



Taking Boys Seriously Addressing Underachievement Conference

Wednesday 17 October 2018

Jordanstown Campus

Ulster University

WiFi

V number

Password 17-OCT-2018



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Welcome to Ulster University

Professor Raffaella Folli
Provost of the Belfast/Jordanstown campus



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Ice-breaker exercise

Caelan Donnelly
Youth Action Northern Ireland (YANI)



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Opening Address by Project Sponsor

Lost Boys

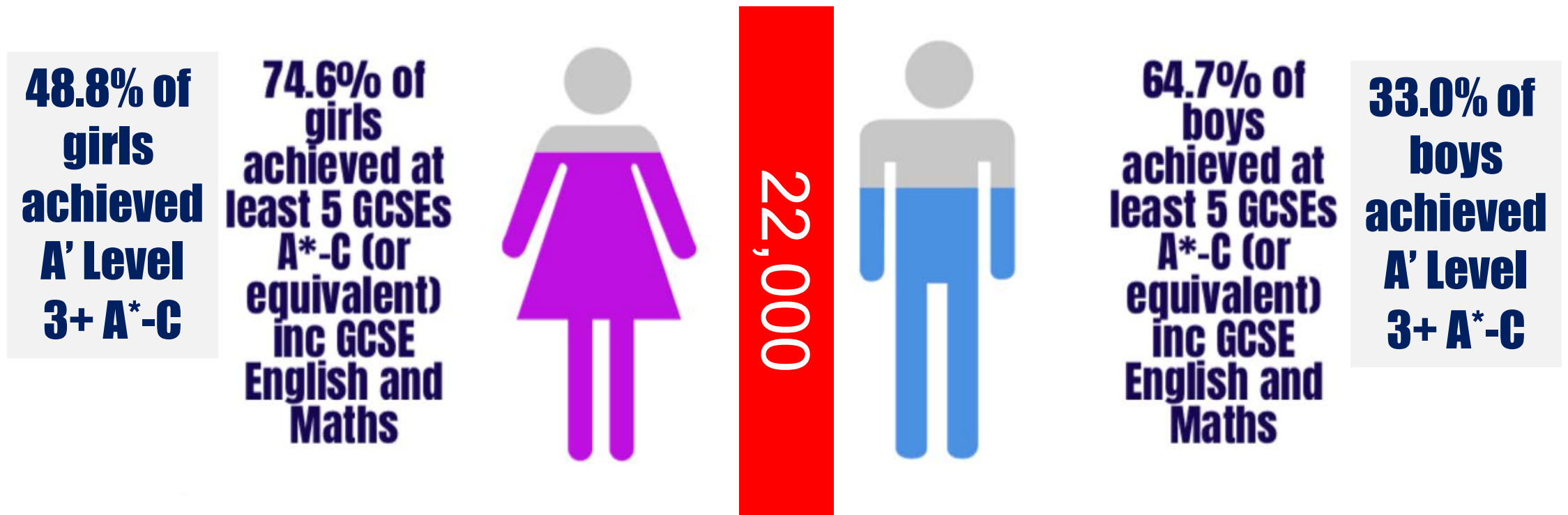
Professor Brian Murphy

Director of Widening Access, Ulster University



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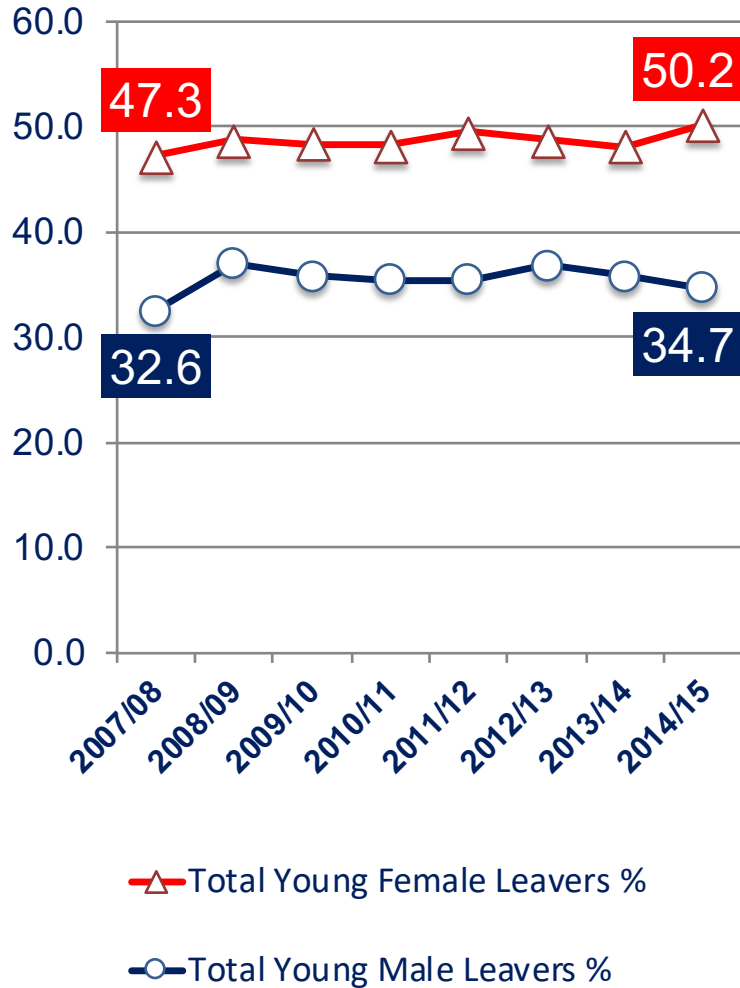
Lost Boys from School



