

Top Ten Insider Tips for Teachers

1. Ensure students put a cost on their time. Even if it's only 5 cent per hour! It shows the judges they realise that it's important to put a price on their time and pay themselves.
2. Concentrate on ideas outside the usual keyrings, branded jerseys and gear bags, wrist bands, Christmas logs etc... While some of these ideas can make money for the students, judges are looking for more creative and innovative ideas to progress through the competition.
3. Ensure that the necessary checks have been made and actions taken by students when producing products that they are selling, for example, to young children, for personal consumption etc... to ensure high safety standards.

Product

Measure

Rainwater Collection Container:

Ensure there is a childproof lock so young children cannot open.

Food Product:

Ensure Home Economics teacher provides guidance on preparation, health and safety and that HSE guidelines are followed.

Childrens' Toys:

If product contains small parts ensure it is labelled 'not suitable for children younger than 3 years old'.

Re-charging Gadget:

For example, a mobile phone holder for charging. Ensure material used is not a fire hazard.

4. The best ideas are those that the students are interested in themselves – the ones they have a genuine interest in. This is a distinct advantage because they have more knowledge of the product or service.
5. If your students are insisting on doing a seasonal product such as Christmas decorations, then try to get them to extend it out to the other holidays such as Halloween, Valentine's Day, St. Patrick's Day etc.
6. If your students are ordering materials online they must take note of the estimated delivery time as it can put them back substantially if the materials take weeks to arrive. They must also be careful of customs and delivery charges.
7. If the group sets up a Facebook page, Twitter account, Instagram page they need to be able to illustrate regular and relevant content on their pages.
8. Keep a diary and regular images of your progress as that will be helpful for your Business Report.
9. Check over your financial reporting to ensure that the figures add up and that your findings make sense.
10. Don't be afraid to approach local business to sponsor you or allow you to sell your products in their shops/ on their premises.