

ST PATRICK'S



ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE



Annual Review
2014

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Principal's statement

The past 12 months have been challenging and rewarding as we consolidated the rapid growth of St Patrick's College. I am extremely proud of all the time and effort that has been invested by our staff in raising the standards of the educational experience we provide for our students.

We strive to provide a quality experience for our learners, which is why we have an online library accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. All of our lectures are online, thus providing a superb revision tool for our learners. We also have a fully staffed learning centre available on demand to assist with students' learning needs.

We have also concentrated on student engagement and a bigger role for our Student Council. I feel confident in saying that the improvements we have made and continue to make are in the best interests of our student body. Our students remain at the forefront of every important decision we make. One thing in particular that we have focused on is student events. We are proud of the fantastic work our students produce, and I strongly believe that providing them with a platform to showcase their achievements can only act as further encouragement. Our fashion show at Stratford Circus is just one of our astounding successes, and was attended by over 200 people. We have also held an entrepreneurs day, where students were able to showcase their fledgling businesses to some 400 staff and students who attended the event.

As well as helping our students, we also work hard to do well by our local community. Last year saw the launch of our partnership with Newham Workplace, which opened up local vacancies to our students and gave those struggling to enter work the opportunity to undertake work experience at our Stratford campus. This allows us to build strong relationships with our campus' neighbouring areas, and highlights the positive impact we can have.

The purpose of St Patrick's throughout its 200 year history remains steadfast. We have:

1. Pride in our vision to bring the disadvantaged from all walks of life into learning.
2. Passion for people to make a better life for themselves and their family.
3. Prejudice must be thoroughly rejected and people should be judged on their merits, not their social background, colour, or race.
4. Pleasure in the success of our students.
5. Profit as the contribution they give back to society.

We are in the process of further developing our Aspirations Initiative, which sees successful businessmen and women invited into the college to offer invaluable career advice to our students. This greatly helps prepare them for the working world after St Patrick's. We will also be offering a range of master's degree programmes, executive courses, and continuing professional development courses.

I look forward to the year ahead as St Patrick's continue to develop, not only as an educational institution but as a major contributor to the London community in terms of social mobility. We strive to have our students develop self-belief in their abilities, thereby raising their hopes, aspirations and achievements.



Professor Daniel Khan OBE



About us

Founded in 1803, St Patrick's College is a high-quality learning institution that welcomes students from all over the world and all backgrounds to our campuses in London. We offer HNDs, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in a wide range of subject areas, providing students with the skills they need to become successful in their chosen careers.

Mission

Our mission is to empower our students through education and help them to change their lives for the better. We transcend all boundaries to arm our students with the confidence to excel. We provide the best possible education to those who need it at an affordable price. It is our aim to give people from all walks of life the opportunities they need to improve their career prospects.

Vision

Our vision for St Patrick's is to continue widening access to education in society, helping students to improve their employability, and encouraging inclusivity across the sector. With this in mind, we have assembled a world class academic team and dedicated administrative and student services, ensuring the delivery of high quality education. By 2015/16, we aim to be recognised nationally and internationally as a provider of the highest quality education, helping students to become successful employees and achieve their career ambitions.

We will continue to build our relationships within the local community, giving our students the opportunity to gain work experience and internships with businesses in the local area. We also plan to begin establishing new relationships. Our students will graduate and go on to build positive futures for themselves, contributing to their own communities both economically and socially. Over the next few years, our current campuses will also undergo further improvement, creating an even better environment for our students to study and progress in.

Brand Values

Since the founding of St Patrick's in 1803, the school has prioritised providing full access to education to those from deprived areas or backgrounds. We believe strongly in second chances, and our goal of increasing educational opportunities for all goes hand in hand with our dedication to innovation and diversity. At St Patrick's, we:

- Ensure that our students are at the heart of everything we do
- Offer education to everyone with the drive to succeed
- Recognise innovation, diversity, and individual success
- Act with integrity, transparency, and mutual respect
- Aspire to be a model of good equality and diversity practice
- Value the environment and minimise our impact on it

