

TY STUDENTS have fun with hands-on Chemical Engineering experience @ CIT

Who doesn't like to mess about as a child? Watch water flow for hours, feel the texture of mud between your fingers and maybe even your toes? This is exciting and interesting and stimulates a curiosity about matter and science and engineering – but when you get older and it's not "cool" to do all that sort of stuff anymore – how do you preserve this curiosity. Cork Institute of Technology ran a pilot programme for 20 lucky transition years to spend two days in CIT and practically experience the joys of Chemical Engineering and the opportunities it has to offer.

The project idea was simple: connect with five schools and with the help and enthusiasm of their guidance counsellors, talk to them about Chemical and Biopharma Engineering. For those interested in coming to CIT for the two days they were invited to apply using the CV format which they had already completed in their school as part of the TY programme. They then had the chance to experience a proper job application process, including an interview.

The programme featured schools including St Brogan's Bandon, Coachford Community School, Coláiste Criost Ri in Douglas, MICC Dunmanway and Glanmire Community School. On the first day, at the final year exhibition of engineering projects, the transition student teams were encouraged to question both the presenters and the students as to why they studied chemical engineering and what enjoyment they got from it.

On the second day there was a chance to get their hands dirty and complete various experiments.

The grand finale was a competition where each team had to present to their peers, and others, on various parts of the two-day experience and what they learned from it all. Everyone finished on a high with the presentation of certificates of attendance and all agreed that they had fun for the two days and it was a very worthwhile experience applying for and coming on the programme.

CIT Chemical and Biopharmaceutical Engineering offers great career options and this programme gave 20 lucky TY students an insight into this opportunity.