## Business Post 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023

# The young and THE RESTLESS

Undaunted by the challenge of running their own businesses, three young entrepreneurs reveal to **Arlene Harris** how they got their ventures off the ground while still studying at school

e've all heard that necessity is the mother of invention. For 13-year-old Anthony Gorman from Offaly, a burning desire to upgrade his phone without accessing the family coffers meant he had to find a means of making his own money. The enterprising teenager came up with the idea of making reindeer decorations from pieces of wood, fitting them with battery-operated fairy lights and adding the obligatory red noses. In 2019, he sold 50 of them to his teachers at Tullamore College, neighbours and relations.

Gorman's business teacher was so impressed with his ingenuity that she entered him into the annual Student Enterprise Programme (SEP) run by local enterprise offices across the country. This was an inspired move. After winning the county final, Gorman refined his product and expanded his market.

He set up a Facebook page dedicated to generating publicity and sales, which proved even more successful. The following year Gorman, then 14, made 1,000 reindeer before achieving his first big commercial order.

"After releasing my page on social media, everything blew up really quickly, probably because it was during Covid and people were on their phones a lot," he says. "I got a lot of interest and then my dad got diagnosed with cancer. So I made a plan that I would buy him a tractor for Christmas, and I did. After making 1,000 reindeer, I had enough money and he was blown away by it."

The story made the news, and Gorman was contacted by Dunnes Stores – which wanted to trial 50 of his products in its Newbridge store in Rildare

"I couldn't believe it at first," he says. "But after going to the head office



Jack Officers
In Section
(Section Committee)
(Section Committee)



with the resident and planters on talle of there's party mathemic





DRURY.

10 ieParenting

## **E**parenting

## Managing the big move to secondary school

An accessible new booklet written by four enterprising pupils offers insights and tips on how to negotiate the transition, writes

#### Helen O'Callaghan

ICHAEL Murtagh braved it alone last September — out of 12 pupils leaving his small primary school. he was the only one starting in Moyne Community Sehool in Co

his arrival in a secondary school that had ski times the population he was all and ski times the population he was a many control of the population of the p

for the transition from primary to secondary.

As first year progressed, Bromwin says she and the others discussed how students struggle in the early stages of the move from primary, say-ing: "We wanted to help any way we could." While about 10 class-mates came with Eronson from her net.

could. "While about 10 class-mates came with Bronwyn from her primary school, she still felt nervous.
"I don't have any older siblings," she says. "Secondary school was new for everybody in my family."
For Bronwyn, that initial culture shock was encapealated in "having different teachers, moving around to different teachers, moving around to different classrooms and having lockers". Being exposed to large numbers of fellow students several times a day was also overwhelming. Holly agrees: "Switching from class to class, the number of people in the balleties of the second of the control of the control."

odifferent touchers, moving around to bookers. Holing appeared to large beginning to the students assembly to the students as the students of bookers. However, the students are the students of bookers. When have to the students are the students of the students of the students and then have the students and the students and the students and the students and the students are the students and the students are the students and the students and the students are the students are the students and t



ondary transition is a huge culture shock.

"Primary school has been the children's world, their comfort zone for the past eight years, they've grown up in 1, and now it's time to leave, "says behorty." And some leave, "says behorty." And some fixed the past of the past of the leave. The past of the past of the fixed past of the past of the past of the —who they've been used to for years."

years." What's also scary for children is

says the longer school day was hard to get used to. "It's an extra hour in the eventing and, locause see live a line extra the locause see live a line of the locause see live a line of the locause see live a line of the locause see live and locause see line of locause see line see l

From a village to city
What children typically worry about
can sometimes surprise adults. For
Holly McIntyro and some of her classnates, it was the tricky locks on their
school lockers. "You have to turn the
the other way. If I'd known how to
work the lock beforehand, it would
have helped."

work the lock beforehand, it would have helped; have helped; have helped; he h

In sixth class, you're the big guy. Going into first year, you see these big sixth-years who look like grown

■ Divity walk by the school — make been familiar with being around it is been familiar with being around it contains a subject of the school of the school

plan themselves;

