



**Minister Mary Hanafin launches AIB Get Up & Go  
3rd November 2005**

Pictured recently at the launch of AIB Get Up & Go 2005/06 were Minister Mary Hanafin, Anne Ryan, National Co-ordinator of AIB Get Up & Go, Angela Drum, Manager AIB Youth Strategy and pupils Jennifer Doyle and Jennifer Carbury from Our Lady of Mercy College Dublin. The AIB Get Up & Go, Mini-Company programme is a transition year programme run under the auspices of the Second Level Support Services (SLSS), which is part of the Department of Education and Science. It is designed as a one year programme which operates as a discrete company within a transition year class setting.

Initially students come up with an idea for a product or service. They then register their company and raise money through selling shares. It is the students' responsibility to sell and market their product to fellow students, teachers and parents. Some of them even establish sales channels to the general public.

The competition culminates in a series of regional trade fairs where the students exhibit their product or service and are judged on the various aspects of their business. Regional winners then proceed to the competition final of AIB Get Up & Go which will be held in April 2006.

Speaking at the launch, Angela Drum, Manager AIB Youth Strategy, said, "AIB is delighted to once again support the AIB Get Up & Go programme. There is a natural fit as AIB is Ireland's leading business bank and therefore we bank more start-up companies than any other player. No doubt we will be supporting a number of these young entrepreneurs in the future."

Minister Mary Hanafin said "Transition Year is all about developing new skills through new methods. Enterprise education is an important aspect of the Transition Year curriculum, which helps students to develop a wide range of critical thinking and creative skills. I welcome the launch of the AIB Get Up & Go Mini-Company programme which will foster both these skills and an entrepreneurial spirit which will benefit students throughout their lives."

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