

Spring 2013 Edition

# Links



The Magazine from The Schools' Business Partnership



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Children from **Scoil Iosagain** in Cork meet the **Dulux Dog** at a Time To Read session; Students from **ArdSCOIL Phadraig Granard** at an **ESB Networks** worksite in Tarmonbarry

### Middle Row: Left to Right

Students from **St. Joseph's in Fairview** complete a team-building exercise as part of the site visit to **O2**; Sarah Ryan and Megan Carroll from **Newport College** who are partnered with **Procter and Gamble**, Nenagh; Tara O'Neill from **Kerry Foods** guiding Deborah Murphy and Noel Price from **VS Bunclody** during their interview role play

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Students from **Fingal CC** get a tour of **Siemens** during Engineers Week; Anthony Kelleher and Sarah Kiely from **Assurant Services** in Cork with TY students from **Bishopstown CS** at the end of their S@W programme; a **Bord Gais Networks** volunteer enjoying Time To Read with a child from **Scoil Aiseiri Christ**



Check out our website

[www.bitc.ie/schools-business-partnership](http://www.bitc.ie/schools-business-partnership)

Welcome to our Spring edition of LINKS!

It's that time of year when all the partnerships are having their Wrap Sessions, making preparations for our annual Mentoring Celebration event or engaging in the final Management Excellence for Teachers seminars around the country. I hope all our participants are finding them energising and a good way to reflect on another good year.

We are so pleased to welcome our new companies since the Winter edition was issued: 3M who are partnering Holy Child Sallynoggin; Kildare Outlet Village with Kildare Town CS; Kingspan Insulation with Castleblaney CS; Carambola Kidz have partnered Crescent Comprehensive; Kerry County Council with Causeway Comprehensive; Laois County Council with Portlaoise College and UPC with St. Enda's College in Limerick. All these companies are highly regarded in the business sector and will provide invaluable learning opportunities to the students in these schools.

We are hoping that a few more companies in SBP will consider getting involved in our student mentoring programme as this most worthwhile initiative affords business volunteers a unique and very different

opportunity to positively impact on a young person's life in a very profound way. Take a peek at page 4 to hear one young person's view on the benefits of mentoring and I'd urge our companies to consider this. It can be a nice change to do mentoring instead of Skills @ Work for a couple of years and impact in a different way on our young people.

Our Management Excellence for Teachers programme has been really embraced by the schools – it is a great way to bring in expertise and experience from business and to share that with the teaching staff and I'd encourage our principals to consider utilizing their Croke Park hours for one such development opportunity for their school.

On May 13th next our annual Mentoring Celebration Event with Minister Frances Fitzgerald takes place at the Clock Tower and I look forward to meeting all those involved there to hear about the impacts of mentoring on each and every one of those who took

**Germaine Noonan**  
Programme Manager

## Two Mayo schools experience firsthand innovative engineering with Shell

*Students from Coláiste Chomáin and St. Brendan's College visit the Corrib Gas terminal and learn about the tunnel boring process and careers in a multi national energy company*



5th Year students and staff from St. Brendan's College, Belmullet in front of the Corrib Gas Terminal at Bellanaboy

When students from **Coláiste Chomáin**, Rossport, visited the Bellanaboy Bridge Gas terminal in North Mayo recently they were set a real life challenge by the **Shell** engineers. Because their visit coincided with Engineers Week, and there are several budding engineers in the 5th year group, the students were split into teams and asked to design and build a bridge with a specified 12" span that could hold the weight of a full water bottle. The materials they were given were some paper cups, string, sellotape and wooden coffee stirrers. All materials were priced and had to be purchased within the budget they were given to work with. The winners of the exercise were the team who built the most creative bridge that came within (or under!) budget, and was able to withstand minimum pressure i.e. the water bottle. The teams discussed and drew up

plans and budgets and the bridges were judged by site engineers. The students really enjoyed this innovative exercise.

**Shell** is also linked with **St. Brendan's College**, Belmullet. On their site visit the students were first taken to the site of the tunnel boring machine, Fionnula, and given a presentation by one of the site engineers who described how the machine was brought to Mayo,

how it works and how it connects to the offshore and onshore terminals. The students were very positive about the opportunity:

*"I think that the talk we got from the workers at Shell was really good. It was good to know that when they were our age they didn't know what they wanted to do in life either and they now are very successful. They told us that it is better to go to college so one can keep options open for future job opportunities"* said **Tony Conroy**, a 5th year participating student.