Print out their timetable and stick it on the fridge. Highlight days they need to bring extra stuff to school; PE (if, for example, Ask Do you have this ready for tomorrow? But encourage responsibility; after a few weeks, ask, 'Have you looked at your insteadale?'

wheels again the properties of the properties of

school, it can only help, "says Cross.
How soon children settle depends
on the child. "I could say Christmas,
but many settle far quicker. It's different for them all and depends on
their level of anxiety," says Cross,
who says negrons should contact the

ister. In Moyne CS, all four friends have

Gaelic, soccer, and athletics, says: "I'm good with secondary school





secondary school, emphasise how ex-citing it is — going to this new school with new things to learn and new friends to make:

Brive/walk by the school — make

in Moyne CS, all four friends have now found their groove. Bromwyn loves secondary for its bigger pool of potential friends.

"When there are 100 more people in your year than there were in pri-mary, you have lots more people to hang out with."

And Michael, who's involved in

The Power of Full Circle

## Irish Independent 4th May 2023

## Young entrepreneur: 'As my mum juggled palette, phone and mirror for a make-up tutorial, I knew there must be a better way'

#### Arlene Harris

JACK O'REGAN KENNY was watching his mother follow an online make up tutorial when he had a brain wave.

"Trealised that she was juggling a phone, her palette and a mirror - and it just wasn't working," said the 20-year-old who was at the time a fifth-year student at Coláiste Mhuire in Mullingar.

Being interested in engineering, particularly the intersection between hardware and software, he wanted to see if there was a way in which her phone could be the mirror.

"So I started working on a prototype for a touchscreen smart mirror. Then I patented the technology and started to commercialise the product by taking part in the Student Enterprise Programme — the SEP.

He began looking at finance options to expand his business – and crucially, to start making sales. And now he has a waiting list for the product (on www.mirr.tech).

Tomorrow over 80 students from all over the country will gather in Dublin to find out if they have been successful in their attempts to win the top prize at the national finals of the Student Enterprise Programme.

The annual event, which is in its 21st year, aims to "encourage and nurture" the next generation of Irish entrepreneurs, says SEP national co-ordinator Yvonne

O'Neill. She says finalists will be showcasting their products, and services - which encompass a range of sectors including tech, finance, health, beauty and education – in a bid to gain recognition, experience, and perhaps even a successful business.

"The aim of the Student Enterprise Programme is to instil an entrepreneurial spirit and passion for innovation in our young students with the bope that in the future they may consider entrepreneurship as a viable career choice. 'She said.

"It also helps them learn that self-employment is a real

option for them after school - and many of them will have never considered this before. "In addition to this, students

learn so many file skills during the programme – such as teamwork, creativity, innovation, financial management, and public speaking. They learn how to promote themselves, how to solve problems, how to pick themselves up, and how to overcome obstuckers.

SEP before - but when he entered his Mirr. he ended up winning the competition.
"This was really helpful in getting the word out and introducing the product to

the right people." The young Offaly man is also the MD of www. joinpatch.org – which he describes as "a community of curious and driven young people who learn and create He is looking forward to hearing about the SEP's winning entries

"My advice would be to start building something and put

it out there," he says, "Get people looking at it and using it"

I made so many terrible projects before I landed on Mirr - but that experience really helped me. I think connecting with other people who are interested in building things makes the experience less lonely,

"So don't be worried about not being good enough. You'll find that most people don't know what they are doing either – so just keep going"

Ms O'Neill says that although not everyone who participates in programme will end up running their own business, they will all have gained from their experience.

"The SEP alumni definitely have more strings to their bow after taking part in the programme," she says.

"In particular, those who fulfil the position of MD in their student enterprise have a greater appreciation of what's involved in managing a team of people and how important it is that everyone pulls their weight."



Inventive:
Jack
O'Regan
Kenny says
the Student
Enterprise
Programme
helped him
meet the
right people
to launch
his business
while still in
school



### The Herald 4th May 2023

#### Smart mirror student reflects on his journey

#### **Arlene Harris**

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#### Obstacles

"It also helps them learn that self-employment is a real there was a way in which her option for them after school and many of them will have never considered this before.

