

## Good luck to Oisín with his BT Young Scientist project

Moate Community School student, Oisín Foley takes part in this year's BT Young Scientist Project with his project, 'Rotifers and how they can be used in the classroom'. The project includes the study of the ecosystem of pond water to investigate these microscopic organisms. The name rotifer comes from the rotating wheel-like protrusion at their mouth, which makes them fascinating to observe. They have the ability to survive extremes of weather, even in these arctic climates. They can be easily collected and hydrated from car windows, moss and lichen, as well as pond water.



As part of his project, Oisín is creating a teaching pack for the classroom. The study of these micro-organisms is linked in many ways to the Junior and Leaving Certificate course, including the use of microscopes and the study of Ecology. The teaching pack has been trialled in a number of classes in MCS. From surveys of students and teachers taking part in these trials, Oisín has found the results to be very positive. Students were fascinated with the creatures they found not only worms and rotifers, but also tiny water bears, slow-walking creatures with eight legs.

The BT Young Scientist Competition is a nationwide event and takes place 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> Jan. It achieves widespread attention, based mainly on the high standards and innovations of the work presented. Oisín has been working very hard on his project over the last few weeks. The staff and students of MCS wish him every success in the competition.