Another student, **Aoife Gibbons**, explained:

*"We are all finding the Skills @ Work programme very interesting and informative. I feel it really benefitted me and gave me a different view on career choices. It was also reassuring hearing that those who spoke to us felt the same as us in the past about their career choice and gave good advice on how to choose a career. I feel like I learned a lot from it."*

The winning team in the bridge building competition at Coláiste Chomáin



## Benefits of the Mentoring Programme – a Student’s Perspective

I got involved in the Mentoring Programme because I wanted to have a mentor and get to interact with people in the workplace. A friend of mine had done it a few years before and she told me that it was a great help for thinking about career options and what college/course you might pick.

I was nervous at the start but once Sinead and I got to know each other better, it was very easy to talk to her about different things. We might just talk about what we did during weekends or holidays. It’s really about whatever the two of us are interested in. My mentor works in the area of advertising and sales so we also talk about her career and the projects she’s working on.

We met roughly once a month at the start but we meet every three weeks now as this helps me to focus on my studies, make study plans and prepare for college interviews. For me the **best thing** about the programme was that Sinead helped me to get some work experience at a hairdressers. In Transition Year I thought I wanted to work with children but by the time I got to 6th year I’d changed my mind. I was very interested in becoming a hairdresser and she helped me to experience what it would really be like working in a salon. I even learned how to colour block hair as well as seeing what goes on, on a daily basis in a

salon. This made the choice of hairdressing as a career more definite for me.

Overall the mentoring programme has **improved my confidence**. I noticed this when I was preparing for an interview for Colaiste Dhulaigh for their hairdressing course. The interviewers were hardly able to get a word in, as I’m so used to talking about my future aims and plans with Sinead. It is not just about interviews though, I feel at the end of this programme I’m a more confident person. That is really the biggest benefit that I got from the mentoring.

We had a few outings as a group in the last two years – that is all the mentors and their mentees. We have been bowling and go-carting and were lucky enough to see the whole Cadbury factory in Coolock.

I **strongly recommend** to Kraft that this programme continues for future students as it was of great benefit to me and I’m sure that it would help others in the same way.

**Jade McGrane** is a student from Grange CC  
**Grange Community College** is linked with **Kraft**



Students from Grange CC with their Kraft Mentors at a Go Karting social event

## ..... New School Coordinators

*Two new Dublin School Coordinators share their experiences and insights at the end of their first year being involved in the Skills @ Work Programme*

“I didn’t know much about the link before I started as Programme Coordinator, but the previous incumbent was very enthusiastic about its benefits and sold it to me well! My background is in Accounting & Finance so I have to say I was looking forward to engaging with a business again.

The site visit to MetLife was my personal highlight. It was actually quite an unusual feeling coming back into the office environment, having worked in one not so long ago. I especially enjoyed the first hand information from MetLife CEO Graham Cox on the company background and recent financial performance. I was also really impressed that he gave so much of his time that morning to talk to our students.

The girls are 100% engaged with the programme. It’s especially fantastic to watch the quieter ones, and those where English is a second or third language, become more confident. It’s made business as a school subject really come alive – what more could I wish for as their teacher!”

**Conor Hayes**, School Coordinator from St. Joseph’s Secondary School, Stanhope St.  
**St. Joseph’s SS** are linked with **MetLife**



“I’m delighted to have been asked to get involved in the Skills @ Work Programme. The site visit was insightful and I’m really looking forward now to the mock interviews – it’s such an invaluable experience for the girls to have a real life opportunity, overcome the nerves and push themselves. It’s great that it’s not me doing the interviews, but that it is someone in business, reinforcing what I have been telling them all along. The girls are starting to understand personal responsibility – for example preparing a CV is not to keep their teachers happy, it’s also not for anyone at Abbott, it’s for themselves. It has been a great learning curve for them, to be able to take responsibility for themselves and their future. The clear message they are getting from Abbott is that ‘if you work hard, you’ll get somewhere’. It’s reinforcing what we teachers say all the time, but it’s so great that they are hearing it from others. I really hope I will be involved again next year, I now know what it’s all about and I’d like to help build the partnership.”

