

He's a typical ten-year old who wants to play football and wants to become a scientist when he grows up. But this charismatic ten-year old is one of the first Portuguese immigrants to have settled in Portadown in what was one of the most notorious interfaces in the town, The Tunnel.

Tiago and the Tunnel, is a new BBC ONE Northern Ireland documentary on Monday, January 08 at 10.45pm, following a year in the life of Tiago Serrador and his family.

He has lived in the Tunnel for five years with his mum, dad and two brothers. They left their native Portugal when Tiago was just five and move to Portadown – now home to more than 1000 migrant workers from at least ten different nations.

Tiago introduces viewers to his home from home meeting his mother Adelina and his Father Miguel and his 'fake' relatives – the people from the area who have adopted Tiago as their own.

The programme offers an insight into what life can be like for immigrant workers in Northern Ireland, why they decided to leave their home country and the challenges they face here.

The Portuguese community in the Tunnel have grown since they first came to the area more than six years ago with the local bar installing Portuguese TV and now selling as many Espressos as pints.

Tiago was the first Portuguese pupil to attend the local Ballyoran Primary School and he explains what the challenges are integrating into the school.

He also talks about how he is torn between his new home and his native Portugal. The documentary follows him as he, his brother and mum make a return visit to their home in Santaren – the first time in three years. Tiago takes viewers on a tour of the area where he grew up, meeting his grandparents and visiting the house where he lived. He explains how different it is from his new home in Portadown.

Executive Producer, Philip Mc Govern of Big Mountain Productions, said:

“With Tiago and the Tunnel, the audience will see a fresh perspective on a place they thought they know from an unexpected, engaging new voice”.