



## *A pathway to a career in the digital economy*

P-TECH combines post primary school with elements of third-level education and workplace experience. When students graduate from the P-TECH programme, they earn both their traditional second-level qualification and a third-level qualification, and will have the work experience needed to be a highly qualified candidate for employment in IT and related areas. Each second-level school is partnered with a third-level college and one or more companies, who work together to help students complete second and third-level coursework, and to participate in workplace experiences like mentoring, workplace visits and learning, and paid internships.

In November 2018, The Taoiseach, the Minister for Education and Skills and the Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform announced the piloting of P-TECH (Pathways in Technology) in Dublin's North East Inner City. The first schools in Ireland to participate in P-Tech will be Larkin Community College, Marino College and St Joseph's CBS, Dublin. Enrolment of new students will begin in March 2019, with the first classes to start in September 2019, at the three participating schools. This Programme will be implemented as part of the Dublin North East Inner City Initiative (NEIC) in conjunction with the Department of Education and Skills. Ireland is the first country in Europe to introduce the P-TECH model.

## *P-TECH Goals*

- Provide young people with an innovative and highly relevant education opportunity that enables them to earn a **third-level qualification**, along with the skills required to enter the workforce or continue their education.
- Address the "skills gap" and strengthen the economy by building a workforce with the technical and professional skills required for 21st Century jobs.

## *The Student Experience*

- Take regular second-level courses required to earn normal second-level qualifications.
- Gain experience of third-level courses while at post primary school, as early as Transition Year.
- Participate in structured work experiences to learn teamwork and develop the skills needed for the 21st century workplace.
- Receive one-to-one mentoring from industry staff, and explore various careers through paid internships and workplace experiences provided by industry.
- Graduate from the P-TECH programme with traditional second-level qualification and a third-level qualification directly aligned to job opportunities in digital technology related roles.
- On completion, be '*first in line*' for jobs with industry partners, subject to availability and standard interview and hiring processes.
- Or continue in education e.g. applying to other third-level courses.

## *How It Works*

### *1<sup>st</sup> year of post primary school:*

Students follow the normal Junior Cycle programme and participate in P-TECH taster activities, such as industry talks, demonstrations, workshops etc. Students are invited to enrol for P-TECH.



## P-TECH Years 1-2 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year of post primary school):

Enrolled students start P-TECH, taking specially developed Short Courses as part of the Junior Cycle, e.g. Robotics or Coding. Every student is assigned a mentor from industry. Workplace learning, site visits, industry talks, visits to 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges.

## P-TECH Year 3 (Transition Year)

Students commence third-level modules, workplace-related learning, talks, mentoring engagement with industry continues. Industry partners provide paid summer internship programme for students at the end of Year Three.

## P-TECH Years 4-5 (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year of post primary school)

Students follow the normal Leaving Certificate programme for six subjects, together with third-level modules, mentoring and internship opportunities.

## P-TECH Year 6 (post Leaving Certificate)

Students take further third-level modules, mentoring and internship opportunities, with the aim of graduating with a Level 5/6 qualification.

## Graduation from P-TECH

At the end of Year 6, or earlier if the student has achieved the educational goals, successful graduates may apply for any suitable jobs with the industry partner, but may also choose a different job or to continue in education e.g. to complete a bachelor's degree.

*There may be revisions to 'How it Works' during the implementation year 2018-2019 while the programme is be refined.*

## The international experience with P-TECH

The P-TECH model was developed by IBM, along with the New York City Department of Education and The City University of New York. The first P-TECH school was launched in Brooklyn, NY in September 2011. Today, more than 110 schools are operating across the U.S. Australia, Morocco, and Taiwan, serving tens of thousands of students. More than 550 large, medium and small companies are partnering with schools across a wide range of STEM disciplines, including IT, healthcare and advanced manufacturing.

By summer 2018, more than 150 students had graduated from IBM P-TECH schools in four U.S. cities. These students graduated with both their high school and a post high school degree allowing them to start entry level positions in partner companies or continue to a bachelor's degree. Many of the students have completed the six-year programme early – some in under four years – and many will be the first in their family to earn a college degree.

## Watch what students and educators have to say about P-TECH

[http://ibm.biz/P-TECH\\_YouTube15](http://ibm.biz/P-TECH_YouTube15)

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