**Laura Baird**, Mater Christi School Coordinator (second from left in picture)  
**Mater Christi** are linked with **Abbott Mature Products Management Ltd.**

## Engineering Volunteering

*Inishowen Engineering Ltd. a family run business in Donegal take full flight in their community as a business working responsibly*



Inishowen Engineering volunteers with children, parents and staff from Scoil Íosagáin with Bunrana Librarian Sarah McGonagle at the Time to Read Library Visit

Nestled amongst the rolling hills of the Inishowen peninsula, Inishowen Engineering is a progressive engineering company which has seen development firmly place it at the leading edge of engineering technology. Established in 1994 by Michael McKinney, the company has a state of the art manufacturing capacity and a highly skilled workforce of seventy employees - valuable assets which add value to the local economy and community.

Inishowen Engineering has been proactively engaging with the local community on a number of initiatives and over the past six years has been involved in **Skills @ Work** with **Crana College**. This amazing partnership has gone beyond the norm to foster work experience opportunities and indeed has provided three participating students with full-time employment.

In addition to the success of Skills @ Work, Inishowen Engineering is participating on the **Time to Read** programme, becoming the first company in Donegal to volunteer for this new programme.

Sinéad McLaughlin, Principal of **Scoil Íosagáin NS** in Bunrana has seen great benefit for the school:

*“Becoming involved with Inishowen Engineering has been beneficial on many levels for the school. The commitment to donate books for the programme and ten volunteers to encourage our children to explore the joy of reading is exemplary. It was so lovely to witness the immediate connection made by the volunteers with the children. We really appreciate and value their work with our school.”*

In Inishowen Engineering the Skills @ Work and Time to Read programmes are led by

Josephine Noone, the company administrator:

*“Inishowen Engineering is delighted to be involved with both programmes. We see the value of being a responsible company in our local area, the giving back and investment supports our own development and at the same time makes a difference to the schools and students we work with, a real ‘win-win’ situation.”*

This positive model not only reflects the genuine interest and commitment that exists, it also demonstrates that an indigenous family run company can make an enormous impact - a great inspiration for similar organisations to become involved!

Students from Crana College at Inishowen Engineering at the Skills @ Work Site Visit



# Lead Sponsor

## M&S - Walking the Walk

**Marks & Spencer Ireland** truly are the leading business in Ireland supporting educational inclusion. Here at SBP, we are so appreciative of their generous support for our work and their enthusiasm has inspired over 100 other companies to join this movement. Since 2001 they have been our lead sponsor contributing core funding to our work supporting students who are most at risk of leaving school. They have never once asked us to 'raise a flag' on their behalf or to acknowledge what they do in any way..... but WE FEEL WE MUST!

They not only are our lead funders but they also have 6 partnering schools:

1. Galway – Carna School
2. Letterkenny – St. Columba's College
3. Cork – St. Patrick's College
4. Killarney – Killarney CC
5. Dublin, Mary Street – Larkin College
6. Clonmel - Clonmel VS

### Students Backstage at Marks & Spencer

Students from around the country have been getting a unique look behind the scenes on their recent visits to Marks & Spencer stores around the country. As part of the Skills@Work programme's Site Visit students went behind the scenes to see areas of the stores not normally open to the public. There they got to see exactly how Marks & Spencer staff handle deliveries arriving daily, how best use is made of limited space and how there is **One Best Way** to do everything and why that is so important.

In most stores the space available "backstage" is limited and Operations staff play a significant role in making more adequate stock of food, clothes and other good area available throughout the day to customers. Every element of this logistical challenge is planned and there is a particular process to be followed, what M&S know as One Best Way. With daily deliveries of food and thrice weekly deliveries of non-food items it was clear just how important this was to ensuring a safe and efficient backstage area.



## Walk the Walk

The staff in M & S “walk the walk” not just “talk the talk”. All employees understand the company’s goals and they are all engaged and enthusiastic. In M & S they manage to make their Plan A initiative part of each and every person’s. These are responsible business practices that some students would never get exposure to. Another thing which sets M&S apart from other businesses is their absolute focus on customer service, which highlights to students the importance of the customer.

### Product & Store Innovation

A number of stores around the country have been revamped with revised layouts designed to make the shopping experience even more enjoyable for customers. This is in tandem with the ongoing innovations in technology such as touch screen gloves, which are a really clever idea for anyone who’s ever had to take off their gloves in winter to answer a smart phone! As well as online ordering available at the Shop Your Way desk in store or via the smart phone app.

### Plan A

Students heard about Plan A, which is the M&S commitment to being the world’s most sustainable retailer, including the quite remarkable achievement that the company sent zero waste to landfill in 2012.

