College holds 21st RAG Week

Cardiac Risk in the Young charity benefits from students donating proceeds

Bracelets, keyrings and magnets are all in a day’s work for budding moguls

CAREFUL: Aidan Kelly holding his breath during a game of Jenga in IT Tallaght

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The 21st RAG Week is being staged on the campus of IT Tallaght this week, with students donating the proceeds of events to CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) charity, reports Sorcha Magee.

According to IT Tallaght Student Union President, Glenn O’Brien, a different charity is chosen each year by the student body for RAG Week.

Glenn told The Echo: “We chose CRY this year because it’s a fantastic charity that’s doing great work to highlight an important issue.”

Cardiac Risk in the Young is an organisation that aims to prevent Sudden Adult Death Syndrome (SADS), alongside providing free support to those affected by SADS while running the Centre for Cardiovascular Risk in Younger Persons (CRYP) in Tallaght Hospital – which is a free service.

With the help of fundraising events such as IT Tallaght’s RAG Week, CRY is able to create awareness around the condition and maintain its CRYP Centre which managed to see 1,500 people in 2012 alone.

IT Tallaght’s fundraising events are being held mainly on campus and range from the Chicken Wing Challenge on Monday to the RAG Ball on Friday.

Glenn said: “We’ve organised many different events this week – there’s lots of games and challenges like Dunk Your Union and I’m A Student Get Me Out Of Here, as well as make-overs for students and a quiz party at the RAG Ball.”

“There’s definitely a few surprises in store as well – there’ll be some celebrity guests appearing during the week and we’ve also organised a Mystery Tour.”

RAG Week also features a movie day, pool competitions and a revival of the classic game show Blind Date, featuring popular Tallaght comedian Al Porter.

While most events are staged to support a good cause, Glenn stressed: “We know that money can be an issue these days, especially for students, so we’re not asking people for huge donations and we’ve organised a lot of free events like our giant board-games.

“RAG Week isn’t just about raising money, it’s also about raising awareness for CRY, highlighting the issue and gaining support so we’ll be proud of whatever amount of money the students raise.”

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WITH just over one week to go until this year’s Student Enterprise Awards, one local business teacher has commended the competition and the core work values it helps to instil in its young participants.

Supported by the South Dublin County Enterprise Board, with sponsorship from IT Tallaght, the County Finals of the competition will take place on Friday, February 28 – during which more than 800 budding entrepreneurs from across 20 schools will showcase their viable businesses.

This week The Echo continues with its coverage of local schools participating and heads to Dublin 22 and Collinstown Park Community College to speak with business teacher, Carolan Jones.

“The Student Enterprise Awards are fantastic and Collinstown Park has been participating in the competition for the past five years,” Ms Jones said.

“The competition gives students an opportunity to put the theory they have learned in the classroom into practice – alongside learning core work values and skills which will benefit them both in and out of school.”

This year Collinstown Park has eight business projects entered into the competition – businesses which have all been established by first year students.

The businesses include a lip gloss company, personalised wooden door signs, a keyring and magnet firm, two confectionery businesses, bracelet manufacturing and a table coaster company.

Ms Jones said: “All of the students have been working on their businesses from idea conception and have done everything, from research to accounts and marketing to sales, themselves.

“Some of the groups were also tasked with sourcing materials cheaply, with one group sourcing quality but cheap items on eBay so that they could sell them for a profit.

“All eight businesses have equally been making profits and have been very active in selling to their fellow students and teachers and to the wider community.

“I also took them to a trade fair in Bank of Ireland, which gave them experience in selling their product outside of their school and home community.”

“This helped enhance their customer relations and gave them confidence in their products.”

She added: “All of the students have worked really hard in making their businesses a success and are ready talking about how they can grow their companies and get them to the next stage.”

The County Finals of the Student Enterprise Awards will take place on February 28 after which, a winner from each category will be chosen to represent South County Dublin at the National Final in April.

Signature Company: Jessica and Fiona Smith working hard on their new enterprise