

Summer 2013 Edition

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The Magazine from The Schools' Business Partnership



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Shauna Burke, Aaron Connolly, Tony Roche & Shane Caulfield, students at **Clonmel VS** at their **Marks & Spencer** site visit; Jade O'Brien, a student at **CBS Westland Row**, sparing with Olympic gold medallist Katie Taylor at a **KPMG** Mentoring event; Time To Read taking place at **St. Columbanus NS** with volunteers from **Elavon**

Middle Row: Left to Right

Noreen Doherty, Retail Manager **AIB Letterkenny** visiting Skills @ Work students from **Errigal College** with the new mobile bank; Staff & students from **Carrowbeg College Westport** visiting the manufacturing facility at **Allergan Pharmaceuticals Ireland** during the Skills at Work programme

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Students from **Athy Community College** prepare for production at **Athy International Concentrates**; "The Aliens have landed" from **St. Oliver's CC** to **Irish Cement**

Welcome



Check out our website
www.bitc.ie/schools-business-partnership

Welcome to our Summer edition of LINKS

Summer's here at last!

Ireland's student retention rates have improved quite considerably over the past several years and we have already achieved the EU 2020 target of 90% retention at post primary level with a current rate of 90.22%. The average retention rate for DEIS second level schools continues to increase and is 80% for the 2006 cohorts up from 68% for the 2001 cohorts so we still have considerable work to do and SBP is committed to playing our part to improve this. We now have a great opportunity to lead Europe on student retention rates and ensure all our youth have the best possible chance to maximize their potential in life.

Our office is alive with our annual evaluations and we will be reflecting and discussing your recommendations at our annual Think In. It is energizing to read the impacts on the students, teachers, volunteers and companies of the programmes that have taken place around the country this past academic year. 189 schools have now been partnered with a business and we have 125 companies currently working with us.

Two weeks ago we had a wonderful day at our Annual Mentoring Celebration in the Clock Tower Conference Centre with **Minister Frances Fitzgerald** which you can read about on page 7. Such a noble way to

impact on students in Ireland at a critical juncture in their lives and thanks to all those volunteers from the ten companies who completed two years of mentoring.

Welcome to our new companies who have recently joined: **Ulster Bank** has agreed to partner Summerhill College in Sligo; **Ernst & Young (William Galloway)** Waterford will partner St. Paul's CC, **Stiefel** with Ballinode College and **Connacht Gold** also with Sligo's Colaiste Iascaigh.

We are delighted with the response from companies who were given the opportunity to participate in our primary school programme called Time to Read for next year. If your company is interested contact one of our team.

"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others." Thanks to all our company coordinators, school coordinators, principals, volunteers, teachers and the students who make our programmes what they are – relevant to those who participate! You all live this quote and it's our pleasure on the SBP team to work with each of you.

Carpe diem and have a great Summer!

Germaine Noonan
Programme Manager

Back to the Future with Tallaght Hospital and Mount Seskin Community College

Fedelma O'Farrell, Dublin Regional Coordinator, gives an insight into the Skills @ Work Programme and how inspirational the students found it.....

Ian O'Gorman, Catering Manager, Tallaght Hospital demonstrates how to use an industrial dishwasher to students from Mount Seskin CC



Mount Seskin Community College, Jobstown have just completed their second year of the Skills @ Work Programme with **Tallaght Hospital.** The huge variety of skills and jobs in the hospital was presented to the students by staff who loved their work. The enthusiasm, energy and desire to share their experiences with the students was exceptional.

The programme was led in the hospital by **Loretta McKay.** At the Day in the Life Session, Loretta spoke of her own role in recruitment and the job of finding the 'right' people to work in the hospital. She introduced the students to a Records Administrator, a Nurse Tutor and a Hospital Photographer who all explained how their careers began and developed over time. The theme that ran through all was how important teamwork is, regard for colleagues and supporting each other through the working day, she

explained - attitude is everything.

