

# SciFest@School

On Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2012 Fingal Community College one of eleven schools in the country hosted a new initiative called SciFest@School which was sponsored by Intel. The aim of SciFest is to encourage a love of science and maths through active collaborative, inquiry-based learning and to provide a forum for students at local or regional level to present and display their scientific investigations. The SciFest competition is similar in structure to the BT Young Scientist but held at a variety of Institutes of Technology in Ireland.

Due to the enormous interest in science from 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Year students in Fingal Community College we were in a position to hold an exhibition in our school hall which displayed 44 projects from 86 students. The top five ranking projects went on to represent Fingal Community College at Blanchardstown IT on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

The school hall was transformed to display the exhibiting projects and a fun zone provided various science games, puzzles and brain teasers to educate and entertain the visiting primary school students. Fingal Community College was pleased to welcome over 400 students from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> class from the following local primary schools; Swords Educate Together, St. Colmcille's Girl's National School, St. Colmcille's Boy's National School and Holy Family National School. We wish to thank the principal, teachers and students of these schools for their support and enthusiasm on the day.

As part of our judging committee we had a wide variety of professionals from the world of science including representatives from Fingal County Council, The Centre for Synthesis & Chemical Biology UCD, MSD Pharmaceuticals Swords, DCU and guest lecturer \_\_\_\_\_ who is working in Ireland at present with the Science Education Department at DCU. We wish to thank all our guest judges for their time, kindness and advice to our students. In particular, huge thanks to MSD Pharmaceutical Company, Swords whose generous sponsorship provided the trophies, medals and refreshments received by our students on the day and lastly Shelia Porter (SciFest) for all her help and support.

Awards were presented to the following students on April 26<sup>th</sup> with the first 5 projects representing Fingal Community College at SciFest@Blanchardstown I.T. on 9<sup>th</sup> May.

- **Fingal Community College Scientist(s) of the Year-**  
*Maccullin Skelly*
  - **Fingal Community College Runner Up Scientist(s) of the Year**  
*Hannah Leonard & Jessica Fitzsimons*
  - **Overall Junior Group**  
*Adam Larkin, Declan Cullen, Shane Wright & Perlix Soco*
  - **Overall Junior Individual**  
*Alex Haidurovs*
  - **Overall Senior Group**  
*Zeni Berisha, Jason Bajarias, Eddie McLoughlin*
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- **Junior Individual Physical Sciences**  
Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Paul Yeates / Esther Adesemowo*
  - **Junior Individual Life Sciences**  
Joint 1<sup>st</sup> Place: *Celine Doran / Edward Madden*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place: *Samantha Borovska*
  - **Junior Individual Technology**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place- *Chloe Reilly*
  - **Junior Group Physical Sciences**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place- *Sorcha O'Connell & Eva Moore*
  - **Junior Group Life Sciences**  
1<sup>st</sup> Place- *Stella Gilmore, Holly Martin & Ashley Salazer*  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place- *Tracy Fakoya, Rachael Fanning, Rachael Carroll*  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place- *Ryan Shanley, Vinh Truong, Gavin Scanlon & Roksana Sudarikova*













Following the success of SciFest@School at Fingal Community College on April 26<sup>th</sup> five projects went on to represent the school at SciFest in Blanchardstown Institute of Technology on 9<sup>th</sup> May. Every one of our qualified students impressed the judges with their commitment, hard work and love of their chosen topic. Fingal Community College's Maccullin Skelly 2<sup>nd</sup> Year succeeded in achieving the second most coveted prize of the day in being awarded the Abbott Overall Runner-Up Best Project. He also won his individual category (Junior Individual Technology). Fifth Year students Zeni Berisha, Jason Bajarias and Eddie McLoughlin were also successful on the day being awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Place in their category (Senior Group Life Sciences). Well done to all the students and teachers involved in SciFest@School and SciFest at Blanchardstown Institute of Technology.

