TECH2 STUDENTS

No student left offline

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

TRINITY ACCESS

camara education ireland

NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh

RETHINK IRELAND

an post

ESB

RTÉ

Thank you!

We are pleased to present this report to update you on the impact of your support to Tech2Students, partnered with Trinity Access, Trinity College Dublin and Kinia* (formerly Camara Ireland).

Technology is an integral part of today's society, even more so over the past year. The current crisis has underlined just how important access to technology is, and will continue to be, particularly for those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.

Your donations have helped thousands of marginalised students all over Ireland. These students have been able to access online learning, take part in virtual classrooms, complete course work and apply to college because of your generosity. We hope that this report highlights how important your contribution is and how you have changed their lives for the better.

We sincerely thank you for your kindness and support to the Tech2Students Campaign.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Cliona Hannon
Director of Trinity Access,
Trinity College Dublin

Marianne Checkley
CEO,
Kinia (formerly Camara Ireland)

*Camara Ireland has rebranded as Kinia. For more information see Kinia.ie

Tech2Students

For many of us, 2020 was a year unlike any other - for the students that we support, this meant that their needs were greater than ever before. At the onset of the first lockdown, Trinity Access, Trinity College Dublin and Kinia, launched an appeal in response to the hardship many marginalised and disadvantaged students were experiencing as a direct result of the COVID-19 school closures. Due to the severity of this digital divide nationwide NUI Galway and the Galway Chamber of Commerce joined the cause and opened a hub in the West of Ireland.

From day one the response was overwhelming as organisations and individuals rallied to support these students. Gifts and messages of support streamed in from all over the country (and even beyond). Our primary goal was to ensure all our students were able to login to their online classrooms and that urgent needs arising from a sudden lockdown were addressed. Thanks to your remarkable generosity, Tech2Students has been able to reach thousands of students across Ireland. This meant that our students had the opportunity to continue their learning from home, get back online to complete projects with their classmates, interact with teachers, take part in exams and apply to university.

The response of Irish communities and businesses has been extraordinary, we cannot thank you enough. Your support has not only enabled us to respond to the immediate hardship that students are experiencing but it has also given students the opportunity to move forward in their education and to live the life they choose.

"One act of donating a device can change a person's world. This simple act of giving away an old or unused laptop can open up a world of opportunity - allowing them to continue on with school and create the future they want for themselves".

Michelle Higgins,
Deputy Principal, Ardscoil La Salle

Recipients

Devices are allocated to specific minority groups as outlined in the National Access Plan; students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds (including DEIS schools), travellers, mature students and ethnic minority students (including those in Direct Provision).

March 2020-June 2021

Over the past 15 months Tech2Students has been a resounding success, thanks to your support. The project has been supported by individuals and organisations all over the country and has made it on to radio, newspapers and television across the nation. We even made it to the Late Late Show!

While Tech2Students worked predominantly with Trinity Access partner schools, we were delighted to provide devices to youth groups and non profit organisations nationwide. The digital divide is an even more pertinent issue outside cities, so this campaign delivered devices to students in 26 counties across Ireland. From Donegal to Cork, thanks to supporters like you, no student was left offline.

Going forward, the parties who collaborated on Tech2Students will continue to support students and schools, and we want partners like you to help us make this happen. If you'd like to discuss how you can continue your involvement please contact us.

Trinity Access: tech2students@ta21.ie
Kinia: info@kinia.ie
NUI Galway: tech2students@nuigalway.ie

THE LATE LATE SHOW

"The reality is that there are thousands of students in this country who simply don't have a computer full stop. There are students trying to learn courses on their mobile phones and many of the students have no technology at all. They don't have the access to a laptop and as a result they're literally locked out of participating in lessons through no fault of their own.
- Ryan Tubridy"

At a Glance

Since launching in March 2020, Tech2Students has gone from strength to strength thanks to the generous support of our amazing donors and partners.