The students visited the play therapy room in the Children's Hospital. Here children are introduced to treatments/procedures using toys like a teddybear to model how injections were given, blood taken etc. taking away the 'scare factor'. It was a fun place where children could forget about their illness and through the play be supported and helped understand what was happening to them. There are 17 Play Therapists in Ireland and a need for more which was certainly food for thought! The Physiotherapy Dept. was next, where a Physio spoke to them about her work and how they help patients of all ages. There was also a talk and demonstration by **Dr. Ronan Collins, Consultant Physician in Older Adult & Stroke Medicine** on the hospital 'Robot'. Students were completely fascinated to

hear how the 'Robot' was used to diagnose strokes quickly so that drugs could be administered within the target time, improving patient chances of either a full recovery or minimising the effects of the stroke. Dr. Collins connected his laptop to the Robot in the Emergency Room of the hospital, he then treated the students to a full demonstration of how he operates the Robot and explained that he can do this from any location. Students studying Home Economics were shown the hygiene factors HACCP (Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Points) standards - invaluable experience.

During the Wrap Up session students expressed how inspired they were by what they learnt from the involvement of Tallaght Hospital Staff with them and three of them hope to get into medicine - their experience with the hospital has truly set them on the road.

.... A Student

Dylan Sheridan, a student at Killinarden Community School, gives his perspective on being involved in the Skills @ Work Programme with Abbott Laboratories

I personally believe this year's programme between my school and Abbott has been very beneficial for myself and the other 6th year students. The link has been around for a few years between **Killinarden CS** and **Abbott Laboratories**.

In the past I have been involved in many activities which the link has provided. Many of them involved getting to visit Abbott and to see the business for myself. As a young student looking to study science I found this very interesting. But this year was more to do with teaching us **invaluable skills** which could very well help us to achieve future employment and assist us with many other ventures in life.

The focus this year was CV and interview preparation. This is very helpful for 6th year students as we will need these skills sooner rather than later. After the Leaving Cert many of us will be looking for work, going to college or university or attending PLC colleges. Many of these require interview and when searching for employment a CV is essential.

We were given a presentation on these skills by the then **HR Manager Emmet Wrafter** and his colleagues. They covered many **essential** elements of a CV and

in-depth details about how to dress, act and conduct yourself before, during and after an interview. I found this very insightful and useful as I **learned many things** I did not know previously.

But what I found to be very useful was the videos we were shown of a good interview and bad interview. Many people including myself find it better to see what is required of us first hand rather than just hearing about it. Actually seeing the mistakes made us laugh but also allowed me to think of ways to avoid them myself. I believe it left a **lasting impression** on all of us.

To conclude I found the programme **extremely useful** and I sincerely hope the link is continued for years to come, so more students can receive the benefits I did in the future.

Dylan Sheridan, 6th Year Student, Killinarden CS



**Killinarden CS student
Dylan Sheridan**

Time to Read

A word from our generous funder, the Bord Gáis Foundation, and we hear how a partnership flourished in one of the 15 schools taking part in Time to Read

Bord Gáis has been the generous funder of the programme during the pilot and post pilot phase. **John Barry, Acting Chief Executive**, described his view of the company's participation:

"Bord Gáis has been proud to support and actively contribute to developing the Time to Read programme with Business in the Community. We are delighted that our financial support and the support provided by our dedicated and committed staff volunteers has delivered tangible results in building the reading confidence of participating school children.

We see education as a great facilitator and, in particular, see reading not only as an essential tool but one that nurtures the imagination and broadens horizons. We continue to be committed to the programme, which combines the efforts of Business in the Community, responsible businesses, teachers, parents and children with those of our volunteers in schools in Cork and Dublin."



Children from Castaheany Educate Together at a Time To Read library visit at Blanchardstown Library

Mentioning **Castaheany Educate Together** to Time to Read Volunteers from the **Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown** (ITB) is guaranteed to bring a smile to their faces.

ITB has been partnered with the school since September last and meet their students weekly helping to increase their enjoyment of books, increase their fluency and comprehension and to have fun. They have embraced the programme with great enthusiasm and energy.

The children have also visited Blanchardstown Library twice with their volunteers, principal, teachers and parents. **Alan Dunne**, Librarian, gave the children a tour of the library and then to great excitement each child got a prize which was their choice of a book

and some colouring pencils. This year's programme will wrap up in ITB when the children will get to see where their volunteers work and experience life on campus.

Mary Healy, Principal of Castaheany Educate Together has been a huge support and has involved parents in giving feedback and attending many of the visits.

The volunteers have really enjoyed reading with the children and look forward to each session and it's great to see how the children run in to welcome their volunteer and can't wait to get their folder and start reading. It's really interesting too, to see how the children select a book and love learning new words, they are so full of imagination when asked what they think will happen next budding authors without a doubt.

