



PRESS RELEASE

AIB and Junior Achievement Celebrate 20 Years of Partnership

27,000 students have completed Junior Achievement programmes facilitated by AIB volunteers since 1996

14th November 2016: To celebrate 20 years of partnership between Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) and Allied Irish Banks (AIB), past and present AIB volunteers were recognised at an event at AIB Bankcentre.

JAI utilises the experience of those already in the workforce to help children of all ages to fully understand the important role that education will play in shaping their futures. AIB has supported JAI since its foundation in 1996 and has released staff every year to work on structured JA programmes to help students make the connections between their studies and their post-school futures.

AIB Head of Corporate Banking Simon Scroope paid tribute to the 1,094 volunteers who have made a positive contribution to the communities in which they work through the relationship with JAI, saying: "I am delighted to pay tribute to the AIB volunteers who have taught Junior Achievement programmes in 273 schools around the country over the last 20 years. These programmes seek to prepare students to be responsible, enterprising individuals who have the skills, knowledge and attitudes needed to prepare them to achieve the goals they set for themselves. Our colleagues have enabled more than 27,000 students to engage in early-stage entrepreneurship education, work readiness and financial literacy. The core life skills which they develop can carry forward into adulthood and on behalf of the Group, I would like to thank each and every one of them for their willingness to help our young people to own their economic futures."

CEO of Junior Achievement Ireland, Helen Raftery, said: "Getting the opportunity to work with positive role models from the world of work makes a significant impact on young people. Students who have adult involvement in their schooling generally have better grades, better attendance, and higher graduation rates. Our 20 years of industry-education collaboration with organisations like AIB has had a direct positive impact on the lives of more than 800,000 young people."

Siobhán Weekes, Principal of Scoil Chaitríona Baggot Street, whose students worked with AIB volunteers last year, said: "As an educator, I would emphasise to all at AIB what a profound impact their volunteers' involvement has on all participating children in our school. It is so important that we encourage our children to develop their independence, motivation and perseverance so that they can reach their full potential. By getting the opportunity to work with business volunteers from the 'real



world', the children are given an invaluable chance to meet with and learn from professionals from many disciplines, something that would definitely be outside the norm for so many of our children. I hope we can continue to enjoy JA programmes in our school and I wish to thank everyone involved for all of your work with our children."

-ENDS-

***** Photography to be supplied by Shane O'Neill Photography*****

Notes to the Editor:

About Junior Achievement Ireland

Junior Achievement Ireland (JAI) works in partnership with our corporate supporters to complement the work of our schools by recruiting, training and managing business volunteers to work with students to inspire and motivate young people to make the most of their education.

Junior Achievement (JA) programmes facilitated by business volunteers encourage young people to remain in education and help them develop the skills they need to succeed in a changing world. Working with schools and business partners, JA programmes promote work readiness, financial literacy, entrepreneurship and the value of studying STEM.

JAI is part of a worldwide organisation reaching out to over 10 million young people each year. It was established in Ireland in 1996 and since then has built up a strong demand from schools throughout the country and created successful partnerships with over 160 leading organisations.

Further information:

Damien Henehan, Junior Achievement Ireland, 01 2930210

Kathleen Barrington, AIB Press Office, 01 6414563