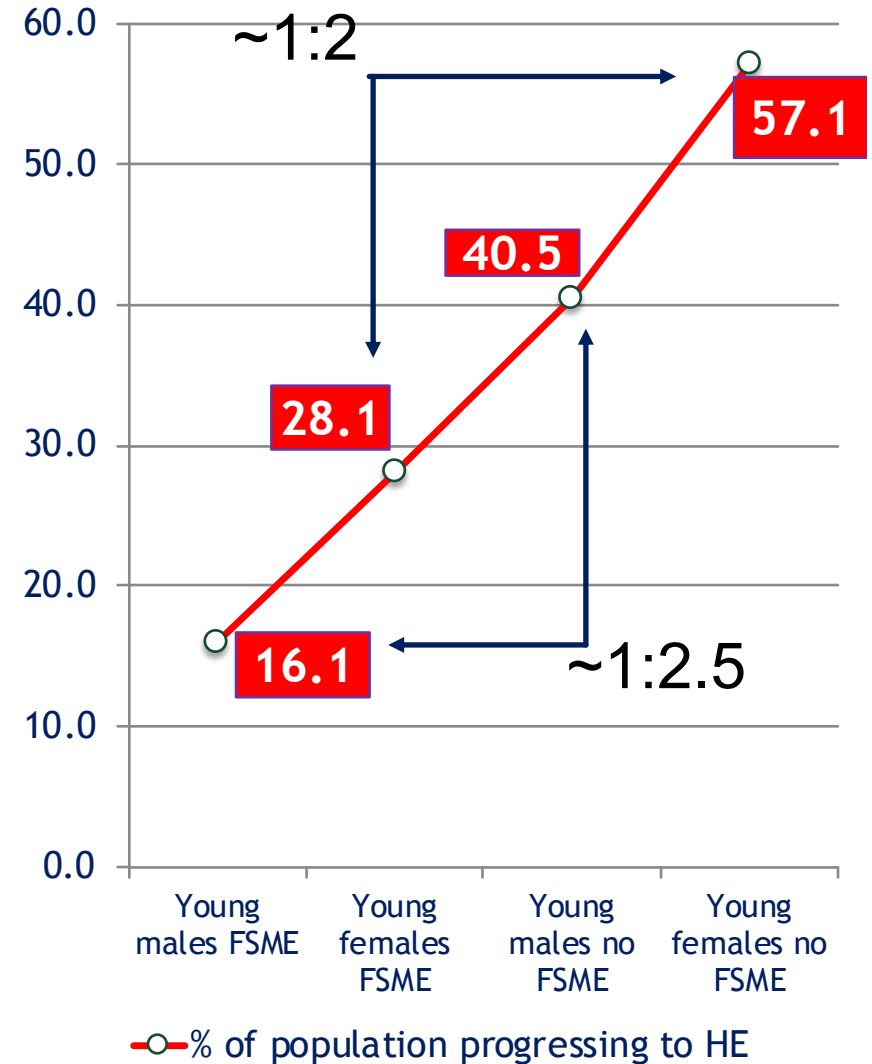
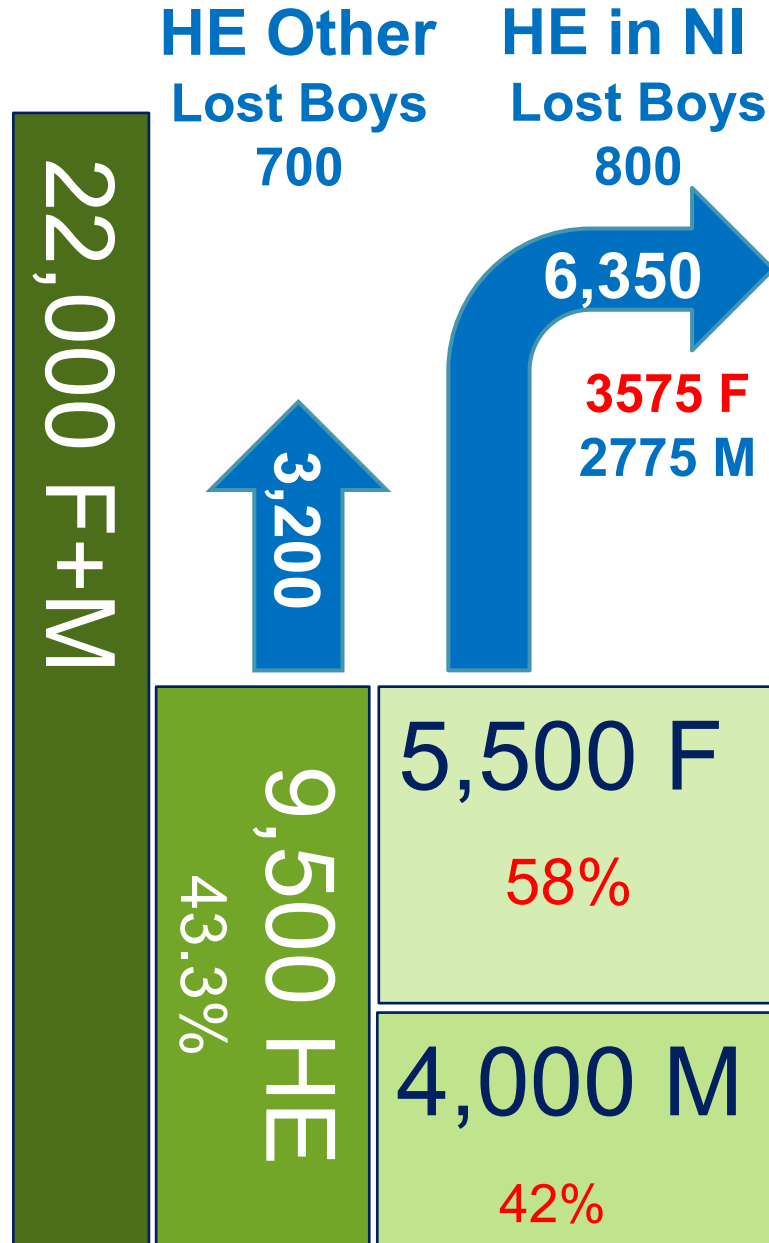
Lost Boys by GCSE ~ 800

Lost Boys by A'Level ~1,520

Lost Boys – University Admissions



Source: NISRA



*Our **Taking Boys Seriously** starts with a philosophy that: 1. it's impossible to separate the psychological, gender, social, and emotional from kids cognitive development; and 2. focusing solely on the academic is insufficient to make a difference.*

