



The Schools' Business Partnership

Industry Insights for Teachers

National Evaluation Report 2022-23



An Roinn Oideachais
Department of Education

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1.0 Introduction

Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) is the network for responsible and sustainable business. Our purpose is to inspire and enable businesses to bring about a sustainable, low carbon economy and a more inclusive society where everyone thrives. One of our flagship social inclusion supports is the Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) which has been in place supporting Government for the past twenty years. Within the SBP suite of programmes is a teacher support programme, **Industry Insights for Teachers** (IIT), which brings together post primary school subject teachers and guidance counsellors with representatives from all levels, and across all sectors, of industry and business in Ireland.

Industry Insights for Teachers seeks to:

- o Support greater engagement between industry and education, adding value to education professions and advancing a culture of industry collaboration.
- o Provide teachers and guidance counsellors with insight into fast developing industries and new sectors, such as renewable energy.
- o Inform educators on the technical and professional qualifications, as well as employability skills, that are needed now and in the near future to address skills gaps.
- o Showcase the different routes into roles and sectors, such as new apprenticeships.
- o Highlight fast-evolving career opportunities across the country, not just in our cities.
- o Expose educators to the optimism and appetite for industry and career development across all sectors and regions.

During the 2022-23 academic year, 18 IIT sessions took place across the country with businesses based in all regions. Sessions were held online and in person, to maximise accessibility and bring educators into fast evolving workplaces and production sites and responded to Department of Education requests for a broad geographic spread. The selection of sectors was informed by teachers' demands and reflected a wide variety of industries from STEM to hospitality. Apprenticeships were also highlighted and collaborations were formed with bodies such as Fast Track to IT (FIT) to promote IT apprenticeships for both students and employers. This year was the first year that BITCI collaborated with our counterpart in Northern Ireland, BITCNI, to deliver a cross-border IIT session with Veolia. (See: [gov.ie - Minister Foley welcomes first cross-border Industry Insights for Teachers seminar promoting teacher engagement with industry \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/en/news/2023/01/minister-foley-welcomes-first-cross-border-industry-insights-for-teachers-seminar-promoting-teacher-engagement-with-industry/)). Welcoming the initiative, Minister Norma Foley said:

This is an important collaboration between industry and schools, on the island of Ireland. We live in a modern, ever-changing, global marketplace and it is important that our students receive a 21st century education that embeds them with the tools to remain competitive in this global marketplace. It's essential that our teachers and guidance counsellors know how business is evolving and what skills today's students will need to succeed in their careers. The department is pleased to be able to support this type of collaboration.

Every IIT session has been evaluated and we took on board the gaps in teachers' knowledge, and their requests for information on regional distribution, and sectors and businesses to be featured in our planning for the 2023-24 academic year.

2.0 Evaluation Trends

The main findings from the 2022/23 session evaluations are below (with the response from 2021/22 national evaluation indicated in brackets after this year's figure):

- **97%** (99%) of teachers found the session very useful or useful
- **93%** (91%) rated the delivery either excellent or very good
- **98%** (95%) rated the session content as either excellent or very good
- **96%** (90%) of teachers would definitely recommend the series to other teachers

Over **300** teachers and career guidance counsellors attended these **18** sessions throughout 2022-23 with an average session attendance of just under **17** attendees per session.

The sessions often inspired teachers to reach out to business to harness the possibilities that they presented:

It's essential for educators to connect employers, it should be seamless and part of the secondary school cycle - interesting its business that are leading with this.

North East: Irish Life, financial services

Fantastic Insights from Emma, I would love to arrange for her to speak directly with my students!

Cross border: Veolia, environmental management

The challenge is to convince my students in a DEIS Band 1 Secondary School that careers are for them as well the more middle-class schools and students, Ruairi coming in as a Guest Speaker to my school in Finglas, talking with Third to Sixth Years would help enormously. I would include 3rd and 4th Years as well before they make their Subject Choices for 5th and 6th Year.