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR



College structure & staff development

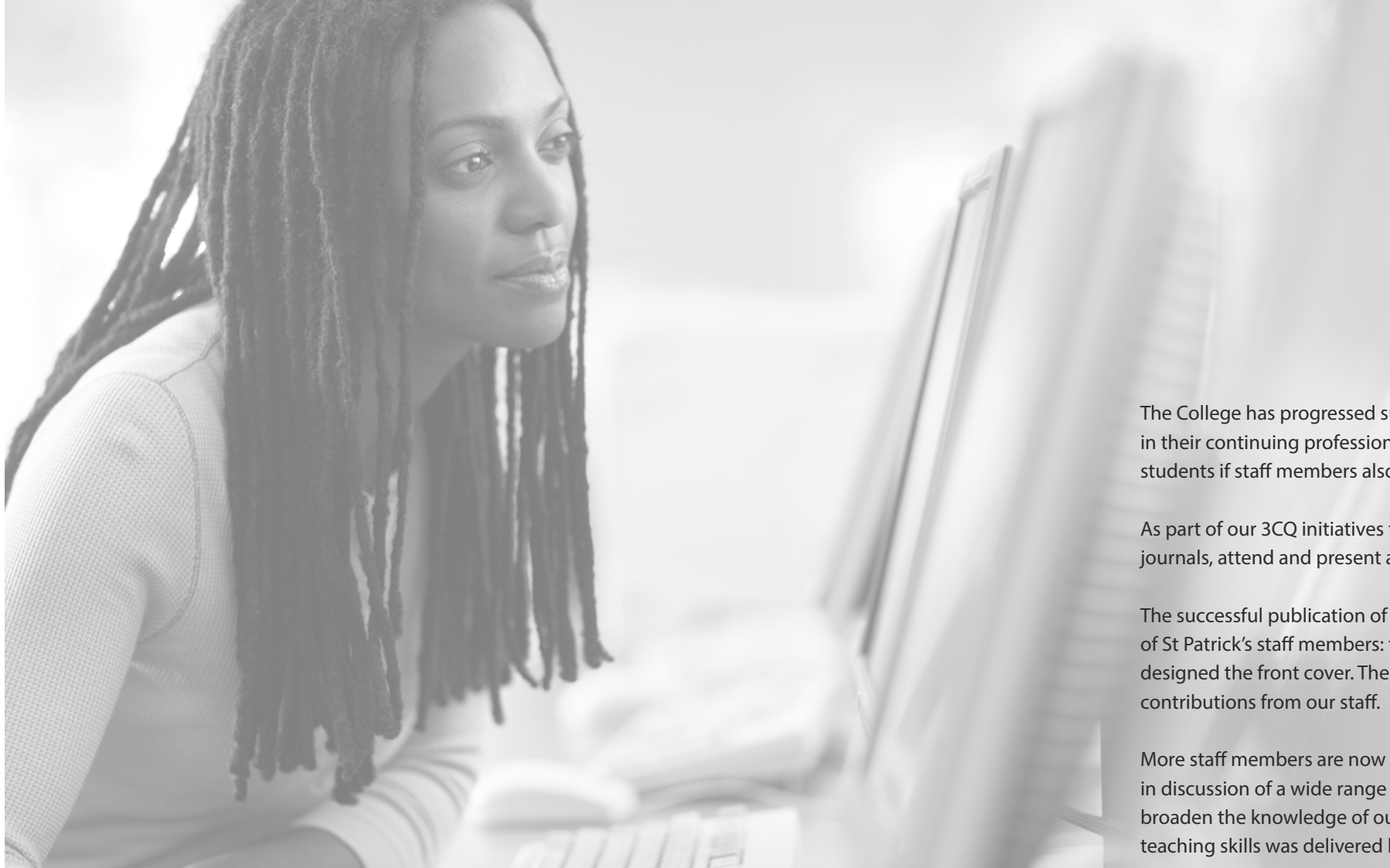
Principal & Chief Executive: Professor Daniel Khan

Vice Principal: Dr Dinesh Bist

Dean of Quality & Standards: Dr Tommie Anderson-Jaquest

Dean of Teaching & Learning: Dr Srikanthan M Govindaraj

Director of Student Experience: Amol Gurung



The College has progressed substantially in its commitment to fully engaging all staff members in their continuing professional development. We recognise that we can only empower our students if staff members also develop their own potential.

As part of our 3CQ initiatives this year, we have encouraged our staff to contribute to academic journals, attend and present at conferences, and acquire additional qualifications.