Core to the Fore!

Breda O'Sullivan, Dublin Regional Coordinator, reports on the core values evident in Cornmarket's Community Involvement



A student from St. Paul's CBS work shadowing in Cornmarket

A look at the comprehensive website of **Cornmarket Group Financial Services** lists the core values of integrity, commitment, customer service and innovation, albeit in the context of their role as the largest Public Sector insurance broker in Ireland. However, these same values underpin the company's approach to their highly successful partnerships with **St. David's C.B.S., Artane, Dublin 5** and **St. Paul's C.B.S., Brunswick St., Dublin 7**.

Each year, when sitting down to plan the Skills @ Work programme, **Rachel Hyland**, assisted by her colleague **Stephen Copeland** asks, "How could we make this better?" Coordinating both programmes, Rachel begins the focus on the new academic year by looking

back on all the feedback provided by teachers and students at wrap sessions and through the company, school and student evaluation reports.

The students have quickly recognized this opportunity for innovation and have seen their suggestions for more interactive sessions and a more "hands-on experience" delivered. Cornmarket were one of the first companies to adopt the revised approach to the 'Day in the Life' session a number of years ago which saw the students interview and then present back on a number of employees. Building on the success of this session, the students suggested spending more time with each employee and this year the company introduced a

new 'work-shadowing' element, whereby students spent the morning in Cornmarket over a number of days, sitting with various employees to oversee exactly what their job entailed. The session was a huge success, with many students citing this as their highlight of the programme. Another new feature with St. Paul's CBS, saw the programme conclude with a Dragon's Den type project in which the students had to design a financial services product, develop a marketing campaign to support it and then pitch it to a discerning jury in Cornmarket.

Everyone was blown away by the quality of ideas generated and the way in which the students delivered their concepts.

All such innovation comes at a price! There is additional time and effort required, extra resources are needed and considerable skills are called on to reconcile schedules of competing work and school calendars. A great working relationship with the highly supportive school coordinators, **Siobhan Davis** and **Tish Murtagh** in St. David's and **Pat McCormack** and **Lisa O'Shaughnessy** in St. Paul's CBS, is key but it is the mindset in Cornmarket which drives the innovation and constantly seeks to make the programme the best that it can be.

Mentoring Celebration 2013

Celebrating an unofficial theme of 'Partnership', 75 students and 66 mentors from 10 schools and companies, celebrated their achievements at the Clock Tower, Department of Education & Skills with Minister Frances Fitzgerald

It was standing room only at the Clock Tower as from early afternoon a steady flow of mentors and students (along with their teachers and Principals) arrived from all over Ireland to celebrate their achievements over the past couple of years on the Mentoring Programme.

Partnership was the unofficial theme as multiple levels of commitment were celebrated on the day. M & S celebrated their 12th anniversary as core sponsors of the programme, an "exceptional achievement in any partnership" as **Tina Roche, BITCI CEO**, commented, and the continuing respect and trust between the **Department of Children & Youth Affairs (DCYA)** and BITCI was highlighted by **Chairman of BITC, Kieran McGowan**.

Speaking at the event, **Michelle Murphy** from **Desmond College** outlined how her mentor and their relationship had helped her 'find her way' academically in the years leading up to her Leaving Certificate. While **Florin Frosim** from **Pobalscoil Rosmini** had received two interviews and 2 offers of a college place as a direct result of the support and confidence that his mentoring relationship had given him. The other side of the relationship was given voice by **Gareth McDonald** from **Microsoft** when he revealed that he felt it a 'big responsibility to impact someone's life' and how



Kieran McGowan, Chair BITCI, Minister Frances Fitzgerald, Tina Roche, CEO BITCI and Noeleen Somers, parent, at this year's annual Mentoring Celebration at the Department of Education & Skills

he learned through the process that there is no 'one size fits all in the relationship'.

Congratulating all involved before she presented certificates, **Minister Fitzgerald** summed up with a quote from a mentor in her own life who had told her, if you can give someone an 'Experience of Success' you are likely to make a change in the life of an individual, and the student mentoring programme certainly does that. She challenged the students in the room to come back in the future as mentors. The final word goes

to **Noeleen Somers**, the mother of one of the students from **Patrician College**, who sincerely thanked the mentors in Irish Life explaining the impact the programme had had on her son and how without the programme, her son would never have met anyone who worked in an office.

