



# The Discovery Centre, Darndale present local heroes with A grades.

**Generation Apprenticeship competition finalists find novel way of showcasing their skills and boosting national morale.**



The Discovery Centres' Catering team present their 'A' to all the 'Dads' who are helping to lift community spirits!



The Discovery Centres' Woodwork and Trades team present their 'A' to the Darndale Belcamp Resource Centre.



The Discovery Centres' Hair and Beauty team present their 'A' to all the 'Mams' who are doing extraordinary work during the COVID-19 crisis.

As a finalist in the national Generation Apprenticeship Schools competition, Discovery CTC along with schools, Youthreach and Community Training Centre finalists in the 2020 Generation Apprenticeship competition have been honouring businesses and individual around the country who are stepping up to keep our community safe.

Dermot McCrudden, General Manager, Discovery CTC said “We offer young people aged 16 to 24 the opportunity to complete major awards at QQI level 3 and 4. The students generated many ideas and learnt how to keep conversations flowing to ensure they were moving forward as a team. The standard of their work was excellent and we are thrilled that three teams from the Centre made the Generation Apprenticeship Schools and Centres National final. That is an achievement which they are extending by taking the time to acknowledge local heroes in their community. They are creating enormous social good by showing the community they value the work that goes on around them. That is raising all our spirits at this difficult time. We are very proud of our students.”

Organised by SOLAS, the competition asked entrants to build an A letter (based on the Generation Apprenticeship brand) from materials supplied that were previously destined for landfill.

“The competition is in its final stages and we have finalists who have created brilliant work,” said Andrew Brownlee, Chief Executive of SOLAS. “Students were asked how they could combine future careers and their role in society with a commitment to green values and sustainable futures. We were due to have an awards ceremony at the end of last month but like many other events it was postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak.”

As a way of keeping students engaged and motivated in their wider studies the competition promoters invited the finalists to think about how their competition entries which are in the form of 3D letter A installations could be used to celebrate what the people of this country are doing to keep each other safe.

"In a way we are asking them to ‘mark the homework’ and to choose unsung professions around the country who they think deserve an A grade. There are huge sacrifices being made, by our health workers, and in different and important ways by many others, some of whom find themselves facing economic uncertainty but who are still providing valuable societal support. Each one makes up an important part of our defence lines in this fight against the coronavirus."

Speaking on behalf of her colleagues in the Discovery Centres’ Catering team Courtney Shannon said “We just wanted to recognise what our Dads are doing to lift community spirits. My own dad John works on the frontline as a porter in the hospice. He works nights in 12 hour shifts 6 days a week. He is my local hero. He and the neighbours got together to find a way to bring people out while maintaining safe distancing. They organised street bingo and karaoke which was especially important for those who are self isolating like the elderly. It gave them a chance to come out and to chat with their neighbours while staying safe.”

Stephen Dempsey, speaking on behalf of the Centres’ Woodwork and Trades team explained their choice of local hero. “Although we are proud of all our services including the local shop and chemist who have kept the community going at this difficult time our nomination for the local heroes who deserve an ‘A’ are all the staff who work in the Darndale Belcamp Resource Centre Elderly support services who throughout the Covid19 pandemic. They have been working seven days a week from early morning preparing and delivering up to 40 meals a day to the elderly in the local and surrounding area. To some of the elderly these heroes from the elderly support services have been the only contact they have had to the outside world while they have been cocooning in their own homes, unable to visit shops, buy essentials for themselves or see family or friends. For this reason the Darndale Belcamp Resource Centre deserve our thanks and the heroes working there deserve an A+. Thank you from all at the Discovery Centre CTC.”

Saffron Kelly from the Discovery Centres’ Hair and Beauty team Team said “We wanted to thank our mams. Since Covid-19 my mam has donated easter eggs to the local meals on wheels to support the elderly. She has also donated to Beaumont Hospital, Coolock Garda Station, and the local nursing home. She also helps local families who are struggling through this time. My mam and all our mam’s are real heroes.”

Staying apart is necessary but these inspirational choices show why we are never far from someone who will support us. **The finalists have all inputed into short videos to explain their A grade choices. They can be accessed at [www.gacomp.ie/localheroes](http://www.gacomp.ie/localheroes)**

**-ENDS-**

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**Notes to Editors:**

Now in its third year, the Generation Apprenticeship competition included post-primary schools, Community Training and Youthreach centres for the first time in 2020.

The competition is organised by SOLAS and sponsored by Bennett (Construction), Jones Engineering, P.J. Hegarty & Sons, John Paul Construction, Suir Engineering, Roadbridge, Walls Construction and Winthrop

To find out more about the Generation Apprenticeship competition go to [www.gacomp.ie](http://www.gacomp.ie).

To find out more about apprenticeship, go to [www.apprenticeship.ie](http://www.apprenticeship.ie).

High resolution pictures of each 'A' grade award are available.