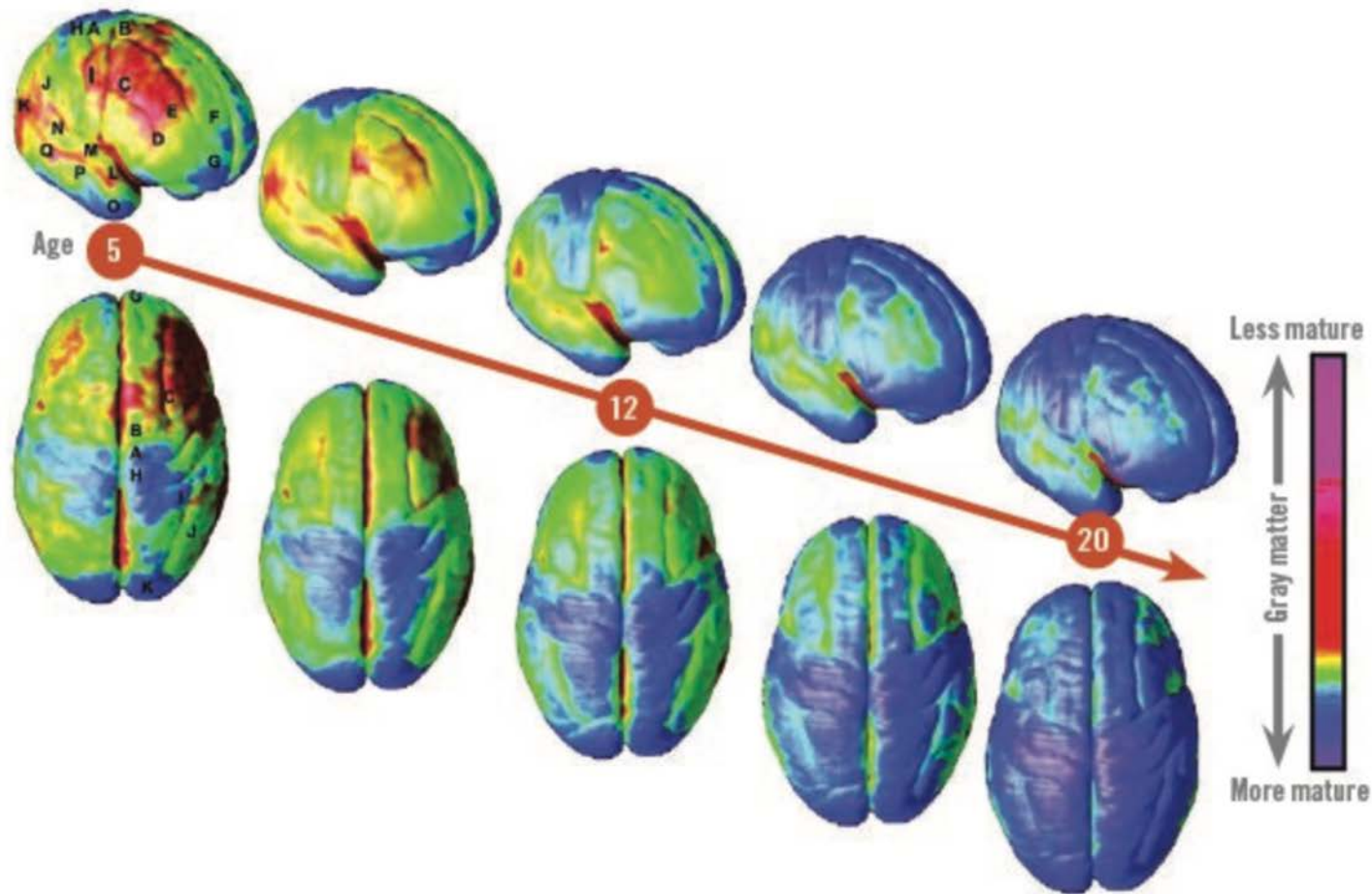
Let's hear what you think?

on your mobile go to ...



Learning Development & Mindset

The Teen Brain: How Schools Can Help Students Manage Emotions and Make Better Decisions