Roll on 2013/2014 and we look forward to our continued partnerships providing the 'Experience of Success' to an even wider group of students proving we are world class when it comes to mentoring!

Congratulations to the 10 Schools & 10 Companies who completed the Student Mentoring Programme in 2013!

Minister for Children and Youth Affairs Frances Fitzgerald and BITCI Chairman Kieran McGowan presented certificates to representatives from each company and school



Allianz Worldwide Care & St. Dominic's SS, Ballyfermot



Ballygowan & Desmond College



DHL Global Forwarding & Trinity Comprehensive



Diageo & Presentation SS, Warrenmount



ESB & Pobalscoil Rosmini



Irish Life & Patrician College



KPMG & CBS Westland Row



Kraft & Grange CC



Microsoft Ireland & St. Tiernan's CS, Balally



Musgrave Retail Partners & Ursuline SS



Michelle Murphy, a student from Desmond College, speaking at this year's event



Florin Frosim, a student from Pobalscoil Rosmini, speaking at this year's event

IBM inspiring the next generation – online and offline

In this article Nuala Greenan, Galway Regional Coordinator, remembers the high points of this year's Skills @ Work Programme between the IBM and Presentation SS Galway

No Ordinary Life

Students were intrigued to learn of the often circuitous routes taken by the team from IBM to arrive at their current jobs. The clear message was “do the things you are good at and the things you enjoy doing, a career will follow.”

They got a chance to put that into practice at mock interviews. Speaking afterwards Shane Lynch, software engineer with IBM said “It was obvious that the girls had prepared well and considering that this was their first ever formal interview their performance was excellent. Those students who were able to talk about their skills, their hobbies and their work experience in relation to the job applied for did particularly good interviews”.

In the evaluation over 80% of the students reported that the Mock Interviews were the most enjoyable session of the entire programme - despite the nerves!

What Does Your Online Identity Say About You

Later Emily O'Neill provoked some debate with IBM's Control Your Online Identity activity kit. It was so amusing to see a video of a real life person acting as if he were on line, asking random people on the street to be his friend, putting a like sticker on objects, following a girl he'd just met through town



Students from Presentation Secondary School in Galway at Day in the Life Speed Networking Session with IBM

because she was on twitter. Emily highlighted the differences between our behaviour online and what we do in real life to great merriment and maybe also some concern!

She went on to compare the trail we leave online to what we see on the TV show “CSI” and pointed out how in real life we leave DNA, fingerprints, hair or skin everywhere we go whereas on line cookies track our every step in much the same way, with many websites storing personal info and some of them selling that data on to third parties.

Emily also explained to the students that everyone from employers and landlords to

insurance companies will google you to find out about you. The key message was “be aware” of your online presence.

A Multi Lingual Ending

Reflecting the diversity of language and nationality in both Presentation Secondary School in Galway and IBM globally it was indeed appropriate that students expressed their appreciation of the programme in several languages.



Limerick builds on its successes with STEM event for Science Teachers

Spending a morning visiting three successful STEM based companies in Limerick proved really beneficial for Science teachers and Career Guidance teachers in the Mid-West



Nuala Moore, Science teacher, Ardscoil Mhuire, Corbally and Eta Danaher, Career Guidance teacher, Crescent College Comprehensive, at Vistakon with Jim Hackett, Operations Manager Vistakon (back left)

A very punctual and enthusiastic set of fifteen Science and Career Guidance teachers met in Limerick on Tuesday 14th May and boarded a bus for the first ever **Seeing Is Believing STEM** tour in Limerick that was to take them to **Analog Devices Ireland, Vistakon Ireland** and **Cook Medical**. The participants came from Limerick & Clare schools. Some teachers were from current SBP participating schools.

I had briefed each of the companies ahead of the visit and in particular asked each of them to highlight the STEM components of their work which are in common with the STEM techniques and information that second level students study. Also, I asked them to profile their current hires and outline the skills gaps occurring in the future. Each of the companies really delivered on the brief and the teachers gained

huge knowledge on the practical side of producing commercial products with a high STEM basis and about the opportunities there are within each of these industries.

