

Kilkenny Students Prove Bright Sparks at MSD Bright Ideas Competition

Two Winning Projects from St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny

Friday, 15th May 2015: Ben Lanigan and James Everard, of St. Kieran's College, Kilkenny travelled to MSD, Ballydine, Clonmel recently to present their projects at the inaugural Bright Ideas Competition. The top 17 entries were invited to MSD Ballydine to present their work whereby an award ceremony followed and the Kilkenny natives came second and third respectively in the junior category for 1st to 3rd year students.

Ben Lannigan a third year student was awarded €250 for his project, Water Conservation, which placed second in his respective category. Following Ben in third place, James Everard, also a third year student, was awarded €150 for his innovative project, *The Combined Runner Football boot*.

Winners were presented with their prizes by Ger Carmody, site lead at MSD's facility in Ballydine, who commented; *"The quality and the development of the ideas proved to be of a very high scientific standard and made judging very difficult. While many site personnel viewed the projects and marvelled at the topics and ingenuity of the ideas, it was the confidence and knowledge of these students in discussing their projects and field that really impressed our judging panel.*

We are delighted with the success of the Bright Ideas competition in its first year and the enthusiasm for science amongst students in the community. SD is committed, as a core part of its ethos and approach, to supporting innovation in science and technology and we are privileged to support young people and their projects that could potentially make a real difference."

The Bright Ideas competition, a new science competition run and managed by MSD, Ballydine, Clonmel, encouraged second level students in the three designated categories Junior (1st-3rd Year), Intermediate(TY) and Seniors (4th and 5th Year) to submit innovative science and technology ideas; in the process gain recognition for their efforts.

The competition is designed for students to provide outlet for bright ideas and provide candidates with an opportunity to have their projects reviewed , assessed and receive constructive feedback on how to make an idea better from a panel of professionals in various roles across the MSD business. The project is part of MSD's aim to promote and foster innovation and entrepreneurship, along with providing mentoring, to interested candidates to enter next year's BT Young Scientists along with promoting careers in science.

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Notes to the Editor

About MSD

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada, has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs over 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world be well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.