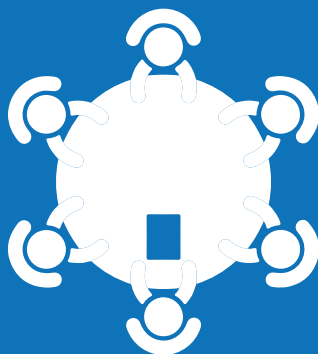More than 4,500
devices donated

Over €750,000
raised

100+ schools
received devices

26 counties
reached

Over 42 organisations
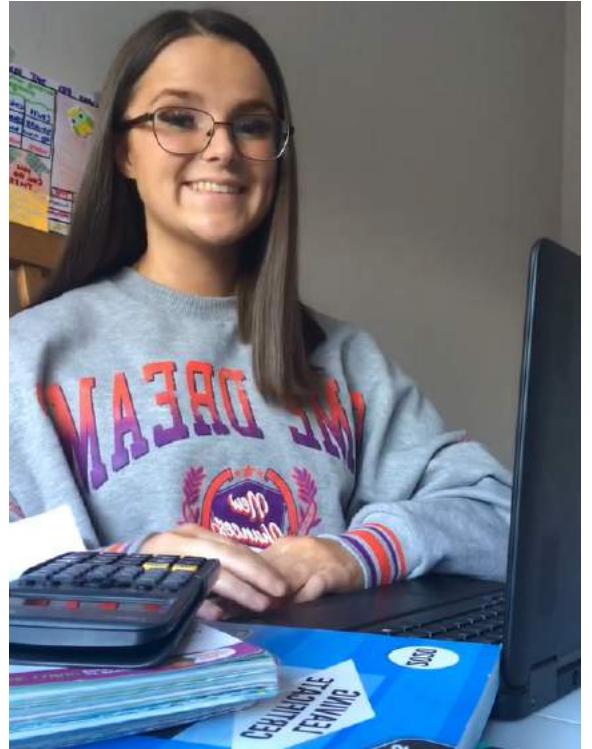awarded devices

Support from
50+ companies

1200 personal
device donations

Student stories

"The laptop is so much bigger and easier to use. I would be lost without it. I would like to thank Tech2Students and all donors for providing laptops to students' online learning. I really appreciate it. It makes a huge difference".

Sophie

"I would love to say a big thank you to Tech2Students and all donors. My laptop has truly helped me get through all of my work throughout the pandemic and has helped me feel less stressed and more relief. Thank you".

Nicole

Student stories

"We have been one of the few organisations in the sector who have been successful in engaging with hard to reach young people online.

The Tech2Students initiative helped us to break down the barriers that exist for many Travellers in terms of access to education, technology, and youth initiatives".

- Eve O'Brien, Irish Traveller Movement

An Cosán

Letters from recipients

"One of our students was completely disengaged and when we investigated, we realised they did not have access to any device other than their phone. As we are using technology quite a bit during lockdown, it meant the student was not able to produce any kind of work for several months. They also suffer from some learning difficulties and we feared they would not return to school at all, even after everything opens back up. When the student received their laptop, they were first on our list and when we delivered the device they took it with a big smile on their face. This student is the first online in every virtual classroom and they plan to be back in school once everything re-opens again. All their work is submitted, they are up to date with everything and they have even started some extra project work. The student contacted us recently about the online classroom to tell us how much they are enjoying the videos and that they just completed their CAO application for next year. This laptop has changed their life".

"Covid-19 has had a huge impact on my education – I no longer know the outcome of the leaving cert, but having a laptop means I can easily access and complete my class assignments. The devices you have given us have benefited both me and many of my fellow students. When all of this calms down, I hope to go into a business course and get a stable career, then continue my learning throughout my career (maybe by branching into something like psychology!)".

"The devices provided to us by T2S has meant that students who did not have access to a device could continue to engage with their education via online lessons during school closures. The lack of devices was a huge obstacle to overcome and the devices provided to us by T2S played a major role in overcoming that obstacle. Our school is located in an area of socio economic disadvantage, where many of our students do not have devices or access to the internet. The help provided to schools like Ballinteer Community School from initiatives such as T2S is invaluable".

"When the schools closed my teachers got in touch with Tech2Students to organise one device for each student in the whole school so they can do the remote learning at home instead of using a mobile phone. I think the laptop has helped me a lot during the last few weeks because I can stay connected to my teachers and class friends, get my assignments done on time and improve my computer skills. My phone did not have a screen big enough to watch videos and take part in class – and the memory isn't big enough. If any company or businesses could donate any spare laptops or computers that are not been used to schools it would help everyone with the remote learning".

"Tech2Students has helped me because I don't have access to a working laptop and trying to focus on my education through my phone is really tough. This has helped me to take in more and be able to write at the speed needed to keep up with the teacher".

Tech2Students

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