



# Creating Leaders, IMPACTING COMMUNITIES!

Through Education, Service,  
Friendship, Teamwork & Innovation



... Because Education  
is the Key!

## Our Vision:

Academic work is the focal point of Citywise Education programmes. Young people learn to work hard, acquire study habits and develop their academic ambition. Recognising the threat that drugs, gangs and crime present to a youngster's future, Citywise Education gives importance to personal development.

Achievement cannot be separated from character. Citywise Education emphasises the importance of character development, personal qualities and the need for each young person to serve society. Students learn that there is always someone else who is needier than themselves. Citywise Education works in collaboration with other agencies, especially local schools, in seeking to address the needs of children.

# Citywise

## FAST TRACK PROGRESSION INTO 3RD LEVEL & GOOGLE IMPACT

Fast Track Academy provides educational and personal supports to young people in underserved communities, assisting them in reaching and completing third-level education. A community based personalised programme with a high level of voluntary input, it delivers focused classes, mentoring, career guidance and study support, and is now following students through into college with additional supports.

Operating for two years, its holistic community model is achieving a 70%+ rate in accessing college. It currently aims to reach 250 young people annually impacting firstly on the Tallaght West community where it is based. Working with TU Dublin (Tallaght campus) it now seeks to have a strong positive impact on college completion rates, while also providing a replicable model for other underserved communities.

Fast Track Academy is an initiative of Citywise Education which seeks to build underserved communities through heightening an interest of local young people in education and then providing them with the means to follow up on that interest. It draws heavily on local volunteers and on corporate-sector role models building a self-sustaining community ethos and growing the community leaders of the future.

Citywise were chosen by Google to win a Judges Impact Award back in April of €100,000 to grow this work. We are working now on the expansion and support networks for Fast Track members so they get the most from the experience.

## Google Impact Award Winners

### Fast Track Academy Testimonies



#### Cian Brennan, Leaving Certificate Student

"I am currently a sixth year student in Fast Track Academy. Since starting Fast Track in third year I have seen a huge improvement in my confidence, my school work and my grades".



#### Robyn Murphy, Leaving Certificate Student

"FTA gave me the help and support I needed throughout 3rd year in order to achieve results that exceeded my expectations and has continued to do so into 5th year."



#### Luke Whelan, 1st Year BESS, Trinity College, Dublin

"Fast track has helped me refine my weaknesses and build on my strengths. I'm under no illusions about how much Citywise has helped me achieve".



#### Pauline Tawyodh, Leaving Certificate Student

"Im currently a 5th year student in Fast Track. It has helped me with public speaking, be more confident with my work but, most importantly, it has helped me socialise and make new friends outside of school".

### Citywise Kenya Solidarity Project

A team of young people from Citywise Education travelled to Kenya on a service project during the summer, teaming up with groups of Polish and Italian students, to work in solidarity with the locals to help build classrooms as well as toilet and shower facilities for the community of Bamba in the diocese of Mombasa, Kenya. A lot of fundraising took place beforehand and we were able to raise €20,000 for the project. All the young people agree it was a life changing experience and they will hold the Kenyan community in their hearts for the rest of their lives.

We invite you to watch and enjoy the documentary of our experience!  
Link: [http://bit.ly/kenya\\_citywise](http://bit.ly/kenya_citywise)



### Gaisce - The Presidents Award

Gaisce Silver awardees Cian Brennan and Daniel Kelly received their medals back in May for their efforts and dedication to completing their Gaisce challenge. Both young men are now taking on the gold medal challenge and if completed, will be the first young people to ever achieve all 3 Gaisce medals through Citywise Education - no pressure!! CEO of Gaisce, Yvonne McKenna presented the medals and their PAL (presidents award leader) Christopher Smith from Citywise was also in attendance. Well done lads - we are all very proud of you!!!

## European Solidarity Corps Volunteers



## New ESC Volunteers join the team!

We are delighted to be welcoming Fernando from Spain, Nur from Turkey and Javier from Spain to our team!

They are enjoying a busy schedule of activities in Ireland for the next 12 months and working with the young people here in Citywise.

## STEMSquare@Citywise



### EU Code Week - Coding to change the World!



Over 35 young people from Citywise put their coding skills to good use during EU Code Week - using technology to change the world! Employing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) as a focus, young people had the opportunity to code a game, video, musical composition, or any other creation that they deem fit, to highlight and raise awareness of a world problem and/or help to solve it. This could be anything from environmental issues to inequalities.

One of the winners, Aoibh, said "I go to the CodeClub in Citywise and recently we had a competition for EU Code Week where we had to use what we learned over the weeks to make a game or story about one of the big global problems. I think it was a very good idea to do the competition because it lets the teachers know how well we are doing but it also highlights problems in the world that we can try to fix and use code to solve them".

## STEM development & School offerings

Last year 126 pupils from 5 different primary school classes took part in a new programme called 'CS Makers'. CS stands for computer science and is the teaching of technology and connected devices with the intent to build future skills and develop lasting job prospects for the children who take part. Lessons in coding, robotics, 3D printing and engineering challenges took place as students progressed over 12 weeks, achieving new creative and problem-solving skills as they go. We are running this programme again this school year and invite principals to enquire if they wish to get involved.

## Belfast Robotics Success

Six young people from



Tallaght went to an international Robotics competition in Belfast earlier this year to compete against 30 teams from UK, Ireland and China. Representing Citywise, (pictured above) Alannah, Kane, Rohan, Robyn, Ellie and Josh were able to fend off the competition and win the speed contest for fastest robot. This term, they are getting ready for the Lego Robotics competition taking place in January.

The three category winners were Dylan Warner, Aoibh Collins and Carragh Collins, who each took home their own Micro-bits and micro-robot starter kits.



**Principals Testimony:** Tomás Hayes, Principal of St. Aidan's SNS in Brookfield, Tallaght said about CS Makers "Students are encouraged to apply and think about what they have learned, leading them to a greater understanding of the concepts. Lessons are delivered as taster programs and allow the children an opportunity to gain an interest in these tools. It teaches children to be proactive about technology. Technology is an integral part of children's lives now and a need to understand is becoming more important"



## Volunteering

### Why Volunteer? How do I get involved?

The success of Citywise Education is due to its remarkable volunteers, local leaders, third-level students and graduates. Citywise asks them to give their time and talents: in teaching, coaching and supervising activities.

Volunteers also act as tutors, friends and role models for the Citywise students they serve: personal attention ensuring personal development. Individuals who may not be able to give of their time may wish to contribute financially to the running of our programmes or towards improving and upgrading our equipment.

We need volunteers in all aspects of our programmes, from activity delivery on a weekly basis, to support with running activities, driving the bus, lending a hand on hikes and outings, mentor or teach, support with fundraising, co-ordinate a group to deliver some once-off activity, contribute some talent.

To get involved, reach out to one of our staff, fill in a volunteer form and we'll take you on a journey that will be very fulfilling.

### The Really Great Citywise Draw

One way we continuously fundraise is through the Citywise Draw. It is an essential part of our yearly income and helps offset running costs to ensure we can deliver to our young people. Its easy to join, and only costs €2.50 per week with a chance to win €500! Go online to <http://bit.ly/CWdraw> to sign up by direct debit, or contact reception to pay in cash.

### Can you help? - We need a minibus!

Citywise are fundraising to replace our minibus. A critical part of our programmes, having the bus gives us the opportunity to take young people out on excursions and gives us flexibility without high cost of bus hire. However, our current bus is getting old and we need to replace it. If you'd like to help us, we would be grateful to hear from you. Thanks!



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