

Biological Category – Senior / Individual –

BT Young Scientist Awards 2015.

Project Title :- 'To investigate if the shape of an egg affects the hatch rate in chickens'.

Jack McDermott – Merville Community College, Co.Donegal

Jack is from Merville and is in 4th year in Merville Community College. Jack has had an interest in chickens from a young age and this project was inspired by his fascination. The project title is 'To investigate if the shape of an egg affects the hatch rate in chickens'. His conclusion of the project is that yes it does appear that the shape of an egg affects the success of hatching. 85% of his regular shaped eggs hatched whereas 60% of his irregular shaped eggs hatched. This is quite a significant difference and could potentially save poultry breeders time and money when trying to obtain a more successful number of hatched eggs. The irregular shaped eggs could be discarded and used for human consumption as the content is the exact same as the regular eggs. Jack was awarded second in his category, a massive achievement for himself and the school. Jack is already planning further research on this topic and others relating to chickens.

Teachers – MAURA MC FADDEN (SCIENCE), NIAMH HEGARTY (ART) and RACHEL MCGUINNESS from Merville Community College were involved in encouraging and assisting Jack with the completion and display of the project.