



## **AIB's 'Build a Bank Challenge' national final winners announced**

**5th May 2010**

A team of transition year students from St Mary's Secondary School, Macroom, Co Cork has won the national final of AIB's 'Build a Bank Challenge'. Thirteen schools from across the country took part in the final which was held in Croke Park on April 29th. The school picked up a specially commissioned glass trophy and the team members each won a mini laptop for their efforts.

At the final the thirteen schools presented an exhibition of their school bank to the panel of seven judges. The panel consisted of six AIB judges along with Fionnuala Darby, Lecturer in Business, Institute of Technology, Blanchardstown. When adjudicating, the judges were looking for the schools to effectively present their experience of running their school bank, to show how they operated together as a team and for the students to demonstrate their own personal development from the Challenge. All the judges noted the extensive use of IT and creativity in their displays, which clearly demonstrated that they had put in a huge effort throughout the year.

The bank set up by St Mary's was based around a 'Busy Bee Bank' theme. The presentation was deemed by the judges to be professional, dedicated and innovative, and the team themselves to be full of energy and enthusiasm. Overall the team proved themselves to be worthy winners of the Challenge.

Second place went to Errigal College, Letterkenny, Co Donegal and third place was awarded to Monaghan Collegiate, Monaghan. Each team member received a Nintendo Wii along with an interactive whiteboard and a specially commissioned glass trophy for their school. Carrick-on-Shannon Community School in Leitrim won the best newcomer award and each team member received an iPod.

The Challenge will begin again in September when transition year and fifth year students from across the country will get a chance to set up, run and manage their own school bank and compete for the overall of the AIB 'Build a Bank Challenge' title.

Ken Burke, Head of AIB Retail & Business Support, said

*"We would like to congratulate St Mary's Secondary School on their great success in winning first prize in the national final. The standard this year was extremely high, with over 180 schools involved, and St Mary's achievement is testament to their hard work, creativity and teamwork. The competition introduces students to the world of money management and business, and encourages them to plan for their future. We look forward to running the AIB Build a Bank Challenge again next school term"*

**For further information, please contact:**

Joanne Lee  
Senior Brand Communications Manager  
AIB Bank  
Bankcentre  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4  
Tel: +353-1-6600311 Ext: 14704

or

Helen Leonard  
Group Corporate Relations & Communications  
AIB Group  
Bankcentre  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin 4  
Tel: +353-1-6600311 Ext: 14141