### Musical Milk

M&S staff explained the path that food takes to get to M&S – from field to glass! Students from both farming and non-farming backgrounds were intrigued to learn that not all milk is created equally and not all cows have the same diet it seems! Cows on dairy farms that supply milk to Marks & Spencer are fed a special diet and even listen to music with the result that the milk has the lowest levels of saturated fat of any on the market. A true case of “you are what you eat”.



ABOVE: PJ Walsh from M&S Letterkenny store with students from St. Columba’s College

TOP LEFT: Students from Carna School enjoying a recent site visit to the Galway M&S store

MIDDLE LEFT: Students from St. Patrick’s College in the Cork store

BOTTOM LEFT – L to R: Jackie O’Reilly, M&S Mary Street, students from Larkin College, Maria Morrissey, M&S Mary Street store

# MARKS & SPENCER

# Meet the.....

## ..... School Principals

*Three Principals from around the country tell us what they think are the impacts and benefits, on their school and students, of working with the Schools' Business Partnership*

“Wexford VC has been involved in the Skills @Work Programme with Sulzer Pump Solutions for many years now and it has gone from **strength to strength**. We link it in to the Vocational Preparation module in Year 1 of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme and to see the **progress made** in those students over the course of the programme is really wonderful. Their understanding of employers' needs together with the idea that you must prepare yourself for the working world really develops during the programme along with the confidence of each individual student. In the education sector we often refer to three partners in education – the student, the school and the parent. In reality there are four partners and this programme brings that fourth partner - the local community-into the classroom in a very **worthwhile** way. I hope that this link continues for many years to come.”

**Eimear Ryan**, Principal

**Wexford VC** are linked with **Sulzer Pump Solutions**

“Students have found the Skills @ Work Programme with Trend Technologies **invaluable**. In addition some students were given valuable work placements with the company. This work experience developed the students' ability to work and **communicate with others** and improved their **confidence** and **self-esteem**.

I also participated in the Management Excellence for Principals Programme delivered in the Midlands last year. The presentations from those involved in industry provided an alternative viewpoint that has **valuable contributions** to make to the education sector. There is valuable information to be gained from the strategies used in industry that could be modified and used in education.”

**Bernice Martin**, Principal

**Columba College** are linked with **Trend Technologies**

“Beaufort College has been involved with SBP for 8 years. Mock interviews, project presentations and site visits are all part of the programme with our partner Boliden Tara Mines. One teacher commented “students get realistic experience of the world of work, of writing a CV and of how the world out there operates. This is far more **powerful** than a series of classes on the topic by the business or career teacher and has a **lasting impact**.”

Beaufort College is fully committed to the programme and considers it an **integral part** of its senior cycle curriculum: At a time when we are trying to make school more relevant to our community and to encourage students to become problem-solvers and co-operative thinkers – this project has a powerful impact on school life.”

**John Condon**, Principal

**Beaufort College** are linked with **Boliden Tara Mines**



Wexford VC Students outside Sulzer prior to a CV Workshop

## Carlow County Council & Carlow VS pioneer the way in Local Authority Leadership

*Clodagh Gorman, Regional Coordinator, reflects on how this partnership has inspired a number of other Local Authorities to follow their lead*



Carlow VC & Carlow Co.Co. visit the Fire Station in Carlow Town for an additional Skills @ Work site visit

**Carlow County Council** joined the School's Business Partnership in 2008 and were linked with **Carlow Vocational School**. Having taken over the coordinating of the link this year I was struck by the value Principal Markita Mulvey of Carlow VS and Bernie O'Brien, Director of Services with Carlow County Council put on their partnership.

The school sees the programme as a bridge between classroom learning and real life experience and constantly work to improve on students' experiences each academic year. As School Coordinator **Miriam Monahan** said:

*"This type of practical experience coming from a working environment is*

*an invaluable asset to the students in their preparation for the world of work."*

**Eamonn Brophy** of Carlow County Council views the programme not only as a 'Civic Responsibility', but as a 'real and valuable support to our staff' as it allows them retain and hone their skills in areas such as presentation skills and interviewing.

This year their partnership has produced a resource for the Schools' Business Partnership team. 5th year students Brian Doran & Aaron Purser and the staff of Carlow County Council stepped up to the mark and recorded a 'good' and 'bad' interview session. These new videos, available nationally, help reflect the regional

diversity of the programme.

