

Mini companies mean business at awards event

By LISA DEENEY

THE cream of Kildare's young entrepreneurs will compete for the prestigious 'Mini Company of the year Award' at the Osprey Hotel Naas on Monday next, 7 April.

The event, which is hosted by Kildare County Enterprise Board, with the sponsorship of Osberstown Developments, promises to be bigger and better than last year.

Now in its fourth instan-

tiation, this year's event has attracted record numbers of students and enterprises, as the students vie for the top prize of E500 to be declared the Mini Company of the Year.

Some 18 mini-companies, shortlisted from more than 100 entries from all over Kildare, will exhibit their products and go through an interview process with a panel of judges.

"The Student Enterprise

Awards is a practical initiative for Transition Year students, aimed at stimulating an enterprise culture among young people," said Mary Fitzpatrick, assistant CEO of Kildare County Enterprise Board.

"The standard is very high and we are delighted that Osberstown Developments has very kindly agreed to sponsor the event again this year," she added.

Among the entries is Funtastic from Newbridge

College, that has developed an activity DVD for primary school children; Brain Links from Scoil Mhuire in Clane that has created an educational board game; Bubble Bursters from St Mary's College, Naas, that supply chewing gum recycling bins; and Greenver-tising from the CBS in Naas, that has designed recycling posters and are even taking their idea to Naas Town Council.

Spokesperson for

Osberstown Developments, Sinead Murphy, said she has been hugely impressed with the students. "The projects are amazing and very innovative; we cannot believe some of the great ideas and concepts coming out of Kildare's schools."

The event is open to the public from 5pm to 6pm. The winner will represent Kildare at the national finals in May. There will also be prizes for four runner up categories.