

PAST PUPIL CAREER PATHWAY



Name	Niamh McCartan
Year you joined St Patrick's	2009
Year you left St Patrick's	2016
A Level Subjects and results	Business Studies- A Double Award ICT- A*A
Brief overview about your time at St Patrick's (what are your best memories about school, any specific teachers?)	I have countless, brilliant memories of St Patrick's! Winning netball matches against local rival schools, designing my own dress from scratch for GCSE Art and catching up with the girls on a Monday after the weekend are just a few of many highlights. I loved all the teachers who taught me throughout school, but Mrs Boyle and Mrs Lively are up there as my top two favourites! I always felt like I could approach them with anything.
Degree/course pathway after St Patrick's (include details about placements or any opportunities you availed of or awards you won)	I am a recent graduate of St Mary's University College, Belfast. I completed the 4-year BEd Post-Primary degree programme, specialising in Business Studies with ICT. I completed four teaching practice placements. St Ronan's Primary School, Newry St Paul's High School, Bessbrook St Dominic's Grammar, Belfast Despite enjoying each placement, I saved the best to last, St Patrick's! I am also proud to have been awarded 2nd place in Northern Ireland for A Level Double Award ICT. This taught me that you can do anything you put your mind to! Though, I will always have my A Level teachers to thank for playing such a huge part in helping me achieve this.
What are you doing now? (further study, full time employment, what are your hopes for the future?)	Having graduated from St Mary's University this year, I have moved to Doha, Qatar to teach. Despite being a 'home bird', I wanted to set myself the challenge of moving to the Middle East to be more independent. I have always been fascinated by how people from different parts of the world live as well as their cultures and backgrounds, so I am currently enjoying meeting people from South Africa, Egypt, the Philippines and further afield. I'm even trying to pick up on some Arabic! I hope to eventually move back home to teach in a post-primary school. I would also love to work my way up and one day, become Head of a Business Studies/ICT Department and the form teacher of my own class who I could support during their time at school.
Advice for current students at St Patrick's	Find a healthy balance between your schoolwork, spending time with family, socialising and whatever else you enjoy. Work hard, play hard. When you reach GCSE/A Level, find out exactly what is involved in the subjects you are considering before choosing them. Think about what you love doing and what you are good at, this might help you decide and may help you fall into a career that is right for you. Finally, and most importantly (in my opinion), be yourself! Don't change just to 'fit in', always do you because everyone else is already taken!

