

JA Cork celebrates a record year!



JA Cork are celebrating a record year of growth in terms of students participating in Junior Achievement programmes over the course of the year. By the end of June, almost 12,000 Cork students will have successfully completed JA programmes and workshops.

JA Cork have also successfully recruited new primary schools and secondary schools, and have continued to prioritise schools where the students will benefit most from interaction with the business volunteer and where many young people don't have a natural connection with the business world.

In addition to the in-classroom programmes, JA Cork continues to run very successful events hosted by supporting organisations and third level institutes. Many local supporting organisations have invited students to attend workshops delivered on-site in their premises, which have a significant impact on the students, especially in opening their eyes to different and exciting career options. These on-site visits usually include a tour of the work environment, which allows

the students to ask questions about the variety of job roles and departments within the organisation.

The JA Cork event calendar for 2007/08 has been very busy, with a series of events running in UCC, CIT, and the National Maritime College. In parallel with the learning objectives of these events, the fact that JA Cork is working in partnership with third level institutes reinforces the core Junior Achievement message of the vital role of education with regard to furthering the career opportunities of the students.



Musgrave share the secret of their success with Junior Achievement students!



Twenty five girls from Mount Mercy secondary school in Bishopstown completed their Success Skills programme this term with Colin Curran, Manager of Leadership and Development at Musgrave. Colin not only led the girls through the programme with great enthusiasm and skill, he also organised 2 of his colleagues at Musgrave, Ann O'Sullivan and Jennifer Gallivan, to attend the school on the last day and help conduct rigorous interviews with each individual student, which proved an invaluable (if nerve wracking!) learning experience for the girls.

To round off the programme Colin took the students on a tour of Musgrave's Cork Head Office and their massive warehousing and Cash and Carry facility, based at the Airport Road. This was followed by the presentation of their certificates in the imposing boardroom on the top floor of the head office, with its stunning views over Cork city. Colin and the management team at Musgrave had generously provided a gift pack for each student to take away with them, a gesture which was really appreciated by the girls. The two girls who were judged to have conducted the best interview were also given gift vouchers for a local department store and the competitive element this introduced was taken very seriously by the students!

Mairead O'Donoghue, the girls' teacher, was thrilled with Colin's input and hugely impressed with the dedication he has shown over the last number of weeks. "Students of this age so rarely get a chance to see real business in action", she said, "so they have benefited enormously from both the practical advice and tips Colin gave them in the classroom, and the chance to see how a successful business like Musgrave operates in the real world."

The Success Skills programme in Cork has proved exceptionally successful this year, with nearly 650 students (both Transition Year and LCVP) from 12 participating schools completing the programme with volunteers representing 17 supporting Cork companies. Many of these companies, like Musgrave, hosted the schools for tours or conducted the final interviews on site at their facilities and the impact this has on students cannot be underestimated.



The students of St Joseph's NS Cork Enjoy a visit to Boston Scientific



As part of their Junior Achievement experience this year, the lucky 6th Class pupils of St Joseph's National School on the Mardyke, Cork, paid a visit to Boston Scientific on the Model Farm Road to experience a bit of pharmaceutical manufacturing life.

While there they also learned more about the heart and how to maintain a healthy lifestyle as part of their Junior Achievement 'Our Universe' programme.

Boston Scientific volunteers Sinead Doyle and Danny Ahern got involved to give the students a taste of what it is like to work at the plant by conducting a tour and also giving them a very informative slide show on the dangers of smoking and the benefits of a healthy diet and exercise.



The boys were accompanied by their teacher, Doreen Sheehan and St Joseph's Principal, Damien Keane and were fascinated by the technology and products they saw on their tour. They all responded enthusiastically to the discussion led by the volunteers, with many interesting questions.

Boston Scientific has been a fantastic supporter of Junior Achievement in Cork for a number of years and the feedback from schools has been incredibly positive. This year more than 20 volunteers taught primary and secondary programmes and many of these have brought their students for tours of the excellent facilities. Boston also very kindly facilitated filming in their plant as part of JA's new promotional DVD, organised by volunteer Danny Ahern with his students from Blarney St BNS. Head of HR, Colin Wallace has always been incredibly supportive of Junior Achievement and is himself teaching his second JA programme this term in St Catherine's on the Model Farm Road.

Farewell Mr Charlie Hipwell!



The JA Cork team were sad to bid farewell Charlie Hipwell, JA Council Member and Director of Environmental Health and Safety Pfizer who retired earlier this year. Over his almost 10 years as JA Council Member, Charlie was always on hand to help support and develop Junior Achievement within Pfizer and across Cork.

Charlie was always very willing to support the many Pfizer volunteers who worked with students across Cork City, and in addition was a great advocate of bringing students to the workplace, to give them an insight into the real world of work. Most recently, pupils from the North Monastery Secondary School visited Pfizer, Ringaskiddy, and were invited to open their eyes to the environmental issues of our day. The 1st Year science students took part in a range of Junior Achievement Environmental workshops, learning about important green issues. They were also treated to an insight into the conservation efforts of Pfizer Ringaskiddy.

The students were also treated to a tour of the plant and particularly, the new boiler. They were given an insight into the daily considerations of a large pharmaceutical plant and the endeavours that need to be made in order to be a part of the global effort to make this a greener planet. Charlie took the time to chat with the students and candidly share his efforts and considerations.

Liam Curtain, North Monastery Secondary School teacher, was delighted with the opportunity afforded his students. At the end of the morning's events he commented: "The students were delighted with their visit to Pfizer. They learned about important green issues and, most importantly, what they can do to help the major environmental issues of today."

We wish Charlie all the very best with his retirement, and hope that he will remember his promise to come back and volunteer for us in the very near future. We are also delighted that Peter Hetherington has kindly agreed to step into Charlie's shoes as our new Council Member, and we look forward to working with Peter over the coming years.

Kerry Bio-Science comes on board in Cork



Kerry Bio-Science is the latest Cork company to come on board to support Junior Achievement in the Cork area. So far, four fantastic and enthusiastic volunteers have led programmes to almost 100 students in the Carrigaline and Crosshaven areas to rave reviews from all of the students and teachers who were involved. The business volunteers from Kerry Bio-Science Brid McMahon, Gbnait Foott, Alma Casserly and Emily Spillane were all delighted to share their experience of work and education with local schoolchildren.

"Kerry Bio-Science is very pleased to partner with Junior Achievement to bring these exciting programmes into primary and secondary schools in the locality. We recognise the importance of education for the future of our young people and equally the value of showing them that work can be fun, fulfilling and stimulating," said Elma Gilligan, HR Manager, Kerry Bio-Science.

Kerry Bio-Science joins 22 other Junior Achievement Council Member companies in Cork, whose employees will have worked with almost 12,000 students over the course of the past school year. We welcome them on board, and look forward to working with all of our potential Kerry Bio-Science volunteers over the coming years.