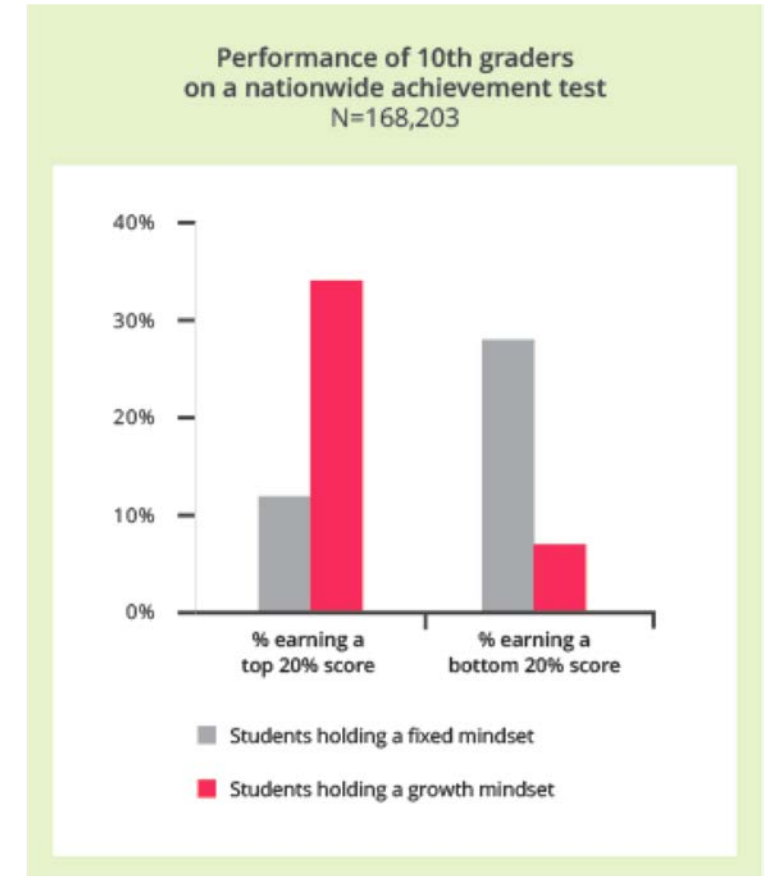
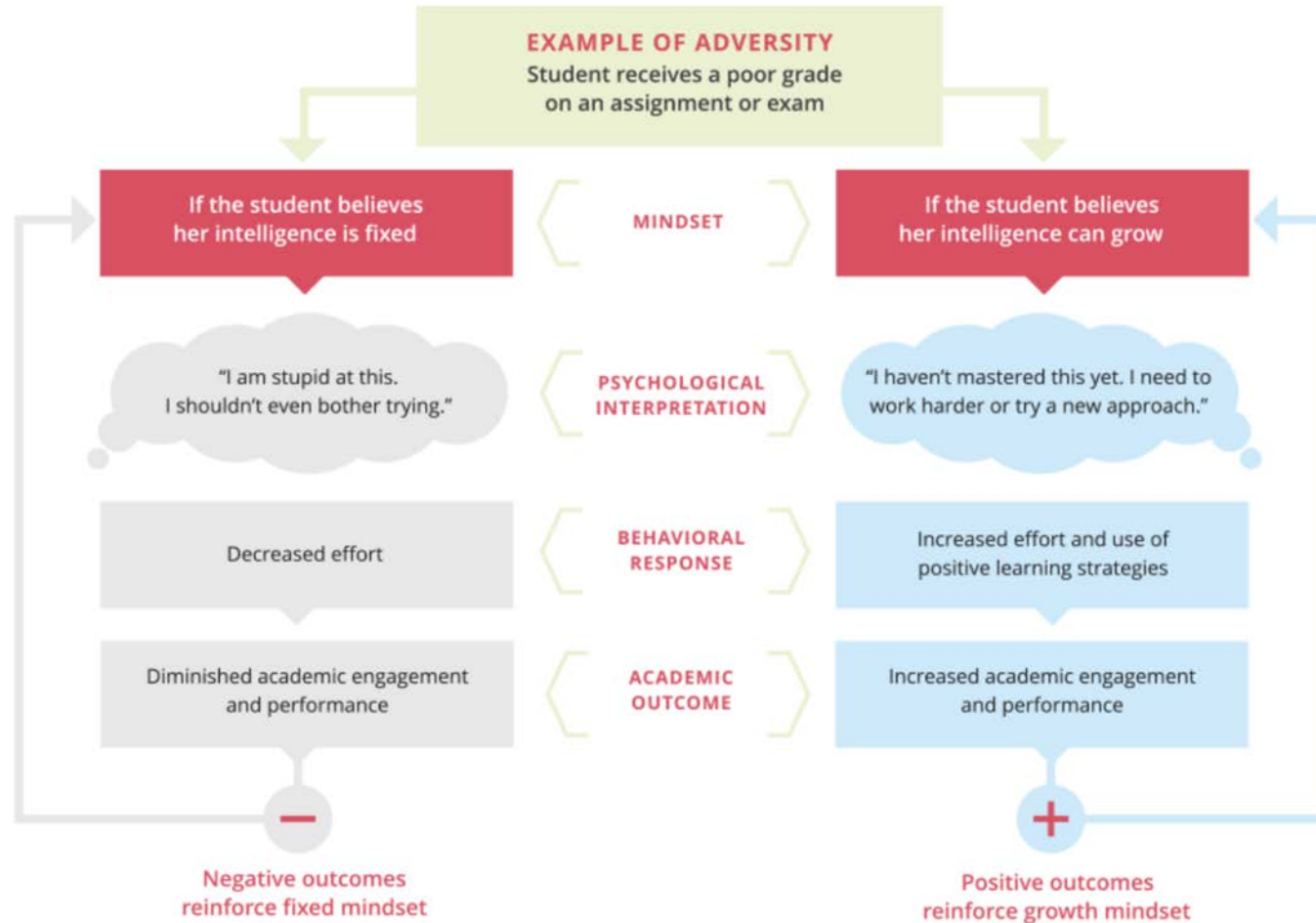