An indirect spin off from this excellent partnership has been an increase in interest from various County Councils across the country in joining SBP. In the past few months we are delighted to be joined by Kerry County Council and Laois County Council, whose programmes will start this September. Anna Marie Delaney, Director of Services for Laois County Council, the most recent Local Authority to join stated:

*"We're delighted to be able to link with our school, this is something we feel we should be involved in."*

Watch this space!

## ..... A Student

*Shaun Ussher, a 5th Year student at St. Mark's Community School, tells us about their recent Skills @ Work visit where United Drug's new Graduate Interns gave the St. Mark's students a guided tour*

**United Drug**, a local medical, pharmaceutical and healthcare distributor in the Tallaght area hosted my school **St. Mark's Community School** as part of our Schools' Business Partnership programme.

Now as a group of 16 year olds a school trip is like finding water after a week in the desert. Before we got to United Drug we felt like it was just some time off school but it proved to be a very exciting, educational and extremely enjoyable experience.

When we first arrived on the Citywest premises we were all very curious about what our outing was going to involve. We walked into the reception and immediately started to try and figure out what a business like this is all about.

We each got laminated name tags and thought we were something special. The Human Resource team gave us a very warm welcome. As if our egos couldn't get any bigger they sat us in a board room where **Sean Conlon** from HR introduced us to the new Interns who have taken part in the very first United Drug Graduate Program. They each gave us a presentation by talking us through the history of United Drug and telling us all about the company. They explained to us what to expect from working in a business such as United Drug and



St. Mark's students in their United Drug lab coats

the everyday challenges they had to face.

From the board room they brought us around the offices where we got to see what an office type work environment is like. We then went to the warehouse where we got to see the whole operation and where they received and distribute 100 % of their medicines to pharmacies and hospitals.

We were all taken back by the sheer size of the building. Their new order picking project, "Project Carl" is an unbelievable operation, and the biggest of its kind in Europe. This will change their distribution to 80% automatic which will cost around €12 million. This part of the tour left us all gobsmacked as we got to see lots of products that are available in our local pharmacies. The girls

spent a good ten minutes beside the beauty stock!

When they finally finished the tour of the distribution warehouse we went back up to the board room and met some long term employees of the company and the **Company Director, Sean Coyle**. Each speaker gave us an insight into their own personal background and how they got to where they are today.

On behalf of St. Mark's I would like to thank everyone at United Drug and the Schools' Business Partnership for this opportunity and for sponsoring our school with great new lab coats!!!

**United**  
-drug-

## The 7-Habits shape up in Cork

*Celine McGrath, Cork Regional Coordinator, checks in as staff at Nagle Community College continue their journey on personal effectiveness*

**Nagle Community College** in Cork are doing something no other school in the country has done before - you could call it an experiment. Because of the great working relationship with their link company, **Bord Gáis Networks**, all the staff are being immersed in the '7 Habits of Highly Effective People' - Steve Covey's seminal work on the human condition.

**Paul Doherty** is Bord Gáis Networks' Training & Development Manager and leading the programme. His passion and belief in the 7 habits is infectious and we were all keen to learn more. **George Roche**, the Principal of Nagle CC, is so convinced that most of the schools development hours are being spent on the programme. We had a great day covering habits 2 & 3, it was very intense and thought provoking. Habit 2 is about your own personal mission in life – what is important to you, what are your values and what would you like your legacy to be? Habit 3 shows us how we can practically achieve these goals and not get bogged down in things that are not really important to us but nonetheless take up a lot of our time. We all went away armed with the knowledge of how to do our own personal mission statements and set in place a year - long plan to get us started.

*"It's like having lots of little 'eureka' moments when you stop and look at how you operate, why you do things a certain way and why you are not really happy with what you are achieving. The challenge now is to use this knowledge to do things differently to get a better outcome. It will be interesting to see how we have all managed to implement this by the end of the programme."*

Typically in large organisations the 7 habits is the preserve of senior managers so it's great to be able to offer this type of personal development to a whole school staff. Teachers are professionals with great influence in their schools and communities. Both the staff of Nagle CC and I are really looking forward to the rest of the programme and maybe one day all teachers in Ireland will be offered this type of training and development.



