

SEAI One Good Idea

When I told the TY students about the SEAI One Good Idea competition before Christmas Collette O'Shea and Sarah Jane O'Shea decided that they were going to submit an entry. They put together a great idea for a campaign to inform their peers about the huge energy cost involved in buying clothes, especially considering our geographical location and the need to travel.

The organisers decided that the initial proposal was so good that they selected the girls to be one of the top 50 campaigns in the country.

This now meant that the girls had to put the campaign into action. They decided to set up a Swap Shop where students could bring in clothes that they have never worn or no longer wear and literally swap them with other students. With the clothes that were left over they enlisted the creativity and enthusiasm of their fellow TYs to design and model outfits that were made from these clothes.

The purpose of the exercise was to show that clothes could be upcycled and that clothes from Charity shops weren't dirty and tatty but could be made into some really nice outfits.

Armed with plenty of survey results, photos and video clips for their Campaign Diary, Collette and Sarah Jane went about putting together a 4 minute video presentation as their submission for the second part of the competition.

After Easter we learned that the judges had placed Collette and Sarah Jane's campaign in the top 20 in Ireland meaning that they were to go forward to the National Finals on May 7 in Dublin Castle. There they made a live 'Dragon's Den' style presentation in front of a panel of expert judges and their fellow competitors. The girls have worked very hard during the entire campaign, their imagination, creativity and determination deserved reward and was acknowledged on May 7 by the judges and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

While they didn't win, they certainly held their own amongst their peers. They were presented with a plaque in recognition of making it to the top 20 in the country and won for the school €500 to promote Energy Conservation and Energy Sustainability in the school.

Written by teacher and mentor - Ms Jane Bryan