"In addition to this, students learn so many life skills during the programme.

"They learn how to promote themselves, how to solve problems, how to pick themselves up, and how to overcome obstacles."

Jack had taken part in SEP before - but when he entered his Mirr, he ended up winning the competition.

"This was really helpful in getting the word out and introducing the product to the right



Jack O'Regan Kenny won the SEP with his Mirr product



### **Irish Times** 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023

### Roscommon students win enterprise award for bin compactor

#### **NATHANJOHNS**

Roscommon Community College students Josh McCorwheelie bin rubbish.

Croke Park yesterday, 82 short- horseshoe gifts. listed student businesses were showcased after being whittled first-year students, Alex down from 25,000 initial en- O'Looney, Freya Whitney and tries. Josh and Evan, both in Amy Keaveney of Drumshantransition year, took home the bo Vocational School in Co top prize for students from Leitrim were awarded the top fourth to sixth year after judg- prize for their farm safety proes were impressed with their ject. Named Gasper, the prod-McCompactor product.

mon Community College, to bend to lift the lid. Their in-Paul McLaughlin, we met him spiration came when Alex in the corridor one day [and O'Looney became concerned we were] stuck for an idea," after watching her grandfasaid McNeil when asked about ther bending down to try to their inspiration. "We asked him did he have anything and his fingers and a pitchfork. he said: 'I'm always jumping into my bin, make something for me that would make it easi- engineering companies to deer for me instead of hopping velop the idea.

into the bin and falling out of it.' From there, we came up with this idea."

Caitlin Morris, from Moyne mack and Evan McNeil have Community School, Co Longbeen named winners of the ford, won the intermediate catesenior category of the Student gory, open to second- and Enterprise Programme after third-year students, for her prodesigning a compactor for ject Clip Clop Designs. Morris, an experienced equestrian rid-At an awards ceremony in er, designs and sells decorative

In the junior category for uct opens the lid of a slurry "Our teacher in Roscom- tank without farmers having open a slatted tank cover with

The product is now on sale and the students are visiting



### Irish Country Living 20th May 2023

### Young innovators impress

students led the way with their agriculture entrepreneurship ideas at the student enterprise tinal in Croke Park, writes Sarah McIntosh

he 21st Student Enterprise Pro gramme National Finals took place in Croke Park on 5 May, with 82 finalist groups showcasing their innovarive husiness to sixth year to learn basic entrepreneurial skills by creating their own business models. A number of students created innovative agricultural nimducts and business ventures.

The programme is funded by the Government through Enterprise Ireland and delivered by the 31 local enterprise offices in local authorities throughour the country. Since the programme began in 2003, over 350,000 students have taken part, learning key skills on how to create a business idea,

start a business and grow a business. The National Final saw students in junior, intermediate and senior categories challenged with creating, service or product. This year, close to 25,000 students participated.

Michael Nevin has been the chair of the Local Enterprise Office's Enter-prise Education Committee for the last 10 years.

Speaking at the final in Croke Park, Michael told Irish Country Living about the lasting impact the programme has had on students since its

because it teaches them the practical skills involved in running their own enterprise," he said. "They are real-life skills around

brainstorming, tennwork, keeping books and selling their product and themselves. These skills will stand out no matter what career they embark on

are interested in self-employment and a career in business, we can nurture

24 IRISH COUNTRY LIVING 20 MAY 2023



Freya Whitney, Alexandra O'Looney and Amy Keaveney receiving the junior award for their product Grasper from Minister of State for Employment Affairs and Retail Business Neale Richmond, left, and, right, John Magee, Chair of the Network of Local Enterprise Offices.

In the junior category, farm safety came out on top with Handled with Hearts winning for their product, Grasper. The three students – Freya Whitney, Alexandra O'Logney and Amy Keaveney - from Drumshanbo Vocational School in Co. Leitrim created a handheld farm safety tool used to assist farmers with the opening of slurry tank agitation covers.