The successful publication of the first issue of The Patriarch is due primarily to the efforts of St Patrick's staff members: they produced most of the articles, edited the content, and designed the front cover. The second issue is scheduled to be released by July, with even more contributions from our staff.

More staff members are now attending external conferences than ever before, engaging in discussion of a wide range of topics. Internally, the College also provides workshops to broaden the knowledge of our staff; one particularly interesting workshop on improving teaching skills was delivered by a Pearson specialist.

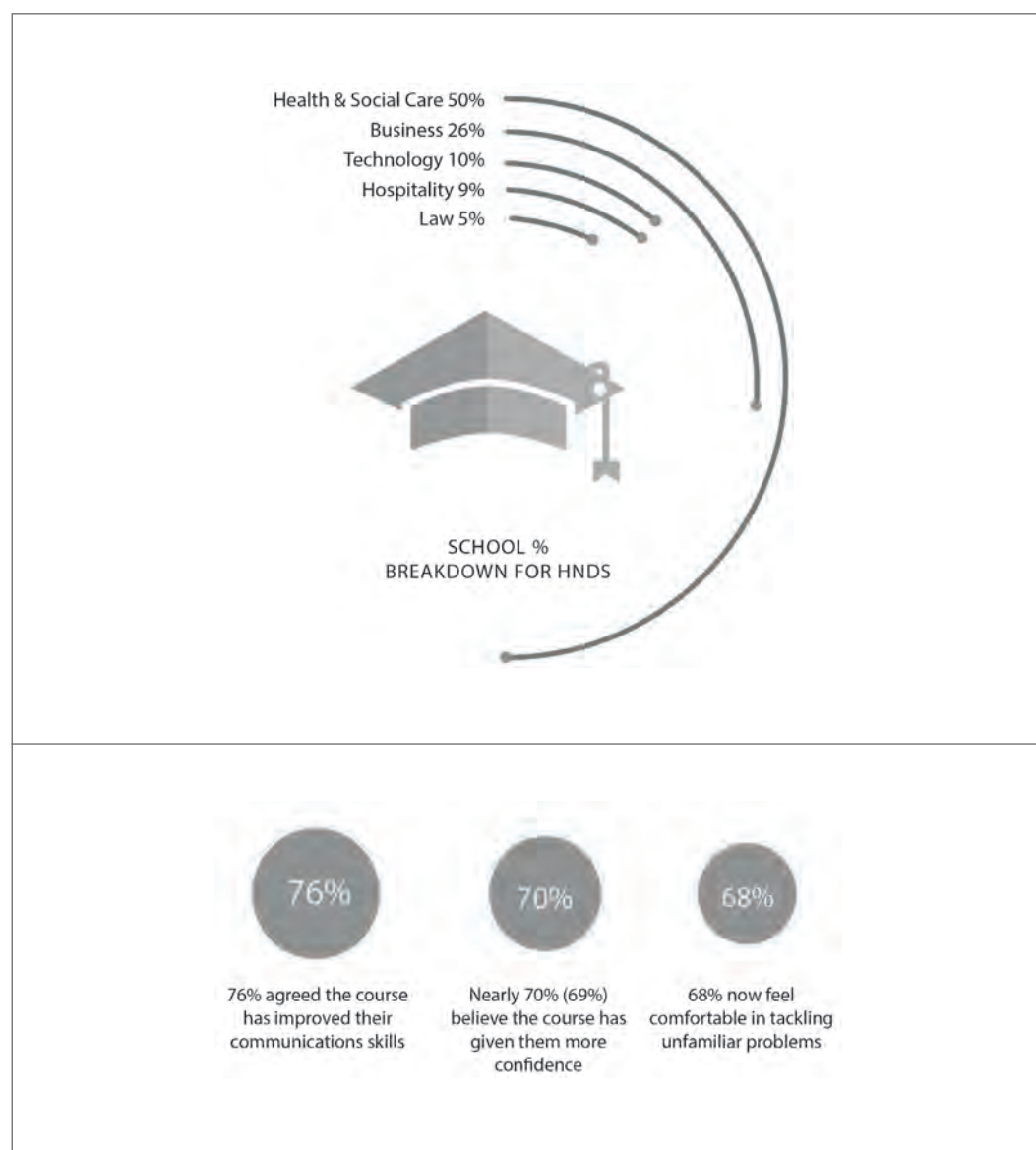
Several staff members are currently pursuing or have recently completed additional qualifications, including two individuals completing their PhDs and three finishing their PGCEs. There are currently four staff members studying for their PhDs, one completing a Professional Doctorate in Education, two finishing their MScs and eleven in the process of gaining a PGCE award.

