Level 2/3 Apprenticeships**
- **10 pupils securing Higher Level Apprenticeships**

# **POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR ALL**

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# IMPACT

- As a school we wanted to progress a whole school strategy for careers. As a consequence, 3 subject departments also organised career networking events linked to their subject offer to provide platforms for students to make informed choices and identify their career goals. This included STEM, Health & Social Care, ICT and English. This has resulted in what we can identify as an informed student body, who know that their outcomes are linked to progression for courses linked to their career choices.
- In the 2022/23 academic year we hosted a Careers Fair attended by 49 companies and 250 students attended.