

Take Action Highlands and Islands Enterprise Event – Oban 7 October 2015

*Mrs Kelly invited her first and second year ICT classes to come up with new ideas using technology. There were eight excellent ideas ranging from midge collectors to bouncing board walks and musical bins. We emailed these to the event organisers and were delighted to find out that one of the groups was successful and would be competing in the final of the competition in Oban on Wednesday 7 October 2015. The successful group was called the **Bin Boys** and was made up of Nathan, Max and Jay. Their idea was to create a musical bin which would encourage people to not litter, thus improving the Highlands and Islands for locals and tourists alike.*

Below the boys have written about their experience...

Last Thursday and Friday we spent some periods as well as break and lunchtimes making a presentation and preparing a very funny video to entertain the judges. We would like to thank Mr Young and Ms McCourt for letting us out of their classes.

We went with fifteen classmates and two teachers to the event and Mrs Kelly secured funding for a minibus to transport us from the event organisers. We left school at 8.30 am and Mrs Meldrum drove us to the Phoenix Cinema where the event was taking place.

When we arrived at the Cinema we listened to two speakers and watched an adult competition before a delicious lunch of pizza and cake. Towards the end of lunch we had the chance to rehearse the presentation on the stage and had to learn to use the clicker and microphone – it was scary! We were also moved to the front row and had reserved seats! We then listened to two more speakers before it was the turn of the school children – we were getting really nervous by this point!

We were the fourth school to present. Firstly we heard from Oban High School who had an excellent idea of a Banter Bus, next up was Tobermory who wished to fix a local park for young people, then we watched the video entry from Sir E Scott High School in Harris who wished to create a community arts project, next up was us, the “Bin Boys” with our musical bin, followed by Islay who suggested Helicopters, RIBS and buses with tank tracks to get to school.

Our presentation made the audience really laugh as we had a very funny video which illustrated how our bin made silly noises – and also showed the teacher click sounds on an app as we didn’t have full working prototype. We had made a conscious decision to use this video as we wanted people to laugh as we thought it, along with our silly name and product, would help us win – we guessed correctly!

We were so happy to win and when we went back up on stage we were thrilled to be there. We received a cup, certificate and £500 of help from a Social Enterprise company. We also got business cards from Interface and Argyll and Bute Enterprise Company as they all thought our idea was excellent.

It was a great journey home as the whole class were so happy for us and hyper as we had such a good day out.

We would like to thank Mrs Kelly and Mrs Meldrum for all their help and support.

Max & Nathan, 1RS