We thank all of our staff members for their engagement with us, and we look forward to their progress over the next few years.

Our curriculum

St Patrick's seeks to develop itself into a leading provider of higher education and training to an increasing number of learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. We provide access to quality teaching, learning, support, and resources to give them a range of opportunities. Our aim is to improve their chances of forging a better future for themselves, and by extension for their families and communities.

We have a fantastic range of Higher National Diploma (HND) courses, all of which focus on vocational subjects. Each of these two-year courses equips our students with the practical skills they need to enter the world of work or progress onto studying for a Bachelor's degree. We also offer a comprehensive range of postgraduate courses, allowing those who have studied at undergraduate level to deepen their knowledge of their chosen subject and refine the skills that will help accelerate their careers.



Our schools

School of Health and Social Care

In this school, our students are able to learn about the operation of the UK's health and social services, and how to manage these services effectively. Students may go into full-time employment, with postgraduate courses preparing them for more senior positions.

School of Business Management

We offer a variety of HND and postgraduate programmes tailored to educate our students on the methods of managing a business. These courses lay the paving stones of many different career pathways for our students, and they could find themselves reaching success in advertising, marketing, project management, human resources or administration.

School of Technology

This school provides our students with a choice between two HND courses: Information Systems Engineering and Network Engineering and Telecommunication Systems. Each of these courses explore the depths of computer engineering, and will prepare students for a variety of different job roles including programmer, web developer, and network engineer.

School of Law

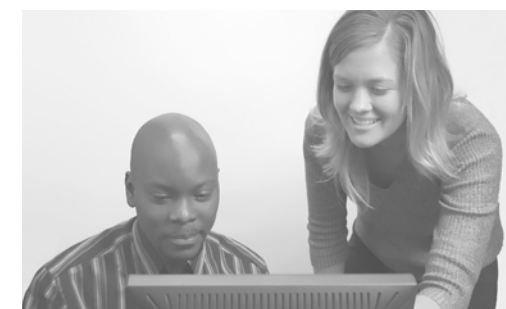
We offer the HNC in Law and the HND in Law. The HNC provides an insight into the English legal system and the institutions, practices, and procedures which form it. Students can progress from the HNC onto the HND, which will develop their understanding. Students will most likely go on to study a Law LLB at university.

