

New Pilot Programme for Schools; 'Reimagining Post Primary Work Experience'

Fifteen Post Primary schools nationwide are now involved in a new 'Reimagining Post Primary Work Experience' pilot programme for the 2020/2021 academic year. Notably, the world as we once knew it has changed, as a direct result of Covid 19. Every sector of society has had to pivot, adapt and cater for this new normal. In particular, the education sector has found itself in uncharted territory, leaning into new innovations and embracing change is the secret to moving forward to ensure success. In line with this, Exit Entry has been at the cornerstone of innovation, utilising their app as an avenue to support students nationwide at this time. The Exit Entry app is free to download for Post Primary students across Ireland. The app supports students with their CAO application, provides information directly from third level institutions and highlights various work experience opportunities or TY initiatives that students can engage with.

Exit Entry, in partnership with the National Centre for Guidance in Education (NCGE), IBM, BITCI, American Chamber of Commerce, PPLI/ Languages Connect, Spotlight and Euroguidance are collaboratively implementing the roll out of this new 'Reimagining Post Primary Work Experience' pilot programme, in tandem with 15 post primary schools across Ireland. The main purpose of this pilot programme is to connect post primary students (TY/LCA and LCVP) with meaningful work experience opportunities locally, nationally and internationally. As well as this, Exit Entry aims to pose a solution to the current and challenging Covid 19 situation, which is unfortunately creating numerous roadblocks in the lives of students worldwide. The Exit Entry app provides a virtual platform for students to access work experience opportunities.

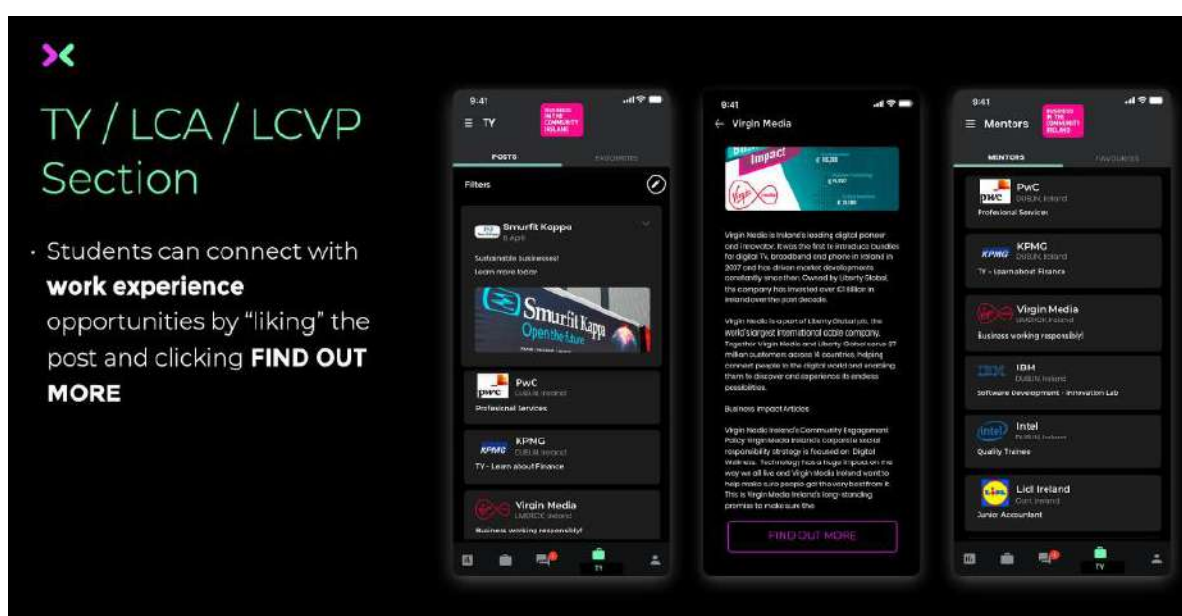


Figure 1: The Work Experience opportunities on the Exit Entry app

An exciting element to this pilot is the opportunity for students to complete the IBM P-Tech accredited badges, which are currently being integrated into the Exit Entry app. Coming soon, these badges will allow all students to access modules of learning in the following areas;

- Professional Skills,
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) Foundations,
- Build Your Own Chatbot,
- Cybersecurity Fundamentals
- Data Science Foundations.

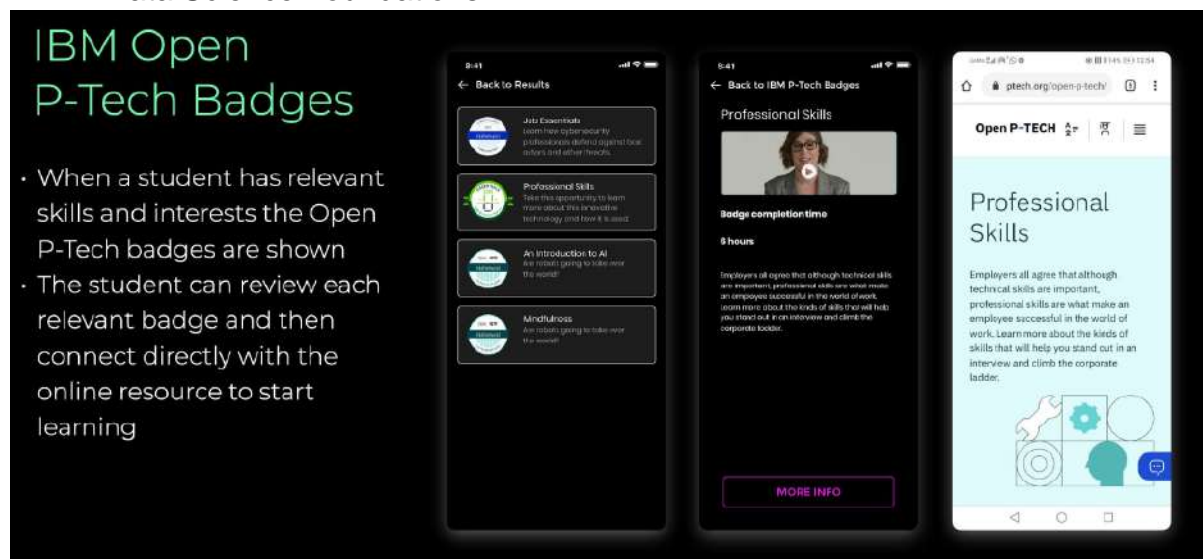


Figure 2: The IBM P-Tech Badges for students on the Exit Entry app

The IBM P-Tech badges enable students to gain an insight into various careers and specific areas of work. Also, IBM have provided students with the opportunity to experience their 'Day in the Life' series of careers which provide video insights into specific careers that students can watch on the app's platform. A simple click to see the 'Day in the Life of an Occupational Therapist' or 'Day in the Life of a Mechanical Engineer'. This insight can help to guide students who may be struggling with their work experience or career decisions for third level. Intel, Eir and HERSPORT also have interesting content for this age group on the Exit Entry platform, as well as many other relevant initiatives which can support students at this time.

The Exit Entry philosophy is to provide opportunities to all students. This is the basis of the app and ongoing negotiation with Career Guidance Professionals, Schools, Students, the NCGE and Third Level Institutions will ensure that this app can be the best support for students at this challenging time. For more information, or if you have any questions regarding this pilot, you can contact Sinéad O' Callaghan, Exit Entry Business Development Lead at sinead@exitentry.com.