Dublin area: Deloitte, financial services and technology

“Very informative, great opportunity to gain a better understanding about SITA and what they are looking for in a future employee. I feel there is an excellent opportunity for both SITA and the ETB to look at the potential of facilitating work placement opportunities outside of the graduate programme for FET students and I am hopeful that this may materialise”

Donegal: SITA, technology in transport sector

3.0 Industry Insights for Teachers: Session Details

SECTOR	REGION	BUSINESS	FORMAT	DATE
Business Consulting – Financial Services and IT	Dublin region	Deloitte	Online	Monday 3 October 2022
Environmental Management	Cross Border - NI & border counties	Veolia	Online	Thursday 20 October 2022
Aviation Technology	Donegal	SITA	Site visit	Wednesday 23 November 2022
Insurance and Insurance Practitioner Apprenticeships	Dublin, Galway, Cavan, Monaghan, Kildare, Meath	Aviva	Online	Tuesday 29 November 2022
Apprenticeships - Mechanical Engineering, Insurance and Fast Track to IT (FIT)	Munster	Bus Eireann, Aviva, FIT (ICT Associate Apprenticeships)	Online	Wednesday 30 November 2022
Engineering Apprenticeships and Graduate Programmes	Mid-West	Johnson & Johnson VisionCare	Online	Thursday 15 December 2022
Information Technology – IBM & Skills Build resource	West	IBM	Online	Wednesday 18 January 2023
STEM – Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	Cork	Thermo Fisher	Site Visit	Wednesday 25 January 2023
Renewable Energy	Mid-West	Simply Blue Energy & ESB Moneypoint	Online	Wednesday 8 February 2023
Financial Services	North-East	Irish Life	Online	Wednesday 1 March 2023
STEM – Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	Sligo	Abbvie, Charles River Laboratories, Atlantic Technological University	Online	Tuesday 7 March 2023
STEM – Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	Kerry Region	Astellas	Site visit	Wednesday 22 March 2023
Apprenticeships	Donegal	Apprenticeships and entry level jobs, Bus Eireann & Inishowen Engineering	Site Visit	Wednesday 26 April 2023
Hospitality and Tourism	South-East	Riverside Park Hotel and Visit Wexford	Online	Tuesday 28 March 2023
Business Consultancy – Data Storage, Finance, Planning	Dublin	Workday	Site Visit	Tuesday 2 May 2023
Business Consultancy – Financial Services	Cork	Grant Thornton	Site visit	Wednesday 3 May 2023
Software and Technology	Dublin	SAP	Site Visit	Thursday 5 May 2023

4.0 Teacher Feedback

After each IIT session, participants complete a survey asking about the following areas:

- The value of the material and information presented
- The relevance of the content
- The suitability of the format
- Whether this is a programme they would recommend to another teacher.

Both qualitative and quantitative responses are sought, including providing ratings and commentary. The below is a sample of the narrative comments and responses provided by teachers/ career guidance counsellors.

Enjoyed learning about Abbvie and Charles River. Aim to contact these companies to discuss TY Opportunities

North West: Abbvie, Charles River Laboratories, Insurance Institute Ireland, ATU, STEM and apprenticeships

Demystified the idea that apprenticeships are plumbers and carpenters who don't do a 'good' leaving cert.

Cork: Apprenticeships with Bus Eireann, FIT, and Aviva

Invaluable in terms of understanding the different careers available within the pharmaceutical industry and the progression opportunities available from different qualifications.

Kerry: Astellas pharmaceuticals

It gave me more information for my students both on the career (and the diversity therein) and the entry paths. It was great to hear from Hannah as somebody who is just in the door.

Dublin area: Aviva and Insurance Institute, apprenticeships

Exactly the real world information that teachers need to know

Donegal: Bus Eireann and Inishowen Engineering, apprenticeships & STEM

Good to see Deloitte taking staff from all career and education backgrounds as this is vital. We are a DEIS school so any encouragement towards careers and not social welfare is essential.

