

The **Royal Belfast Academical Institution** is an independent [grammar school](#) in [Belfast, Northern Ireland](#). With the support of Belfast's leading reformers and democrats, it opened its doors in 1814. Until 1849, when it was superseded by what today is [Queen's University](#), the institution pioneered Belfast's first programme of collegiate education. Locally referred to as **Inst**, the modern school educates boys from ages 11 to 18. It is one of the eight Northern Irish schools represented on the [Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference](#). The school occupies an 18-acre site in the centre of the city on which its first buildings were erected.

From Wikipedia

01 Sep 1836

“McQuigg, a failed student of one year’s standing, asking Faculty to use its influence ie to get him a job in the Excise, the better to support his wife and family.

{letters & petitions i.e. 2 statements}

1 Sep 1836

McQuigg, a failed student of
some years standing, asks for
to get a job in the office, the
letter to support his wife
family

(Letter & petition
i.e. 2 documents)

Sett 524/78/30/95

11/11/91
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Original of Royal Institution



Clough near Ballymena September 1, 1836

Sir

May I request you to lay the enclosed petition before the other members of the Faculty and if they are pleased to comply with my wishes, to return me an answer and to let me know whether it will be necessary for me to go to Belfast with a petition prepared for their Signature to whichever of the gentlemen they may be pleased to mention or perhaps you would be pleased for an old student to draw out one yourself and get it signed for me. If so you could either enclose it and send it by post to me or write to me and lay the petition first you unto I would go up to Belfast. At all events I hope you will remember to lay the enclosed before the Faculty at their first meeting and write to me as soon as possible and let me know of the result. If they are pleased to comply with my wishes it would perhaps be best for me to go personally to the gentleman they would name while he might be at home in Belfast.

I have honour to remain your Obedient.

Malcolm McQuigg

Dough near Ballymena September 1st 1836

Sir

May I request you to lay the inclosed petition before the other members of Faculty and if they are pleased to comply with my wishes, to return me an answer and let me know whether it will be necessary for me to go to Belfast with a petition prepared for their signature to whichever of the gentlemen they may be pleased to mention or perhaps you would be pleased for an old student to draw out one yourself and get it signed for me. If so you could either enclose it and send it by post to me or write to me and lay the petition just you wish I would go up to Belfast. At all events I hope you will remember to lay the enclosed before the Faculty at their first meeting and write to me as soon as possible and let me know the result. If they are pleased to comply with my wishes it would perhaps be best for me to go personally to the gentleman they would name while he might be at home in Belfast.

I have the honour to remain yours &c.

Malcolm M'Drigo

Gentleman

It may be remembered by you, that some years ago. I studied three sessions in succession in your Institution that while there it come to testified by some of you, that I conducted myself in every respect as becomes a student, and since endeavoured to maintain a good character. It is also known to you gentlemen that at the end of said three sessions, I was unsuccessful in obtaining my General Certificate and has since been equally unfortunate. I have therefore new no hope, as I have a family of a wife and six children to support, of ever being able to prosecute my studies, which has and ever will be the cause of much sorrow to me. What I have at present most humbly entreat and be such of you as a body is that you would be graciously pleased to sign a petition for me and use your interest with whatever any of the member of Parliament belonging to Belfast, you may have most influence upon, to obtain for me as soon as possible a place in the Excise; as me present means is unable to support myself and family. This is perhaps the last request I may ever ask of you, and I hope after spending above 100 £ at your College to receive in this way your influential support. And if so

happy as to obtain said situation, through you interest, I shall ever return one and all of you the most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

I am your most Obedient Servant.

Malcolm McQuigg

Clough near Ballymena

September 1st 1836

Gentlemen

It may be remembered by you, that some years ago I studied three sessions in succession in your Institute. That while there it can be testified by some of you, that I conducted myself in every respect, as becomes a student, and since endeavoured to maintain a good character. It is also known to you Gentlemen, that at the end of said three seasons, I was unsuccessful in obtaining my General Certificate: and has since been equally unfortunate. I have therefore now no hope, as I have a family of a wife and six children to support, of ever being able to prosecute my studies, which has and ever will be the cause of much sorrow to me. — What I have at present most humbly entreat, and beseech of you, as a body, is that you would be graciously pleased to sign a petition for me and use your interest with whatever one of the members of Parliament, belonging to Belfast, you may have most influence upon, to obtain for me as soon as possible a place in the Excise; as my present means is unable to support myself and family. This is perhaps the last request I may ever ask of you, and I hope after spending above 100 at your College to receive in this way your influential support. And if so happy

as to their said solution through your interest I shall ever
return you, and all of you the most sincere and heartfelt thanks.

I am your most Obedt. Servt.

Malcolm M^r Dugg

Clough near Ballymena
September 1st 1836



To the Board of Faculty

Belfast Royal Institution