The areas of overlap with the Science and Maths curriculum mentioned were Ohm's Law and Boyle's Law, Mean and Standard Deviation, many different sterilisation techniques, monomers to polymers and many more. For the mathematician in me, I was delighted to see how the enlargements and construction module of the geometry section on the pass Leaving Cert maths syllabus could be applied to chip design as seen in Analog.

The key skills required in this sector endorsed the teaching styles of investigative learning and complemented the enquiry based learning of new syllabi like Project Maths. Most of the schools represented encourage and support students to prepare projects for Science competitions in which each of the three skills above are hugely developed, so there were smiles all round.

The feedback from the teachers was very, very positive. In particular, they would love for their students to experience this initiative. There is great room for developing this programme and extending it to other cities too. I wish to thank each of the companies and teachers for making it such an informative and inspiring event. In a thank you email to me afterwards one teacher wrote "The information we got is so important and powerful for our students. I hope the project continues to grow and develop for others teachers and students to experience also." We will certainly do our best to do this!

Our new foray into supporting Ireland's STEM agenda also saw a SIB take place in Dublin on May 2nd with **IBM, Microsoft, Becton Dickinson** and **AOL**.

....Student

Oisín Coughlan, 5th year student at St. Aloysius College, talks about the Team Building Workshop which was delivered by Alkermes as part of the Skills @ Work Programme



Students from St. Aloysius College enjoying the team building workshop delivered by Alkermes

Alkermes Pharma Athlone has been involved in the Schools' Business Partnership with local school **St. Aloysius College** for the past six years. This year a highly successful workshop on Team Building Skills was delivered by **Sinead Kelliher, Senior Training Specialist** with Alkermes. **Oisín Coughlan**, 5th year student of St. Aloysius College tells us about the workshop.

"The team Building Workshop took place on January 16th last and was given by Sinead Kelliher. Firstly we learned what it means to be a part of a team. We also spoke about good teams that we know of and what makes them the great team that they are. A lot of us decided that one of the best teams we know is Barcelona. We agreed that they were such a good team because of their understanding for each other and the fact that they work so hard for

each other on the pitch. Of course even in their team there are some stand out players like Messi or Xavi but these would probably not seem as good if they didn't have such a strong and hardworking team behind them.

Our class was then divided up into groups by Sinead. At first I thought I was back in playschool when I saw the different materials we were given. Sheets of paper, straws, paper clips, a pen, a roll of sellotape and of course an egg. Our task was to make an egg holder which would keep the egg secure if dropped from a height. It looked like an unbelievable task and it seemed very difficult. In our team we started to brainstorm ideas. We talked and shared ideas and we decided to try and make a holder with a parachute made out of paper. We soon discovered different things about each other and about the different skills each

of us possessed. Our team also had to deal with a dictatorship style leader. Mainly me, but we soon realised that if we didn't work together we would not get the task completed.

When it came to the testing of our models we stood up on a chair and dropped our designs with the egg in place. We had a lot of crack doing this and by the end all the eggs except one had a lot of cracks too. Sadly our egg had a small crack, only minor but I must admit it was there. I blame the egg!

What I learned from this workshop will allow me to work better with others in order to achieve a better result. Teamwork produces better decisions and is a more enjoyable way to work than if you were on your own."

Horse Racing Ireland & Curragh Post Primary School Forecast a Triple win in 2014

Originally matched in 2008 Horse Racing Ireland and Curragh Post Primary have deepened and developed their link in the last few years. Clodagh Gorman, Regional Coordinator KLO, outlines their plans for next year



5th year students from Curragh PP visiting The Turf Club with David Wright of Horse Racing Ireland, teachers Leanne Coleman & Anita Cleary

Over the past number of years the link between Horse Racing Ireland & **Curragh Post Primary** has undergone a number of changes including a new school Principal this year, **Eric Gaughrane**. Quick to identify the value of **Horse Racing Ireland's** involvement through the Schools Business Partnership, Eric deepened the impact of the link with the school by engaging in **Management Excellence for Teachers (MET)** in January of this year. Delivered by **David Wright, HR Director** with HRI, the session focused on excellence through teams, and following very positive reviews from the teachers another session to build on the original will follow in the new academic year.

