



Don't miss out on the opportunity to run your own school bank

13th October 2009

The closing date for entry into this year's AIB Build a Bank Challenge 2009/2010 is fast approaching. All schools have until the end of this week to sign up by October 16th to be in with a chance to run their own school bank, and in the process, win lots of prizes for both their school and for individual team members.

The AIB Build a Bank Challenge offers transition year students the opportunity to set up, run and manage their own school bank, giving them the chance to be involved in all aspects of banking. All schools participate in regional finals in March with the top ten regional schools qualifying for the National Final which will be held in Croke Park in May 2010.

This year, for the first time, each of the schools that finish 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the National Final will win an Interactive White Board for their school.

Each participating school bank has six members who are interviewed and appointed by local AIB staff - one bank manager, one assistant manager, one auditor, two tellers and one sales and marketing executive. An increased marketing budget will be given to each school to get their bank up and running and full training is provided for each of these positions. At present, schools are in the process of setting up their banks which will be open to the students at least once a fortnight, supported by their local AIB Student Officer.

The Challenge is now in its eighth year with Salesian College, Celbridge, Co Kildare winning first place last year, St. Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co Cork winning second place and Gorey Community School, Co Wexford winning third place.

Susan Reilly, AIB Build a Bank Challenge Manager, said:

"The Build a Bank Challenge is a fun project for transition year students – and offers all students in the school a great chance to learn business and interpersonal skills. Those students running the bank learn about teamwork, customer service and marketing and sales while the other students have the chance to learn about the importance of money management."

"Now in its eighth year, we have made some changes to the Challenge based on feedback from last year's participants such as the introduction of a "Best Newcomer" Award, and a draw for a €150 voucher for school supplies for the top 10 Business Plans submitted by December 21st, so with these changes, and with a great range of prizes on offer, this year's Build a Bank Challenge is sure to be the best yet."

Photo available on request

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