"I was on the farm with Grandad,

and I noticed he was struggling to pick real chance up the slatted tank cover. He was always to do so." complaining about his back hurting. I brought this back to Freya and Amy and product on camera and their video we came up with the Grasper's he every plained. "It saves the farmer from hurt-

business and the students met the Minister of State with special respon-

who said: "It was great to meet with the passionate team behind Handled with Hearts, Alex, Amy and Freya showed can help farmers look after their physi-

"I am a big believer that young people can play an important role in improving safety on farms - they are underestimate their ability to deliver real change when they are empowered

Alexandra's grandad tested out the ing their back or getting their fingers to spread awareness of farm safety and aught and it keeps them far away from showcase their product. They now hope it [the slurry tank] so the fumes don't to diversify the business into other farm Farm safety is a huge aspect of their To see the product in use visit:

It saves the

ack or getting

it Ithe slurry

fumes don't

Jack Dooley and Clan Holohan from St Kieran's College, Co Kilkenny, have created a range of decorative products made from recycled horseshoes.

Taking the time out of their Junior Cert studies, the third-year students have created a business to make use of old horsesthoes. "We have ponies at home, and I saw the horseshoes lying around the yard," said Jack. "I was wondering what we could do with them, so I started welding them in the workshop. Once I settled on a few ideas, we stayed going. We attended a couple of markets and it went very well. He isn't as interested in the ponies, but loves machinery as his family are fencing. contractors. "I like welding and I am getting good at it. It is a very useful skill to have

and you can do a lot with it."

Clan broke his leg so couldn't attend the final in Croke Park, but his friend Kililian
Ryan attended to help Jack.



enterprise final in Croke Park

Darragh O'Callaghan and Evan Moloney from St John Bosco Community College, Co Clare, created their business around manufacturing stainless steel light

Evan, who is from a suckler farming background, came up with the idea for the OMC Light Bars. He told irish Country Living: "I came up with the idea because I was interested in getting one for my own tractor, but they were too dear from other companies. We made a Instagram: ocm.lighting

prototype and we were happy with our

"We got better materials and ad-After spending two hours on the farm, they came up with a prototype, "It was rough and ready but it did the job and got us going. We got a bit of a bug then and started looking for suppliers."

You can find them on Facebook and

#### AGRI CAREERS



Odhran Freeman, Kiefer Walsh and Owen Monaghan from St Louis Secondary School Kiltimagh, Co Mayo, are the team behind Odhran's Hen Houses. When Odhran couldn't find the perfect hen house on the market, he decided to take the matter into his own hands

"I was looking to buy a hen house myself for my hens and it was hard to find the right size for the right price. So, I make them to

make them then," he explained. with designs and dimensions of a hen house to people and having "the craic" during the

You can find the hen houses on Instagram Facebook and TikTok, www.tiktok.com/@ odhrans hen houses



#### Editor - Irish Country Living

Irish Country Living is seeking applications for the position of Editor. You will be responsible for leading trish

Country Living, managing the development and production of a high-quality publication and events which encompass the ethos of Irish Candidates are required to have: » Proven track record in leadership empathy with needs of dwellers in rural Ireland

· An ability to recognise develop strong stories . Strong communication and interpersonal skill- Excellent people management skills . High level of writing and English skills . Computer literary and digital skills . Ability to work to strict deadlines

#### \*Third level qualification A full job description is available at www.farmersjournal.ie/careers

Interested applicants should forward a CV and cover letter by email to the LR Manager at necrotragifarmersjournal to with Editor, Irish Country Loring in the subject line. Application deadline: Friday, 2 Jun 2023. Applications will be meaned in the articlest confidence. The Irish Farmers Journal is



IRISHFIELD MACANE TRACTION Garden

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## BusinessPlus.ie 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 LINK

## Minister English Launches Student Enterprise Programme



NEWS / 14TH NOVEMBER 2022 / BP REPORTER

**Damien English**, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, has launched Ireland's largest Student Enterprise Programme, which is expected to attract 25,000 participants.

