

ESB Science Blast 2025

Feedback from Judge



Date: 20/5/2025

Stand: 33

Judge(s): YVONNE RYAN

Project Title: Can we create a sustainable garden in our school

School Name: Scoil na mBuachaill - Maíe Forristal.

Judge's Feedback:

Scientific Method: Any project that builds and seeks to build on an existing initiative is really challenging but so important! This is not an easy challenge to address. The class investigated many different elements - sustainable 'circular economy' efforts - regenerating plants/veg from waste - excellent stuff! Harvesting rain water, reuse of plastic food trays -> key words: regenerative circular economy, a creative yet practical approach to conservation. It will be interesting to have this quantified over years - mass of waste saved/reused - water conserved etc.

Critical Thinking: This project is very relevant to critical thinking as it found new and creative ways to address key challenges in maintaining a school garden plus addressing bigger societal challenges such as single use plastic/board packaging, water conservation and food waste.

Creativity: It is increasingly popular to implement school gardens, it is wonderful to ask how to improve this! Well done! I especially loved how the students explained the water butt installation to me. This is creative empowerment and the children see solutions in action - well done!

Collaboration: The students collaborated with their parents / community / guardians, teachers, caretaker and school management. The students recognised this need and know their garden needs minding over the summer!

Communication: All students did a great job in communicating about key aspects of the project - The proof is that they were equipped to advise the judge on what she should do in her garden! They answered well they were able to speak about their display plus array of plants brought.

Additional Comments:

This is a really lovely project and one that can be built upon year on year - the class could record how many materials they reused/repurposed! This project saves resources and contributes to the 'circular bioeconomy'. I have every confidence that all of you can become excellent scientists in the future! You have paved your way!

Feedback to class

Keep working on your beautiful garden.
You recognised lots of challenges to growing food that is currently experienced all over the world. You have learned so much about conserving water, resources and ensuring that you keep food regenerating (garlic, celery) you were also able to see that you didn't have pests or need of pesticides or herbicides I can see how hard you and your teacher worked on this project. I loved your display and how you have helped me with my gardening through your advice

Keep it up!

Prof. Yvonne Ryan

Environmental Scientist UL

P.S. Can your principal give your class a homework pass for all your efforts?