

## Parent/Guardian Permission

Dear Parent/Guardian,

The **Mentoring Programme** involves a student being mentored by a volunteer from **Horse Racing Ireland**. Being matched with a mentor can help your son/daughter learn about career opportunities, get great advice, and motivate them to work harder at school. Research has shown that mentors help youth to build self-confidence, have more positive attitudes towards school, improve their social skills and feelings of self-worth, and strengthen their relationships with parents.

The students will be connecting with their mentors either through on-line school approved and monitored IT platforms or where possible in person at the company premises or in the school. (A social event is also included in the programme). Meetings will take place for **approx. 45 minutes once a month** during term time.

**On-Line:** During a virtual session, students will be on the same one meeting, with the teacher present. During the meeting, breakout rooms will be opened where the mentor and their student will discuss the programme elements on a one to one basis. The teacher may join these breakout rooms at any point.

**In-Person:** For in-person sessions, the students will meet their mentors on company premises, because of this they may often be travelling to the company (or venue for the social event) on their own and/or with some other students and returning home again in a group or own their own.

A dedicated BITC Regional Co-ordinator will train the mentors and students, co-ordinate and oversee the mentoring programme. At the end of the programme an evaluation is undertaken with the mentors and students completing a questionnaire. A commitment to engage in the programme is understood to exist due to the fact that all participating students have volunteered to participate in the programme.

**Garda Vetting of the mentors is not required.** The mentors are all employees of the school's partnering business, Horse Racing Ireland. The programme and its operation is governed by the 'private arrangement' element of the legislation just like work experience is for students. To facilitate this, you as parent or guardian are required to sign the undersigned permission slip which BITCI will keep securely.

Business in the Community Ireland requests all participating students and their parents/guardians to sign the statement below:

I, \_\_\_\_\_ *[Student Name]*, and my parent(s)/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ have read the above and give consent to the arrangements as outlined above. I also agree that I will act responsibly in terms of my commitment and behaviour. My behaviour is important as I am representing myself, my family, and the school. I have volunteered to participate on this programme and in doing so agree to abide by the programme operations.

Parent/Guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_