



# Laurel Hill students scoop a Spider

By Nick Rabbitts

STUDENTS at Laurel Hill are celebrating today after scooping two major prizes at a technology awards ceremony.

The second year Irish language class at the South Circular Road school entered the Eircom Junior Spiders Awards, designed to honour Irish people for outstanding achievements online.

And teacher Marguerite Hurley admitted she was "overjoyed" when she got a phone call in November from the Junior Spiders Awards to say they had been even been nominated.

To enter the competition - which is in its second year - the class created and updated an online blog in Irish, based on entertainment and fashion.

Everyone in the class contributed to the blog, but Shannon Grimes and Lorna O'Byrne headed up the operation as sub-editor and editor respectively.

Just before Christmas, the class attended a glittering reception in the Helix Theatre, Dublin, and were left celebrating after their blog - codenamed Soilse, Ceamara, Aicsean (or Lights, Camera, Action) - scooped the top prize in the Giga spiders category (Junior Cycle) and the Tera Spider category (senior cycle category).

To win the prize, the students had to impress a group of judges who range across a series of expertise, including web design, education and ICT.

The chairperson of the judging panel, Carolan Lennon, Eircom's chief commercial officer, said: "It is so encouraging to see such skill, originality and innovation amongst both the primary and post primary entries. The Internet plays such a central role in our everyday lives and it is fantastic to see the students put it to such positive use. Everyone here today is a true winner and I would like to extend huge congratulations to all the short-listed entries and in particular those who were crowned winners today."

The winning blog can be found at [www.cnocnalabhras.blogspot.com](http://www.cnocnalabhras.blogspot.com)



The Junior Spider award winners from Laurel Hill Kayleigh O' Brien, Shannon Grimes, Niamh Quinn and Lorna O' Byrne with presenter Aidan Power