Dublin area: Deloitte, financial services and technology

Advice for students going forward as to what is in demand and why. Also, to students who didn't know what to do after school. Great opportunities

Cork: Business & Financial Services, Grant Thornton

The platform is relevant from TY to LC and beyond into 3rd level and industry. It can influence how my students learn relevant skills that hopefully will overlap with my subject.

Galway & Dublin: IBM Skills Build resource for students and teachers

Learned the variety of difference options focusing on the non-traditional pathways into stem.

Limerick: Johnson & Johnson Visioncare, STEM

Very practical insight into this industry, educationally and on the job.

Wexford & South-East: Riverside Park Hotel and Visit Wexford

It really showed me the wealth of career paths. Talking to the volunteers was great to see where they came from.

Dublin Area: SAP, technology

A career in tech does not mean having to move to one of the bigger cities which puts many rural students off when considering their career options.

Donegal: SITA, technology in transport sector

Knowing there are many access routes into the pharmaceutical industry. The importance of chemistry but more importantly that training /education is provided if you wish to progress in the company.

Cork: Thermo Fisher, STEM

This applied information, with human (or real-life stories) resonates and is extremely well received.

Cross border: Veolia, environmental management

Getting an insight into this industry and the roles was really helpful for me to understand this growing area which I hear about in the news daily, but I don't necessarily understand the different career paths.

Munster: Veolia, environmental management

It was really practical and useful information that we can pass on to our students, this is something you don't necessarily learn through school based CPD or through guidance counsellor training etc.

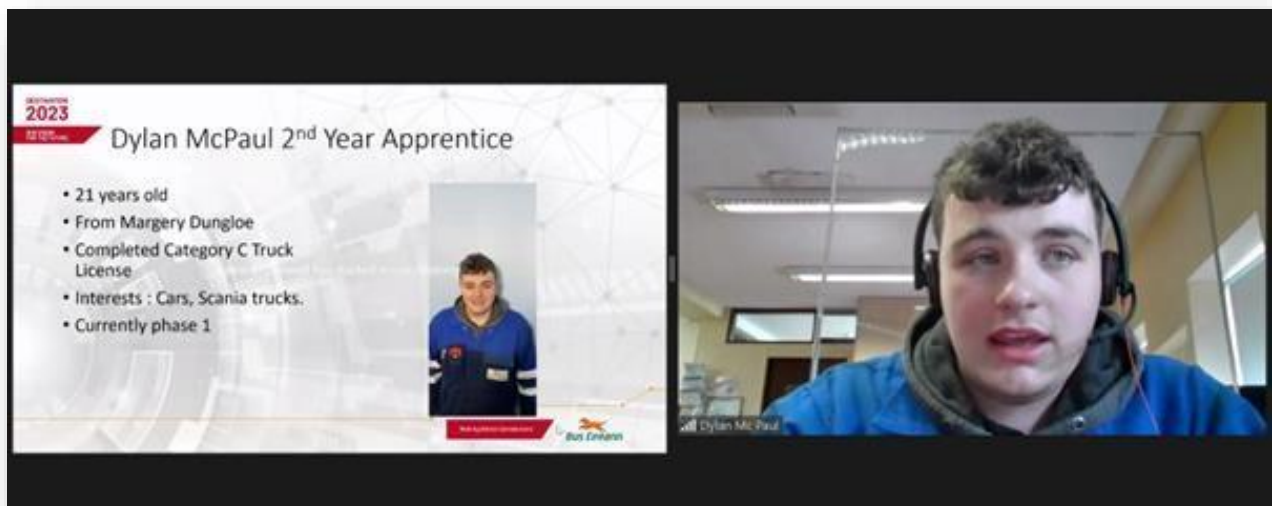
Dublin: Workday, business and tech consultancy

I am aware now of opportunities that I previously had little knowledge of. I will play the career experiences video of the two girls to my Leaving Cert girls this year.

South West: Simply Blue Energy, ESB, renewable energy

As Career Guidance Counsellor in my school, it is important to get regular updates and reminders of what is on offer for our students in terms of job prospects and future careers.

North East: Irish Life, financial services



Virtual Event: Industry Insights Donegal, Bus Eireann Apprenticeships