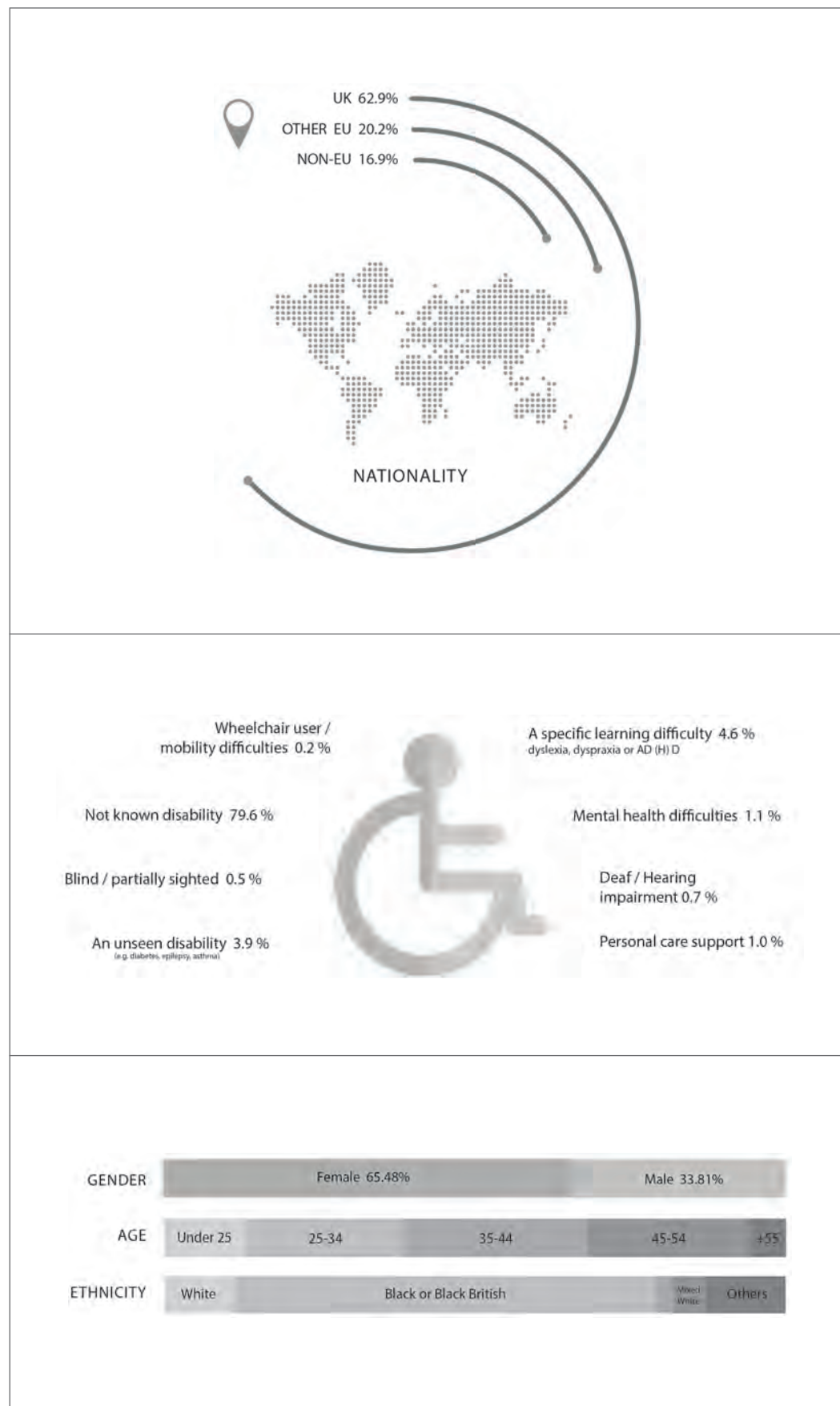
School of Tourism and Hospitality

This school offers the HND in Hospitality Management and the Advanced Professional Diploma in Strategic Hospitality Management. The HND will provide students with the opportunity to continue their studies at a higher level, or take up entry-level positions in the hospitality industry. The APD will prepare students to enter the industry at managerial level.

School of Art and Design

Lastly, we provide students with the opportunity to study a HND in Fashion and Design. Learning a variety of skills including pattern drafting, sewing, and garment design, students will leave confident in their ability to take their education in fashion to the next level.





Accessibility

Our duty of care ensures that students have unrestricted access to our support systems to successfully fulfil their academic and developmental needs. They will receive 24/7 support through St. Patrick's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), the eLibrary, electronic media, or in person whenever the need arises. We have ensured that our specially customised VLE is user-friendly enough for students to access their lecture notes, assignments, case studies and exercises. In addition, they will be able to establish communication with lecturers or participate in debates with classmates.

