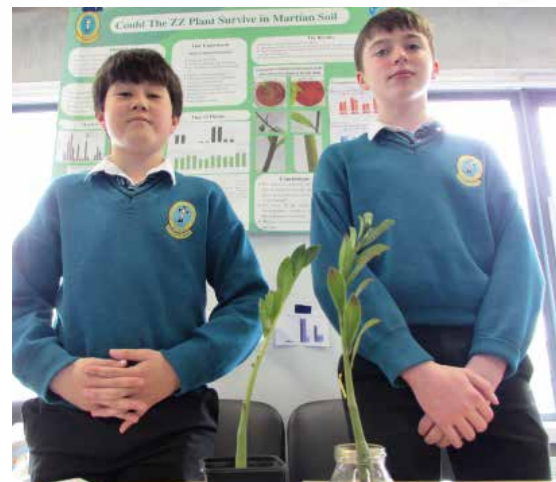


# Scifest 2023

SciFest is an all-island STEM initiative which fosters active, collaborative and inquiry-based learning among second-level students. Over one hundred students from 12 schools across Kerry took part in the event.

We had huge success on the day and **Yasmine Odugbesan**, 3rd year, was the overall winner for her project entitled 'How effective is the Carotenoid Lycopene in regards to UV protection?'

**Orla Buttimer**, 2nd year, was the runner-up with her project 'Does the Yondr pouch affect students' concentration in school life?' The Irish Science Teacher Association Award was presented to **Cathal**



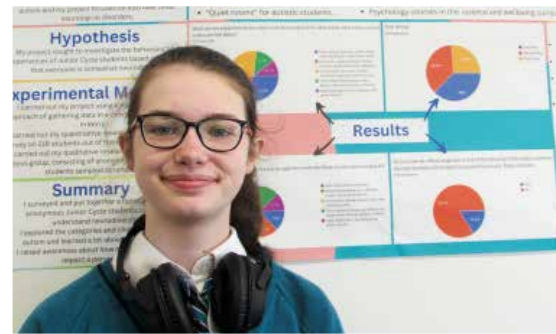
**Fitzgerald, Sam Boyle, Matthew Guerin**, 2nd Year, (pictured above) for their project: 'Bugs vs. Beef: Should insects be integrated into Irish cuisine?'

**Kai Seno**, 3rd year, won the Maths in Science Award for his study: 'Investigating How Paste Extrusion can be used to make 3D Printing more Environmentally Friendly'. **Conan Seino and Sam Gleasure**, 1st Year, (pictured left) won the Discover Space Student Award for their study entitled: 'Could the ZZ plant survive in martian soil?'

The Scifest Communications Award was given to **Grace Stack and Aaron McGowan**, 5th Year, for their 'Analyses on the Radon Levels in Kerry'. The Life Science Award went to **Margaret De Leon**, 3rd Year, for her investigations on 'The Dopamine Rush- does it affect students' academic performance?'

**Aoife Kate Trant**, 2nd Year, (pictured left) won the Inclusion in Stem Award for her 'Statistical Analysis of Neurodiversity in Secondary School Students.'

**RIGHT: Overall Winner SciFest Yasmine Odugbesan**



**Orla Buttimer 2nd year - SciFest Runner-Up with her teacher Roisín Riordan**



## BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY Exhibition



Mercy Mounthawk had another hugely successful year in the area of Science. We had 10 projects in total at the BT Young Scientist Exhibition (BTYSE), which was an amazing feat in itself. We had major award winners in both The BT Young Scientist and Scifest Competitions this year. Our school science club is getting bigger each year and it is heartwarming to see such growing interest, enthusiasm, commitment and curiosity in the world of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths).

### BTYSE - MAJOR AWARDS

**Coren Hughes** (left) came 2nd Senior Individual in the Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences category for his project: 'Optimising Packing Problems With Computational Analysis And Further Mathematics'.

**Rachel Feeley** was 3rd Senior Individual in the same category, Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences for her project: 'A Surgical Forceps Incorporating Frustrated Total Internal Reflection For Energy Efficient Sealing and Cutting of Tissue Using Light Energy'.

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

We also received awards in the Highly Commended section: Our first Highly Commended was in the Biological & Ecological category for the project: 'UnBEEtable - Investigating if beetroot juice can impact the performance of athletes'. This project by **Lilly Nowak, Aoife O'Brien and Sophie Hassett** (right) also won a Display Award on the day. These ambitious girls have since gone on to win the New School Award 2023 at the PE Xpo Sports Science competition Dublin at DCU.



**Roanna Lawless O'Sullivan** (left) was Highly Commended in the Social & Behavioural Sciences category for her project: 'The impact of going back to "normal" schooling post Covid-19 has had on teenagers' stress & anxiety levels'.

**Cian Hennessy and Fionn O'Brien** were Highly Commended in the Chemical, Physical & Mathematical Sciences category for their project: 'Using piezoelectric crystals to generate electricity'.