ABOVE: Bord Gáis Networks' Training & Development Manager Paul Doherty with Nagle CC Principal George Roche, and staff members Sr Carmel Ryan and Mary Kind



ABOVE: Nagle CC staff members Sean Murphy, Emer Donovan and John Murphy

## New STEM Action

*SBP has expanded its suite of programmes with the launch of our Seeing is Believing initiative for science and technology teachers*

The Schools' Business Partnership has 125 link companies involved, of which 62% are in the **STEM** (science, technology, engineering & maths) sector. For a number of years, we have been considering tapping into this reservoir to provide science teachers with opportunities to understand and see the potential careers that exist for the students in their own locality.

We have researched what has worked in other countries and we are piloting three **Seeing is Believing** events in Dublin, Limerick and Cork in 2013.

### The aims and objectives of Seeing is Believing are:

1. To provide science teachers with a deep and engaging insight into some leading local STEM sector companies
2. To help teachers communicate to their students the many innovative and interesting job opportunities that exist locally
3. To provide teachers with an insight into the many interesting and diversified job roles that employees in the sector carry out
4. To assist the businesses' endeavour to increase the necessary pipeline of human resources to ensure the future sustainability of their business
5. To assist teachers become more familiar with the qualifications and experience required for roles in the companies now and in the future
6. To see first hand how science skills are being used in a practical setting
7. To provide a networking opportunity for establishing contacts in the business world and between teachers

The teachers will hear from senior executives and new hires about the companies' business and the job role profiles. They will also hear about the business trends and future plans and be given an insight in the company's culture. They will meet employees from the varying roles in the companies and will get to see a good sample of the type of work roles and tasks that employees do on a day to day basis. The teachers will be given an opportunity to see the sites in operation and this will range from high tech pharmaceutical & software development laboratories to exciting gaming demonstrations!

Minister Richard Bruton in Siemens Diagnostics with students from Fingal C.C.



## IT'S A WRAP!

Students from Marian College share their feedback on the Skills @ Work Programme with LM Ericsson



Students from Marian College visit LM Ericsson. Pictured on right are company coordinator, Gerry Connolly and coordinating teacher, Carl Brien

**LM Ericsson** is a long-time participant of the Schools' Business Partnership programme. When a logistical change in 2011 suggested a link with a school nearer their new location, the company began their current partnership with **Marian College** in Ballsbridge. Building on such an experienced foundation, the partnership appears firmly embedded in the school's portfolio with a very strong relationship already developed between company and school.

At the recent programme wrap, where students offer their feedback on the programme, we captured their experiences and also the thoughts of the coordinators Carl Brien and Gerry Connolly.

**Students Favourite Session:** Too close to call between the Site Visit and the CV & Interview Skills workshop. Students commented; "It was great to see people at work in Ericsson & get their feedback on what it's like to work there" and "...it helps you to see what opportunities are available in Ericsson and if this is something you'd like to do or not". On the CV & Interview Skills session; "The CV & Interview preparation was great because it made you realise how important it is to prepare a really good CV and how your CV needs to create a really good first impression." Many of the students also commented on the "great advice" they received on compiling a cover letter.

**What would they change:** "Make the site visit longer and if possible, have the opportunity to work-shadow an employee for the whole day". Many suggested having a real job with an online application process for the mock interview.

**What could students themselves do differently?** "Take more notes in the CV preparation session", on this occasion one of the students had kindly offered to share his copious notes taken at the session with his peers. On mock interviews; "I didn't think it through enough before I attended for interview and I'd definitely prepare more in advance and practice more!"

**Coordinating teacher Carl Brien** summed up the experience; "Overall I found the partnership with Ericsson to be excellent and one that was extremely beneficial to the 5th year students. The company was extremely accommodating, the insight that the students got from the CV skills session was really good and the site visit was a particular highlight."

**Gerry Connolly, LM Ericsson coordinator,** added: "The Ericsson employees involved in this programme have found it an extremely rewarding and worthwhile exercise and we look forward to continuing our relationship with Marian College."

## The Schools' Business Partnership

Adding value to the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and the School Completion Programme, the Schools' Business Partnership aims to positively impact on educational inclusion and address key issues in areas of educational inclusion in Ireland. The programme does this by matching one school with a large local business and engaging in various programmes. The total number of schools which have been matched nationally is 189. Through the Schools' Business Partnership a menu of programmes has been developed to address key educational issues for these schools across the country. Marks & Spencer Ireland have been the lead sponsor of the SBP since its inception - a remarkable commitment.

### Lead Sponsor



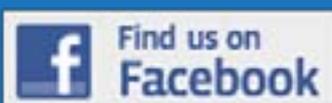
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