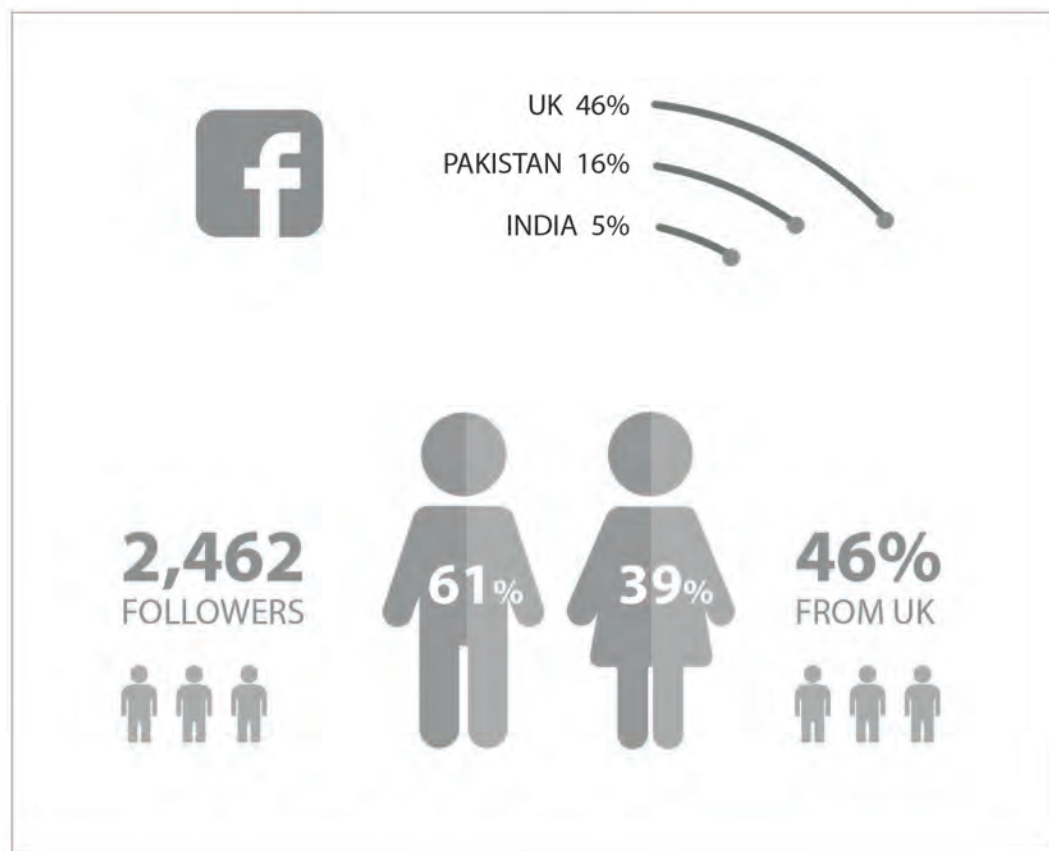
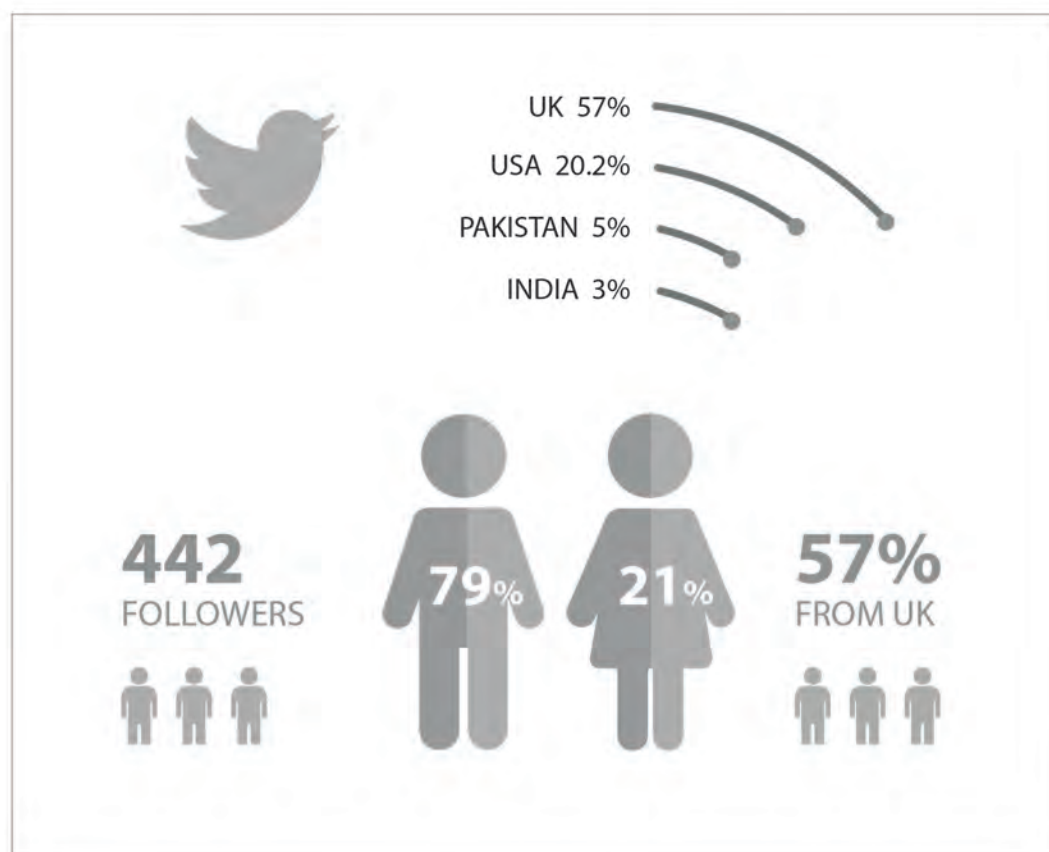
St Patrick's is also considering additional research to further understand the dynamics of widening participation and how success in such groups can be enhanced. This is in line with our belief that educating under-represented groups and providing them with opportunities to improve their lives is the key to happier citizens and a more inclusive, productive society. This is why St Patrick's is further committed to providing free support for an additional three years for students who have not completed their course within the two year programme.

