

www.basispoint.ie



The Business in the
Community Ireland
basis.point Programme

Helping young people to
reach their full potential in
Dublin, Cork and Limerick

Basispoint Limited
c/o Ms Louise Egan
89 Wainsfort Manor Drive,
Terenure, Dublin 6W, Ireland.
Email: admin@basispoint.ie
Web: www.basispoint.ie

basis.point is a registered charity.
Number: CHY 21121 CRA 20084141



Business in the Community Ireland Schools' Business Partnership

**BUSINESS
IN THE
COMMUNITY
IRELAND**

The Schools' Business Partnership (SBP) is a national initiative that aims to develop mutually beneficial links between schools and businesses at local level and to support the Irish government's overall strategy on educational inclusion. It is managed by Business in the Community Ireland (BITCI) - the network for responsible business in Ireland. It operates by matching individual post primary schools that are targeted through the Government's School Completion Programme with a large local company in partnership and is the only business-education programme in Ireland that receives matching Government funds.

SBP is an internationally recognised and acclaimed education inclusion initiative and the aim has been to increase the student retention rate at post primary level in Ireland from the level of 80% (in 2000 when it was established) and to enhance the educational experience for students,

principals and teachers in approximately 200 post primary schools nationally. As of July 2017, Ireland now lies 3rd highest in the European member state zone for student retention with a rate of 90.3% and BITCI is proud to have played its part in this significant progress.



The Student Mentoring Programme

The Student Mentoring Programme is one of six programmes in the SBP. It provides students with a mentor from the world of work to encourage and assist them through the final two years of post primary school. The programme encourages the student to stay in school, promotes their self-esteem and develops their awareness of the workplace. Many of our young people do not have the support within their own families to encourage them to continue their studies, complete school and consider the many career options open to them. This programme provides a network of support

that enables them to consider what they would like to do when they leave school.

The programme typically involves a group of approximately ten or twelve students from a school being mentored, and the mentors meet with their student mentee at the company's offices for an hour every three weeks over a two year period. It has already changed many lives and because of this, BITCI has a vision to bring it to as many young people as possible. The need is greatest in Ireland's main urban cities and rural towns.



basis.point Funding

The basis.point funding of €45k over the next two years (2017 & 2018), will:

- ① enable the Student Mentoring Programme to be expanded to benefit an additional 65 – 100 students in 7 schools not yet benefitting from the existing programme in Dublin, Cork and Limerick, and
- ② enable the creation of a mentoring alumni association to provide support to the students who have participated in the Student Mentoring Programme so that they have an ongoing supportive network to assist them after they have left school.



Student Evaluation

- 93% of students would recommend the Student Mentoring Programme to another student
- 87% of students would like to stay in contact with their mentor
- 80% of students would like to partake in an Alumni Programme
- 64% of students said the programme improved their self-confidence
- 40% of students indicated that the programme had positively influenced their attitude towards the Leaving Certificate with a further 13% responding that they had been considering leaving school but the programme has encouraged them to stay

Programme Activities

Activities undertaken by the students and their mentors in 2016/17:

- 67% set goals with their mentors
- 56% participated in career investigation/CAO
- 53% participated in CV/mock interviews
- 46% researched colleges with their mentor
- 32% participated in work place visits

Other activities included: Karting, Cinema, Snooker, Bowling and trips to Adventure Centres



Mentor Evaluation

- 98% of mentors would recommend the Student Mentoring Programme to a friend or colleague
- 92% of mentors would volunteer for the Student Mentoring Programme again
- 89% of mentors said they found the programme hugely enjoyable or very enjoyable
- 79% of mentors indicated the most beneficial aspect of the programme was being able to make a difference to a young person's life

Researching the Benefits

Mentoring is one of the most powerful ways to support a young person achieve their true potential in life. Indeed, research conducted in 2011 by Amárach highlighted that 62% of Irish people believe that being partnered with a business mentor encourages at risk students to complete their Leaving Certificate. Mentor training and child protection guidelines are delivered by BITCI during a half-day session at the company. The school principal and/or teacher also contributes to prepare the mentors for the role. Key skills, especially communication skills including listening skills, are outlined and developed

via a workshop. The role of a mentor is a strong focus which is further developed by learning from previous participants.

It has been researched internationally* that the key to successful mentoring programmes is ongoing support and not simply the matching, so BITCI provides two feedback and support sessions in the first year and one in year two. A launch takes place at the beginning and a ministerial celebration at the end where all participants are presented with certificates of achievement by the Irish Minister for Education and Skills.

*Sipe, C.L. (1999). Mentoring adolescents: What have we learned? In Grossman, J.B. (Ed.), Contemporary issues in mentoring. (p.17). Philadelphia: Public/Private Ventures.



Student and Mentor Evaluations

Feedback from Students

"I have always wanted to stay in school and complete the Leaving Certificate but I never understood how big of a deal it was until I started doing this programme."

"The Leaving Certificate is needed for almost everything and I know going to college was one of my main priorities but my mentor helped make the decision clearer as to why I wanted to go to college."

"I enjoyed the career investigation the most because, before I participated in the programme I didn't know what I wanted to do when I left school and it helped me pick out things I was good at and possibly obtain a career out of them."

"I want to go to college to achieve my goals and complete my education process as I am still of young age and I hope to become as successful as my mentor."



Feedback from Mentors

"I really liked having the opportunity to support someone to make some decisions around their future, to see the world from their perspective and to help them recognise their strengths, skills and achievements and to understand how they can use them in their chosen field of study/work."

"A lack of self-confidence can often hold a person back from achieving great things. A little push in the right direction can encourage someone to aim high and picture a bright future for themselves."

"Great to work in the community, keeps one connected with the younger generation, stimulating, a total break from normal routine, supporting students to explore possibilities they wouldn't have considered."