Source: NIMH USA



Taking Boys Seriously - Mindsets

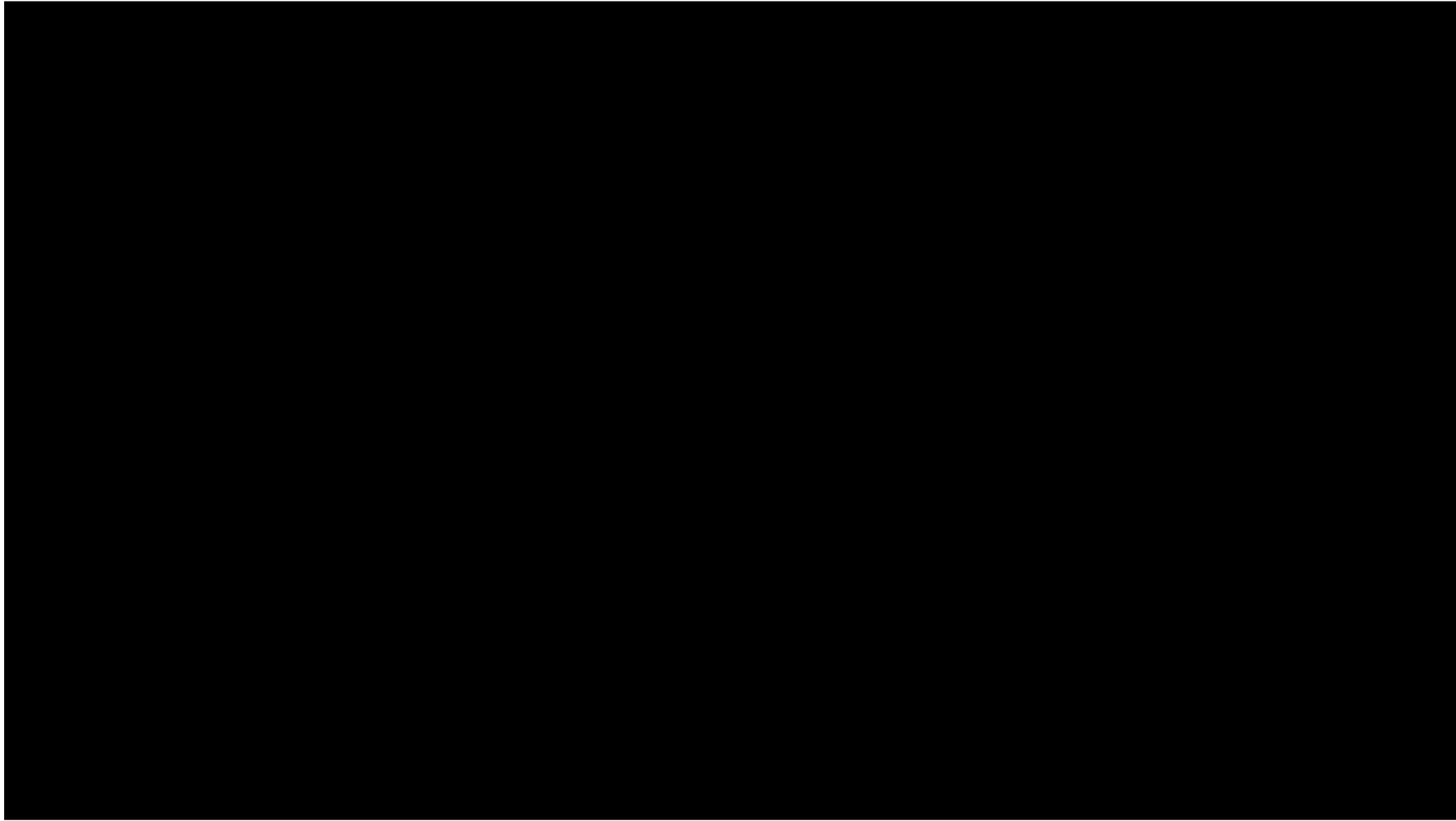
Students' mindsets about ability shape their responses to adversity in school



