

MSD is helping to 'empower' girls

by JOHN MANNING

MSD Ireland, with sites in Swords and Leopardstown, is launching a new partnership with NGO Teen-Turn, an organisation dedicated to empowering young girls from under-represented backgrounds to identify themselves in science and technology.

In the Dublin area, TeenTurn work with students from several schools, including Belmayne ETSS, St Dominic's Ballyfermot, Colaiste Bride, Kingswood, Larkin, St Mary's Glasnevin, and Loreto Swords.

MSD Ireland has announced that the recipient of the €88,000 (\$100,000) Neighbour of Choice grant for 2021 is Teen-Turn, an organisation dedicated to highlighting career opportunities in science and technology to teenage girls.

Having helped over 1,000 girls in Ireland kick-start their careers in science and technology since the organisation

was first established in 2016, Teen-Turn is dedicated to empowering young girls from under-represented backgrounds to identify themselves in science & technology and support them in their journey towards relevant third level courses and later entry into related industries.



Mairead McCaul, Managing Director for MSD Ireland

MSD's Neighbour of Choice programme is an annual grant of up to €88,000. Teen-Turn was also selected as MSD's Neighbour of Choice partner for 2020, with last year's grant allowing the programme to extend its support to 150 additional girls throughout the country, particularly in Cork, Carlow, Tipperary and Dublin.

Joanne Dolan, CEO of Teen-Turn, said: 'We are delighted to be partnering with MSD Ireland again for 2021, helping us continue on our mission to empower girls across the country to identify with technology career environments and build a better future for themselves and their communities - particularly in the con-

text of the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. 2020 was an extremely challenging year as we had to completely re-design and re-think our entire curricula of activities in order to move our programmes to operate fully online. Thanks to MSD Ireland's support, we have been able to successfully achieve and excel at this, taking it as an opportunity to expand our reach even further and achieving the significant milestone of registering our 1000th participant with the programme last year.'

Mairead McCaul, Managing Director for MSD Ireland, said: 'We're extremely proud to announce Teen-Turn as our Neighbour of Choice for a second year running in 2021. Diversity and inclusion are key values and strategic imperatives for MSD Ireland's business at all levels, and we are committed to these areas across all of our operations. After a very successful first year partnership, we're really looking forward to working with Teen-Turn and the participants in the programme again, learning from each other as we continue on our efforts to inspire the next generation of inventors and together look to make a difference in our communities through science, technology and innovation.'