International outlook

St Patrick's has an efficient and ambitious TNE division with the primary aim of securing collaborations for delivery of programmes offshore. Our internationalisation strategy has given us a global presence, attracting students from all over the world to study our programmes. As an example of our international recognition, we recently announced the launch of the International Degree Foundation Programme (IDFP) Business Pathway through Global Education Counselling (GEC). This agreement to build a series of Foundation Pathways will allow students to access over 200 university degree programmes, and we look forward to a close working relationship with GEC.

We also recently welcomed many new international MBA postgraduate students from UniNettuno, who became our partners in 2014. They will be studying a variety of courses, from the Global MBA to International Business Law, and are from over 20 different countries worldwide.

In addition, we will soon be offering three degrees in partnership with Concordia University Chicago (CUC): MBA Healthcare Management, MBA Leadership and Change Management, and MBA School Business Management. We look forward to growing our international profile in the coming years.



Student experience

After just one year, the new Student Experience department at St Patrick's has already made a significant impact with their fresh outlook on student engagement. The Student Council have acted as a vital part of the Student Experience team, facilitating communication between staff and students to discuss how to make the college even better. The new team have orchestrated events throughout the college to enhance the St Patrick's experience from induction to graduation and beyond, delivering on their promises to improve student life within a short space of time. They have produced a number of high-quality academic events and workshops, alongside acquiring beneficial partnerships and extracurricular activities.

Over the past year, they have arranged a health and well-being month, developed an entrepreneurship project, created student work-placement opportunities, a student/staff football team, and initiated elections for a new student council. As the team and St Patrick's as a whole is always keen to listen to the student body, we conduct at least one student survey each year to keep the student experience at the centre of our plans for the college.

These surveys allow us to receive feedback from students in all aspects of college matters, including academic issues, welfare, resources and extracurricular activities. It also allows students to raise any concerns they may have, and make their own suggestions to us. Our latest survey received 840 responses, the highest in the college's history of conducting surveys. The results were interesting, honest, and extremely useful to us. We have taken the results of this survey on board and are looking forward to making the college even better in the near future.

We are committed to the continuous improvement of the college and are always looking for new ways we can enhance the student experience.

Student council

The Student Council comprises of eight student officers who meet once a month to share ideas about how the college can enhance the student experience. These eight officers consist of:

- Council President
- Council Vice President
- International Student Officer
- A student officer from each of the five schools
(Health and Social Care, Business, Hospitality, Technology, and Law)



In addition to the student officers, each class has its own representative. It is the responsibility of the student officers to hold regular meetings with the class representatives to discuss any ideas they may have. These meetings allow the student officers to gain a real insight into the needs of St Patrick's students.

The student officers act as a channel of communication between the student body and the college management. Once per term, the student officers meet with Principal Daniel Khan and other members of management to discuss aspects of student life which students feel can be improved upon. Topics discussed at these meetings can range from facilities and resources to student recreation and activities.

The Student Council plays a vital role in ensuring that the voice of the student body is heard by the senior management team, allowing their views to be taken into consideration when decisions concerning the running of the college need to be made.

Previous decisions influenced and praised by the students include the Student Evolvement Entrepreneurship Development (S.E.E.D) initiative and the increase in career development support for health and social care students.

Communication between the college management and student body has greatly improved since the Student Council has been implemented, and it's apparent that the ideas put forward at council meetings will continue to improve the St Patrick's student experience for years to come.

Student voice

St. Patrick's College has always adopted a student-centred approach in all that we do, and our commitment to enhancing the student experience plays a key part in the College's strategic long-term plans.

