# BIG GA

# Student Accelerator 2023



The 2023 B!G Student Accelerator was an incredible day, further bridging the gap between industry and education. Six standout student teams, nurtured through The B!G Idea programme, had the amazing opportunity to be part of a one-day sprint guided by industry professionals.

This experience was truly unique and inspiring, enhancing our students' learning and their connection with mentors, igniting their enthusiasm, and fostering an environment for innovation around the UN SDGs. In true Accelerator style, students learned directly from mentors, gained insightful industry perspectives, employed cutting-edge methods for idea development, and collaborated across diverse backgrounds.

At the end of the day, our teams took to the stage, pitching their B!G ideas and showcasing their digital prototypes to a panel of experts. An impactful end to a day filled with innovation!







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**BIG IDEA** 



"Creativity allows us to look beyond a problem and really bring about change in a fun way and that's what I think The B!G Idea is doing in droves."

Maria Walsh, Member of the European Parliment 35

**Students and learners** from TY, TY DEIS schools, LCA, Youthreach and CTC centres with their teachers and co-ordinators arrived with B!G ideas.

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Mentors from a range of sectors and roles gave their time to support students and learners develop their ideas into prototypes.

Schools and Centres from counties across Ireland including Carlow, Cork, Offaly, Longford and Kilkenny made the journey to Dublin at our venue Autodesk HQ.

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**Experts** from Industry gave students and learners invaluable feedback and encouragement at the pitch stage, wrapping up the inspirational day.









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**BIG iDEA** 



#### **Student Impact**

10096 of students

deepened their understanding of creative thinking and
problem solving in industry.
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became more aware of their potential to effect societal change.

advanced their digital communication and collaboration skills.

felt more ready for real-world industry challenges and opportunities.

acquired valuable skills and experiences for their future.

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"There's no end to the possibilities with The B!G Idea!"

**Pat Coffey,**Borris Vocational School, *Principal* 



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**BIG IDEA** 









### RETHINK IRELAND











## Thank Yous