

Lancashire County Council launch Give it a Go: The £5K Challenge



Media Release

23.11.10

Flashbang Science are Give it a Go Champions

Schoolchildren across the county are set to discover the magic of science, as a Rossendale business is awarded £20,000 in Lancashire County Council's Give it a Go enterprise challenge.

Flashbang Science, headed by Claire Holt, was named Lancashire's Enterprise Champion at a celebratory lunch at the Woodlands Centre in Chorley.

Claire and her team of experienced professional scientists teach pupils science in a series of weird and wonderful experiments like the 'Screaming Jelly Baby,' 'Elephants Toothpaste' and 'Mentos Volcano.'

"The Give it a Go challenge has been a fantastic experience for the Flashbang Science team, helping us to market and promote our business throughout the county with collaborators and customers alike.

"Winning this award now enables us to move forward to the next exciting phase of the business and the cash injection will enable some powerful business development ideas to be accelerated," said Claire.

The competition was launched last year to encourage entrepreneurs across the county to develop their community business ideas, entries have ranged from developing motivational resources for dyslexia sufferers to starting a commercial worm farm.

A dozen district winners, who each received £5,000 to help them kick-start their idea, were also honoured at the event.

Claire believes Flashbang Science will become hugely successful in coming years thanks to the vital advice and support from Give it a Go.

"Of course the primary focus remains our passion for bringing science to life for children and winning "Give it a Go" has also given us the confidence and validation to drive the business to the next level."

Four judges had to whittle down the twelve district winners to a single company which showed the most promise. They were:

- Norman Tenray, Lancashire Business Person of the Year 2009 and Managing Director of OBAS UK Ltd, Lancashire Business of the Year 2010.
- Kirsty Henshaw, founder of Worthenshaws Ltd. Kirsty appeared on the BBC's Dragon's Den with her allergen-free frozen deserts, securing a £65,000 investment.
- Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Lancashire County Council.
- Sarah Bevan-Fischer, from Bevan Fischer Consulting and a champion for enterprise in the region.

Norman Tenray said: "It is rare to find such a focused and exciting initiative that will potentially make a significant difference to the community.

"Give it a Go has been an inspirational catalyst to launch new ideas, vision, entrepreneurship and leadership which may have otherwise been overlooked. I am proud to be part of it."

Lancashire County Councillor Michael Green, Cabinet Member for Economic Development presented the businesses with their awards. He said "Lancashire is full of enterprising and innovative people. This campaign has successfully captured that enthusiasm and used it to create economic and social benefits across the county.

"From the time of the industrial revolution, Lancashire has buzzed with entrepreneurial spirit. That spirit continues – we have world-leading engineering and creative industries throughout the county.

"All these businesses began with an ambition, though; and that is what 'Give it a Go: The £5k Challenge' has helped to harness. Along with the drive and aspirational spirit of the competitors, we have seen the launch of some fantastic new start ups and we are keen to support and promote these."

For further information on 'Give It a Go: The 5k Challenge' please visit www.lancashire.gov.uk/giveitago, call 01772 536801 or email giveitago@lancashire.gov.uk.

ENDS

For more information contact Dean Gallagher at Slater on 01254 295580.

Issued by: Slater

T: 01254 295580

F: 01254 295581

E: info@weareslater.co.uk