An initiative of the Local Enterprise Offices, the Student Enterprise Programme has seen over 325,000 secondary school students take part in the programme since it first began two decades ago.



## BusinessPlus.ie 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 LINK

### Finalists Announced For Student Enterprise Programme



NEWS / 24TH APRIL 2023 / GEORGE MORAHAN

The 82 finalists for <u>Local Enterprise Offices'</u> Student Enterprise Programme have been announced after being selected from over 25,000 entrants.

Now in its 21st year, the Student Enterprise Programme is Ireland's largest entrepreneurial programme for secondary level students, and entrants will compete across three categories: senior 4th, 5th and 6th years, LVA, LCA and Youth Outreach), intermediate (2nd and 3rd year) and junior (1st year).



## Businesspost.ie 27<sup>th</sup> April 2023 <u>LINK</u>

#### FEATURE

#### Bright sparks: Meet the teenagers who started businesses while still in school

Every year 25,000-plus students from 500 schools take in the Student Enterprise Programme. We speak to three young entrepreneurs who have used the scheme as a springboard for their ideas

ARLENE HARRIS | APRIL 27, 2023



Anthony Gorman, from Killeigh, Co Offaly, makes wooden reindeer decorations and planters; last Christmas, 10,000 of his reindeer were sold in 45 branches of Dunnes Stores. Picture: Jeff Harvey



## Independent.ie 4<sup>th</sup> May 2023 **LINK**

### 'Watching my mother juggle her palette, phone and mirror, I knew that there had to be a better way'

How do you invent a better mirror? Ask a teenager to do it



Jack O'Regan Kenny

#### **Arlene Harris**

Thu 4 May 2023 at 02:30









## IrishExaminer.com 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 LINK

## Coping with the big move from primary to secondary school

An accessible new booklet written by four enterprising pupils offers insights and tips on how to negotiate the transition from sixth class to first year



A wide shot of female and male teenagers chatting in school uniforms next to red lockers. They are all smiling and wearing full school uniforms. This school is based in the North East of England.



## RTE.ie 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 **LINK**

#### Roscommon students win top enterprise award

Updated / Friday, 5 May 2023 15:55











Joshua McCormack and Evan McNeil from Roscommon Community College



# IrishTimes.com 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 LINK

Education

## Wheelie good idea: Roscommon TY students win enterprise award for bin compactor

Idea was sparked by teacher telling students 'I'm always jumping into my bin' to press down rubbish



Josh McCormack and Evan McNeil of Roscommon Community College took home the senior prize with their McCompactor rubbish compactor. Photograph: Nick Bradshaw for The Irish Times



## Independent.ie 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**LINK** 

#### Ireland's finest young student entrepreneurs celebrated at awards in Croke Park



Pictured at the National Final of the Student Enterprise Awards in Croke Park are Jada O'Connor and Grace O'Donnell from Meath who together co authored their self help guide for teenagers based on their own experiences, A Girl's Guide to Confidence. Photo: Julien Behal Photograph

#### Niamh McGovern

Fri 5 May 2023 at 20:49







A group of enterprising young students from Roscommon came away with the top prize at today's Student Enterprise Programme awards in Croke Park.



# FarmersJournal.ie 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 LINK

## Safety tool for slurry tanks wins at Student Enterprise Programme awards

Sarah O'Sullivan speaks to students from three schools who are at this week's Student Enterprise Programme with their projects Grasper, LambFeeder and BudsToBloom.





## BusinessPlus.ie 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 LINK

## Roscommon Duo Land Top Student Enterprise Prize



NEWS / 5TH MAY 2023 / BP REPORTER



## FarmersJournal.ie 17<sup>th</sup> May 2023 <u>LINK</u>

## Young innovators impress at Student Enterprise Final

Secondary school students led the way with their agriculture entrepreneurship ideas at the student enterprise final in Croke Park.



HD Horseshoe Design, Jack Dooley and Killian.



## RTE Two – News 2day 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023 LINK





## RTE Radio One - Morning Ireland 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023