This year while the students progressed through the **Skills @ Work** programme, led by school coordinator, **Leanne Coleman**, some of the challenges facing students going forward to third level education or the world of work came into sharp focus for David Wright of HRI and his team. Anxious to further engage with the school and students, and following a meeting between David & Eric, it was agreed that Horse Racing Ireland will engage in **Student Mentoring** in the coming year.

Recruitment, training and Garda Vetting of mentors will begin over the summer in Horse Racing Ireland, and the programme was

announced to the students during the Skills @ Work wrap session in April. HRI and Curragh PP are the first link in the Kildare/Laois/Offaly region to go for the triple, and to use some racing parlance, while the 'going' may at times be heavy there is a rich winner's purse for students and link alike! We forecast a great outcome.



**HORSE RACING
IRELAND**

Mentoring ‘Model students’

Its all in a mornings work for Ursuline’s 6th year girls at this year’s Mentoring Celebration in Dublin



Devina McGowan, Kelly Giltinan and Jessica O’Leary, students at Ursuline SS in Cork at this year’s annual Mentoring Celebration at the Department of Education & Skills

Musgrave Group are old hands at mentoring, having mentored students from **Ursuline Secondary School** in Cork for the past 4 years. The girls in this year’s group have gone down Musgrave Group HQ in Turners Cross on Wednesday afternoons every 3 weeks, to meet their mentors and it’s been a huge support for them coming up to their Leaving Cert. The mentors have also been with them on visits to 3rd level colleges, listening to their concerns about the future and life after school. They were all glad to of the opportunity to take a short break from study and travel up to Dublin for the day for the mentoring celebration

When **Aisling, Jessica, Davina, Kelly** and **Shannon** boarded the airport bus to Dublin for the mentoring celebration, little did they expect that they’d be divas for the day. Shortly after arriving at the Clock Tower, the girls were called into action for a press photocall. Posing with the SBP jig saw pieces was not as easy as it looked in the strong wind. The girls took it in their stride though and after 15 minutes declared that

modeling may look glamorous but it was actually hard work. Next up was Davina, who did a short vox pop interview on her experience in the mentoring programme – a true professional who nailed all the questions, thanks to rehearsing on the bus on the way up.

Their mentors, **June McCarthy** and **Marion Cotter**, from Musgraves also made the journey. “*We are very proud of our girls*” said June, “*We are delighted they all came up to join us here today.*”

“They have blossomed during the programme and their confidence has certainly increased.”

The final photocall of the day was the whole Cork group with **Minister Frances Fitzgerald**, the end result looked great and the girls had plenty of pictures to remember their day in Dublin.

Looking Good for Laya

Students from Coláiste an Chraoibhin suit up for interviews with Laya Healthcare. Celine McGrath, Cork Regional Coordinator, reports...

The TY students at **Coláiste an Chraoibhin**, Fermoy, blew everyone away with their smart attire for the interviews with **Laya Healthcare** in April. Company co-ordinator, **Caroline Byrne**, and her colleagues were particularly impressed with the student's professional appearance;

"They made a huge effort and took the interviews very seriously, which made it more valuable for them and also more enjoyable for us."

It transpired that all the students had been to TY Balls during the year and were putting their suits to good use! Interviewee **Greg Anderson** commented;

"It was really fun, not at all as difficult as I thought it would be and they seemed really interested in me. It's built up my interview skills for the future."



Celine McGrath, SBP coordinator, with Laya staff Caroline Byrne and Tara Cotter and students from Coláiste an Chraoibhin

There are strong links between Laya and Coláiste an Chraoibhin. The company was long based in Fermoy, until recently moving down the motorway to Little Island, Cork. The ties remain strong though with many parents and past pupils working at Laya and a lot of employees still living in the town. Caroline added;

"It was great working with the students, they really made the most of the opportunity and we were able to use volunteers new to the business to deliver some of the sessions, so it was beneficial all round."

The students described the site tour and the interviews as highlights of the programme. The modern glass reception area of the building, the 'swinging chairs' in the boardroom and the tins of sweets in the office areas – well it was just before Christmas – stood out in their minds. As did the careers of the claims investigator and business development manager. They loved hearing about the 'CSI' side of the business and how the development managers look after their customers. It's all in a day's work at Laya and now the students have the suits, there's no stopping them.

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



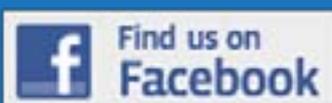
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