

**Loreto College Cavan Scoop Top Prizes
At the Cavan Student Enterprise Awards 2009**

4th March 2009

The annual Cavan "Student Enterprise Awards" were held on Wednesday 4th March 2009 to find three innovative business ideas to represent County Cavan at the National Finals of the County & City Enterprise Board Student Enterprise Awards to be held later this year. These awards offer students the opportunity to take a business from the idea stage right through to completion. Seventy business projects from nine schools in County Cavan were showcased in the Slieve Russell Hotel with over 260 students from the age of thirteen to sixteen involved, all competing to win one of the fifteen awards available on the day.

The judging panel had to critique three different groups, Junior, Intermediate & Senior with five categories in each group, best display, award for innovation, two runner-up awards and the overall winner.

After a three hour long judging process Loreto College Cavan collected first prize in the junior, intermediate and senior categories which means that it will be all Loreto College Cavan student business projects representing Co. Cavan in the National Finals of the County & City Enterprise Boards Student Enterprise Awards in Tullamore in May.

The production of an educational package entitled "**Educate Urself**" comprising of a board game and accompanying teacher's booklet, which aims to create a fun way of learning about the European Union at primary school level, was deemed the winner in the Senior Category while – "**Listen and Learn**" the design and production of a CD to assist students learning German won the Intermediate Category and Loreto were again victorious in the Junior Category with their business idea entitled "**Fairy Nice**" which is the production of fairy ornaments using recycled CDs. All winners received an engraved trophy and cash prize.

Nine Schools from County Cavan entered the competition - St. Aidan's Comprehensive Cootehill, Virginia College, Loreto College, St. Bricin's College Belturbet, Breifne College Cavan, St. Clare's College Ballyjamesduff, St. Patrick's College Cavan, Royal School Cavan and Baileborough Community School.

Mr. Vincent Reynolds, CEO, Cavan County Enterprise Board (CCEB) said how delighted he was to see so many innovative and good business ideas being showcased. Cavan County Enterprise Board aims to foster and develop enterprise awareness among secondary school students and to use the experience of setting up and running an enterprise as the primary means of learning about self-employment as a career option - he said that speaking to some of the young entrepreneurs he was very impressed with the confidence, enthusiasm and business acumen displayed by the students. He continued to say that participation in the Student Enterprise Awards Programme is a unique learning opportunity for students as they gain invaluable on the ground experience outside of the conventional classroom environment.

As well as the presentation of the awards, well known Irish entrepreneur Jay Bourke spoke to the students about his own personal experiences of running a portfolio of successful businesses. Jay has created and run some of Ireland's most successful and innovative restaurants, bars and clubs. His company, Sherland Entertainments, employs over 350 staff and he is best known for reopening the doors of Bewleys on Grafton Street and co-presenting "The Mentor" programme on RTE television which advised entrepreneurs on the direction of their business.

Other winners on the day included the Royal School Cavan, Bailieborough Community School and St. Aidan's Comprehensive Cootehill.