

International Olympiad on Informatics - Bronze Medal for MPT Student

David McCarthy former pupil of the CBS Midleton won the Bronze Medal in the 2009 International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) which took place in Bulgaria few weeks ago. David was the only Irish participant to win a medal and he is one of the fewest Irish people who have won a medal in the competition for the last 20 years. The IOI contest consisted of two days of competition in which the participants had to solve extremely difficult computer programming problems. Usually, the each test consisted of four problems that had to be programmed in a language of choice e.g. C or C++. More about the competition can be found at <http://www.ioi2009.org/>.

David performance is more remarkable as the disciplines of Computer Programming or Algorithms are not studied in Irish schools. David overcame this barrier by studying these disciplines in the Department of Computer Science of UCC. For the last 2 years David was a student in the Munster Programming Training (MPT) programme where he studied topics like fundamental algorithms, data structures or computer programming. These classes built for David a strong background in Computer programming which allowed David win the national programming competition several times. David also attended the summer schools organised in UCC by the Department of Microelectronics. This gave him a chance to understand the principles of microelectronics or circuit design. On this basis David developed two mobile wireless projects which won the IT category in the Young Scientist in two distinct years.

The main achievements that recommend David McCarthy for this award are:

1. David won the All Ireland Schools Programming competition in three consecutive years.
2. David won the IT/Technology section of the Irish Young Scientist in 2009 and 2007 with projects related to mobile wireless.
3. David participated to two consecutive International Olympiads in Informatics in 2009 and 2008. In the 2009 IOI Olympiad David won the silver medal becoming the 8th Irish student to have won a medal in this competition.



Photo: UCC President, Prof. Michel Murphy, David McCarthy, And Dr Sabin Tabirca, MPT Outreach Programme Coordinator.