BACK FOR BUSINESS

Government of Ireland
Emigrant Support Programme
GLOBAL IRISH | An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

"In today's digital world, learning how to code is fast becoming as popular as learning how to play a sport."

LOUIS BOYCE
Begin Coding

Carrigart man Louis Boyce has called many places home, but the lure of his small Gaeltacht village at the base of the Rosguill peninsula in north Donegal was too great to stay away permanently.

After spending five years working in construction in Boston in the 1980s and a further three in London from 2014 to 2017, Louis with his entrepreneurial spirit in tow, returned home to start his own business.

Begin Coding teaches school children the fundamentals of coding, an undeniably advantageous skill for all students in today's digitalised world.

It's how all software, apps and websites are built with a strong emphasis on mathematics, computational thinking and logic.

"There are so many skills children learn and practice through coding and I think this is the main reason parents and teachers are so enthusiastic about bringing my programme to their schools," Louis says.

"They're doing maths, they're using X and Y components, algorithms and sequencing. They're learning how to solve problems, use logic and be creative."

Through his after-school programmes and seasonal camps, Louis has taught children as young as five years old how to code.

Louis teaches HTML, CSS and PHP, helping children to create a website and Scratch programming language which shows them how to create animated games and stories.

He tailors each class for each age group and keeps things fun through challenges as well as teaching them how create their own games, music and animation.

Like a true entrepreneur, learning is one of Louis' biggest passions.

He has a Master's in Business Development, a Postgraduate Degree in Digital Media Communications, studied Web Design at Westminster Kingsway College in London, and Digital Marketing at the Digital Marketing Institute in Dublin.

Louis applied for Back For Business in 2017.

After toying around with a couple of business ideas, he settled on Begin Coding with help from his mentor Mary McKenna and other business owners.

"My first idea was a hard sell. I decided to come back with another business idea and had played around with CoderDojo at the time and realised that a lot of local kids couldn't go to gatherings because they were held on Saturdays as they already had football or a lot of other things going on."

He adds: "My colleagues at Back For Business with kids gave me the confirmation I needed that this would be a good business idea.

"My programmes are really well received by everyone. Teachers love that their students are exercising important skills like mathematical skills, and parents love it too. One of my primary schools has been awarded a digital school of distinction award and some of the 10-year olds at another school are now teaching other students coding at lunchtime."

Besides teaching children the skills of coding, Louis has another unique selling point in that as a Gaeilgeoir, he can teach his classes through Irish.

His plan for Begin Coding the future is to educate even more young people through his much loved after school clubs, primary and secondary schools, summer camps and Halloween camps.

POSITION
Founder

WHAT WE DO
We teach coding to primary and secondary school students.

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