We conducted two student surveys in July and November 2014 to receive feedback from students in all aspects of college matters, ranging from academic issues and welfare to resources and extra-curricular activities. It also gives students an opportunity to raise their concerns, let us know they are satisfied, and give suggestions on how to make the college even better.

The findings of the surveys allowed the College to understand how departments contribute to the overall student experience and helped us to identify areas for improvement.

The first Student Council was elected in February 2014, and they have had a positive impact, encouraging growth amongst the student body. The Student Council's role is to act as an effective channel of communication between the student body and college management.

As the new set of council officers take their place in office, a well done is in order for those who took part. We look forward to what they have in store.



Careers



At St Patrick's, we strive to give our students the opportunities and understanding they need to step into a career once they graduate. As well as our courses, which are tailored to provide practical knowledge that they can apply in the workplace, we offer several extra-curricular activities.

Our S.E.E.D. (Student Evolvment and Entrepreneurship Development) workshops were launched in May 2014, fulfilling the need for academic support classes for students who want to improve their skills. The workshops covered topics such as academic writing, using Microsoft Office, and giving presentations.

We also hosted speakers from Capita Education Resourcing (CER), who provided students with an expert understanding of the job application process, with over 125 students attending. They received an in-depth explanation of how to construct a CV, and had the opportunity to have their existing CV's analysed.

Towards the end of the year, we took our commitment to improving student career opportunities to the next level with the Aspirations Initiative. The aim of the project is to provide students with career development and direction whilst on the course, with activities including further CV workshops, a series of talks titled 'Fresh Futures' to give insight into individual professions, and student discussion groups. The initiative also helps students to find course-related placements.

Our aim is to encourage all our students to succeed in their chosen fields, and we are committed to helping each student achieve their individual career goals.

OUR SUCCESS- ES



St Patrick's fashion show

In February, our fashion students took over the Stratford Circus Arts Centre for a show featuring the students' elegant fusion designs, combining Asian, African, Caribbean, Japanese and European culture.

More than 60 student designers, models and make-up artists participated in the event, showing gowns, party dresses, and dramatic theatrical pieces alongside suits and modern daywear for men and women.

Over 200 guests attended, and the show was choreographed and compered by fashion presenter Emma-Louise Maw. The designers were also able to network with invited fashion professionals, with Newham councillor Bryan Collier MBE also in attendance with his team.

Speaking after the event, Cllr. Collier proposed that future students at the College could be offered access to council recreational amenities in support of their health and development needs.

This event was a huge success, and we are extremely proud of all our students for their hard work.

Class of 2014

Our last graduation ceremony was held in the St Giles-in-the-Fields church in Soho. Professor Daniel Khan spoke of how proud he is of the students' achievements, adding that they must inspire others to achieve great things too.

One of St Patrick's graduates has recently done exactly that. After completing her Extended Diploma in Strategic Management and Leadership, one of our students secured a place at INSEAD (the European Institute for Business Administration). She will be studying on their Executive MBA Global programme.

St Patrick's is proud that so many of our students continue to go from strength to strength after graduating, and wish them the best for the future.



Workplace partnerships

Recruitment centre Newham Workplace and St Patrick's have formed a successful partnership to help students find work in their local areas. Newham Workplace offers vacancies to students in the area, as well as help with interviews. In return, Newham residents are welcome to gain work experience at St Patrick's. A similar relationship with Southwark Works will soon be in place for students at our Billiter Street campus.

This is just a small part of our wider programme to improve the employment prospects of St Patrick's students.

Health and well-being 2014

Throughout May, we focused on encouraging staff and students to maintain a healthy lifestyle. St Patrick's held activities and workshops ranging from health check-ups to dance aerobics, as well as partnering with several healthy food brands like Ryvita, Jordans, and Leon. We gave away over 3000 healthy goodie bags.

We feel that ensuring our students are in the best health they can be is part of our responsibility, as it will help them in their studies and in the future.

Football team

Our football teams, 'Green Machine' and 'Patrick's Players', are composed of both staff and students and have been extremely active all year.

They are sponsored by Circle Sports, a social enterprise in London who were visited by HRH Prince Charles early in 2014.

Most recently, our teams took part in the FA People's Cup, making it through to the quarter finals. A series of further matches are planned.



St. Patrick's International College Ltd
trading as St Patrick's College

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