

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition, 2014.

This year, Magh Ene College, Bundoran, was very strongly represented at the 50th BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. Eleven projects from the school presented their research in the RDS, making Magh Ene College, the top fifth school in the country for the most number of projects accepted to the exhibition. Science teacher Yvonne Higgins, mentored the students as they carried out their projects. This year's exhibition was larger than ever before with over 2,000 projects entering the competition, however, only 30% of these entries were accepted to the RDS.

Two projects from the school were Highly Commended for their work; Transition Year students Chloe Johnston, Sonia Leahy and Aoife Keegan for their project 'Menu formats; do they affect meal selections?' and fifth year students Alannah Nic A Bhaird, Rebecca Wymbys and Heather McGowan for their project 'To investigate how the environment of a holly tree affects the life cycle of the holly leaf miner (*Phytomyza ilicis*)'

Other projects from the school were as follows;

First year students Charlie Finn, Hannah McNulty and Rachel McGee carried out 'A comparison of green, red and brown seaweeds' in the Junior Biological and Ecological category.

Second year students Richard Thein, Saul Gavigan and Michael McGloin also exhibited their investigation 'Can snails count?' in the Junior Biological and Ecological category .

Transition year students Catherine Cleary and Roise McGagh exhibited their project 'An Investigation on Cloud Chambers' in the Intermediate Physical and Mathematical category. Catherine and Roise had previously exhibited their project at Scifest in Sligo at which they were awarded the PharmaChemical Ireland Chemistry award.

Another group of Transition Year students Rachel Dolan, Isabella Pawlowski and Emer McGurran investigated 'The effects of alcohol and tobacco on oat seed germination.' They exhibited their project in the intermediate Biological and Ecological category.

Shauna Newell, Sinead Malaniff and Orla Fallon, also in Transition year, carried out a study 'To investigate can children mistake medicines for sweets'. Maia Travers and Ellen Tighe, another group of Transition Year students investigated 'Has the horse meat scandal affected the buying and eating habits of the Irish consumer?' Both groups competed in the intermediate Social and Behavioural category.

Fifth year students Rebecca Newell and Katie Gallagher, carried out a 'Study into the effect of abiotic factors on sea-shore life in Bundoran'. Beth Travers, Roisin Chapman and Bronagh Loughlin, also in fifth year, presented their project 'Natural antifreeze properties of plants' in the Senior Biological and Ecological category. This was Roisin's third time to exhibit a project at the BT Young Scientist.

Leaving Certificate students Niall McSharry, Julian Pawlowski and Jack Roden exhibited their project 'An investigation into the effect of hen feed on meat quality'. This was Niall and Jack's fourth time and Julian's third time to exhibit projects at the BT Young Scientist.

All the first year students in Magh Ene College visited the exhibition in the RDS to view all the projects on display and the many stands from universities and science and technology companies such as Analog Devices and Intel.