

Business Today



Teen-Turn+ Expanding career and educational opportunities available to girls

Digital Hub and Teen-Turn, the national charity dedicated to providing teenage girls the opportunity to gain hands-on STEM experience and the support to acquire qualifications and jobs, have launched a new initiative with weekly classes in topics such as AI, physics and object-oriented programming for participants living or

attending secondary school in Dublin 8.

Teen-Turn+ aims to expand the educational and career opportunities available to girls by introducing future-of-work learning that advances their competencies and develops confidence in their command of subjects which typically have a higher male representation.

Data from the Department of Education from the 2020/21 academic year found that only 20 per cent of girls' secondary schools offer computer science, while research from the State Examinations Commission showed that 14 per cent provided classes in physics.

The Higher Education Authority found that

86 per cent of male students study practical subjects during senior cycle including engineering, building construction, design graphics and technology.

Less than 5 per cent of girls in Irish secondary schools study these subjects at all.

■ PHOTOGRAPH:
SHANE O'NEILL/ COALESCE