

The Fourth Year Business Project, October 2006

In October, the 4th year business students began preparing for their project, which involved setting up Mini Companies, with a view of making a presentation of their products to the rest of the school on Friday, 15th December.

A total number of 9 teams got together in teams of between 1 and 6 students. They brainstormed for a week or so, and came up with their own individual ideas. They then did research into everything they would require to make their product.

This involved appointing themselves to different jobs within their companies, finding the raw materials to be used, and most importantly, acquiring the finance to get their project up and running.

Some of the students used their own savings to get started, and others sold shares in their company to other people who were prepared to invest in their idea!

When the 15th December arrived, the students made their presentations to the rest of the school in the gym, at lunchtime. All of them were well presented, and some of the mini-companies made quite a profit.

After it was over, all the investors were repaid their money along with a share of the profit that had been made, and a large proportion of the remaining profit has been given to a charity of their choice.

Overall, it was a project that was embraced enthusiastically by the students, and also gave them a small insight into what the business world can be like.

Eamon O'Brien

Mini-Companies:

1. 'Trufflits'

For our business project, we decided to make truffles, and sell them to the school on 15th December.

We made little posters, and chocolates in advance, and then sold the little chocolates for €0.20 each. We sold bigger truffles for €1.00 each, and then we sold 6 big truffles (beautifully wrapped by Lydia) for €2.00 each.

We came up with our company name by putting together the words 'chocolates', and 'truffles'.

Lydia Ging, Gillian Cantrell, Stephanie O'Connor

2. 'El Rincon Espanol'

We worked a Spanish business, with Spanish food. We are 4 Spanish girls, and we brought the products from Spain. The food that people most liked was 'Tortilla de Patatas', this had an amazing success.

We've earned a bit of money, each of us, but the best thing is that we've enjoyed a lot the selling of the food, and working in our mini-company.

Huera, Blanca, Paloma, Natalia

3. O'Brien's Clothing Barn

We decided to do this project because we thought it would be a good idea because we knew girls often got into trouble for having coloured tee-shirts under their uniforms.

We decided that instead of making a load of tee-shirts and shorts and finding that no-one would buy them, we made samples. We made 4 sample tee-shirts, 2 with green writing, and 2 with red writing.

Claudia, who was part of the group, went down to Dun Laoghaire and bought 4 plain white tee-shirts, and iron-on material. Stencils and fabric paint were also purchased. The samples were made and brought into school. Posters were made by each person in the group, and were stuck up around our stall. Music was played and Rebecca modelled our merchandise.

A lot of people ordered them, and we had a great time doing it!

Robyn O'Riordan, Rebecca Sutton, Harriet Mackey, Jill McKeagney, and Claudia Rocca-Ryan

4. Calendar Girls

Our group designed two separate calendars for the year 2007. One for Junior 5 class, and one for Prep class.

On both front covers, each girl drew a small self portrait and all of the drawings were put on the front cover.

On the inside, each girl's name was on her birthday date, and also a group photograph of all the girls for each month, was used as the main picture for each month.

Sally Houlihan, Jee Macken, Rebekah Browner

5. Smoothies

Our mini-company made home made smoothies for the school to buy. We made two types of smoothies, one called tropical surprise, which included passion fruit, pineapple, natural yogurt, mango, and banana. The other type was called strawberry blast, and this included berries, strawberries, bananas, orange, and natural yogurt.

Rachel and Emily went up to Tesco to buy the fruits needed for the smoothies. Emma, Laura, and Michelle made the display for the business. We really enjoyed our experience of setting up a mini-company.

Laura King, Rachel Hennessy, Emily Mitchell, Emma Byrne, and Michell McQuaid.

6. MUYEMBE (Cookies in Russian)

This international group set up their business to sell exotic cookies from their own different cultures. They were very popular.

Eugeniya Obukhova, Andrea Perez, Itsuki Yoshikama

7. Clips

My business project was to buy hairdresser clips and decorate them with stick-on little diamonds. I sold them for 3€ a clip, and I was successful in selling nearly all of them.

Gillian Bailey.

8. Scoobie Pens

For our business project, we made pens. We made scoobie doos up around the centre part of the biro pen.

We made posters for our stall also. At lunchtime on the 15th December, we sold most of the pens.

Klara Schuster, Shauna Byrne

9. Vanity

Emma set up her business to sell many different designs of accessories for hair. She made a great effort, and had a big order list prepared long before the 15th December, so her business was guaranteed to be a success.

Emma Robinson

10. Panini Paradise

We were latecomers as our group was only formed late in October. Like most of the other groups, we struggled for weeks to come up with a solid business idea.

After a while we settled on a 'Panini Day' idea. Our business idea was in such demand throughout the school, our Panini Day had to become Panini Days!! They were held on the 15th and 20th December, 2006.

Our business has been an absolute success- making a sizeable profit on the way. All four of us have now been exposed to the stresses, strains, and successes of a business.

All this would not have been possible without a constant supply of support from our families, friends, and teachers.

Lynda Keogh, Sarah O'Brien, Sally-Anne Russell, and Jane Eyre.