SOURCE: CLARO, PAUNESKU, & DWECK, UNDER REVIEW

<http://mindsetscholarsnetwork.org/learning-mindsets/growth-mindset/>

Taking Boys Seriously - Mindsets



<http://mindsetscholarsnetwork.org/>



Lost Boys - Neverland or Call to Action?

- **Establish a transnational TBS and Mindsets Scholars Network across HE, Schools and Youth Organisations**
- **Build foundation for education policy and practice in positive learning strategies for boys and young men**
- **Connect with Mindset movement USA and import best practice**
- **Connect with Centre for Education Improvement Science, Institute for Education, UCL to help improve instructional design for cognitive development**



Overview of Taking Boys Seriously

Dr Erik Cownie

School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences

Ulster University



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Aims of the new research project

1. Inform policy, teacher training and pedagogic practice in primary and post-primary schools.
2. Via evidence-based research, create new models and showcase best practice in terms of interventions across schools, communities, youth work practice and HE.
3. Improve Ulster University's access policies, student support arrangements and curriculum design for inclusivity and widening participation.



Key aspects of the new study

- ▶ Builds on the (2012) seminal study “Taking Boys Seriously” by Ken Harland & Sam McCready
- ▶ Mindful of the context within which this low attainment occurs
- ▶ Recognises the value of youth work methodologies
- ▶ Acknowledges the role of community



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Scope and stages of the study

- ▶ Initial focus on North Belfast
- ▶ Phase 2 – Derry/Londonderry
- ▶ School and community based interventions
- ▶ Mapping of current provision
- ▶ Action research projects
- ▶ Dissemination of our findings



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Current status of the research project

- ▶ Steering group established
- ▶ (Phase 1) case study schools
- ▶ Partner youth organisations
- ▶ Teacher training engagement
- ▶ Commencement of qualitative fieldwork



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Introduction to panel discussion

Susan Morgan

School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences

Ulster University



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Panel discussion

Co-hosted by:

Barry Mulholland
CSSC

Gerry Campbell
CCMS

Panel members:

James Maxwell, Markethill HS

Gerard Beattie, St Joseph's

Paul Johnston, Monkstown BC

Harry Murphy, Artillery YC

Connor McGiloway, YANI



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Panel Questions

- ▶ What type of things have you done that have inspired boys and young men to learn?
- ▶ How does your work impact on boys and young men?
- ▶ What have you found most interesting and/or rewarding in terms of your work with boys and young men?
- ▶ What more can we do to inspire boys and young men to achieve?



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Introduction to structured discussions

Susan Morgan

School of Applied Social and Policy Sciences

Ulster University



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Structured discussions – Question 1

What do I like about working with boys
and young men?

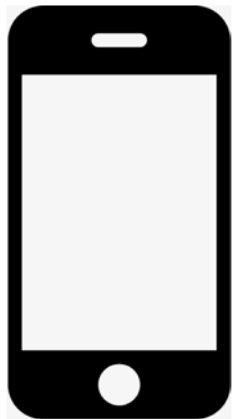


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Structured discussions – Question 2

What have you done that made the biggest impact on boys' / young men's learning?

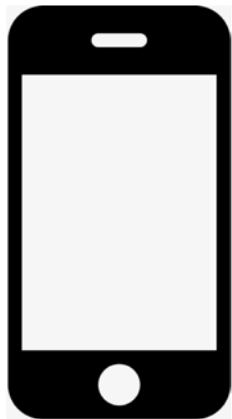


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Structured discussions – Question 3

What more can we/you do to inspire boys and young men to achieve?



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Conference summary and next steps

Thanks and close

Professor Brian Murphy

Director of Access, Digital and Distributed Learning



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