



## ETHNIC LIMERICK



INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY NEWS with ANNE SHERIDAN

# Pupils smile bright as they prepare to learn their 'cúpla focal'

THE effects of moving half way across the globe force even greater changes on the children of foreign nationals. Yet this week's report on how parents and pupils alike deal with the Irish education system - in comparison to Nigeria, the Phillippines and South Africa - shows young minds are thriving on the challenges they face. But similar to President of the University of Limerick's sentiments this week, they too are keen to hold onto their own identity

## Promoting Entrepreneurs

THE Small Firms' Association has called on the Government to do more to support foreign national entrepreneurs. The director of the SFA, Patricia Callan, called on the Government this Monday to issue mainstream funding for training for foreign nationals who wish to start their own businesses here.

She said the growing population of young foreign nationals in the country represented an "untapped pool of entrepreneurial talent".

Ms Callan pointed out that most foreign nationals are in the 24-44 age group, which is the age that many people decide to start up their own businesses. She added that foreign nationals had already demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit in coming to live and work in Ireland. She said that a pilot programme that promotes ethnic

minority entrepreneurs in Ireland, funded by the EU Equal Community Initiative through the Department of Enterprise, has assisted 207 participant with training. However, Ms Callan said there was no current specifically designed mainstream programme for this sector of society.

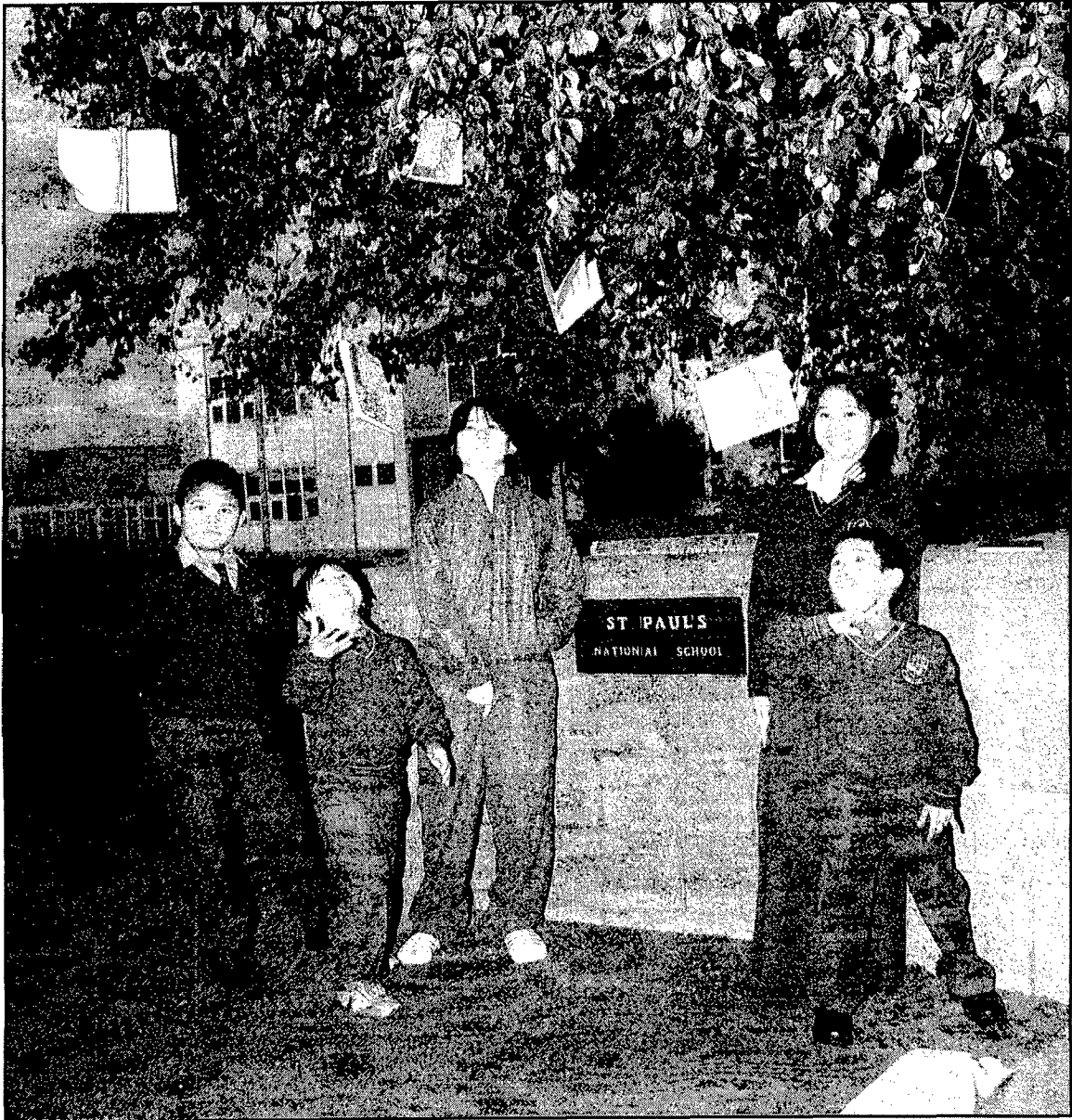
The SFA criticised the processes facing foreign nationals who wish to establish their own businesses and their report stated that currently, business permission must be granted by the Minister for Justice, Equality and Law Reform.

Many foreign nationals are required to transfer assets of €300,000 to the State and to employ at least two people, which Ms Callan said is "highly restrictive."

## This Limerick Life

DO you know someone who you think should be featured

on this page? Or do you have news relating to the foreign national community in Limerick? If so, please email [anne.sheridan@limerickleader.ie](mailto:anne.sheridan@limerickleader.ie) or call 061 214502.



**Angelo Cris, Janesboro with JC Carl Sefuentes, Ira Perez, Gabrielle Hortaleza and John Peter Laceda, Dooradoyle outside St Paul's School, Dooradoyle where they started their new term this Wednesday**