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STARS Programme aims to bring excitement of science back to the classroom

Dublin North Fianna Fáil TD, Michael Kennedy, says a new programme which offers teachers places on research projects, will ensure that the excitement of science is passed on to their students.

Under the Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) 2008 STARS Programme, teachers will be invited to join researchers in labs working on projects including 'How Worms Will Cure Asthma', 'Gamma Rays and Active Galaxies' and 'Quantum Computing'.

SFI will fund 50 teachers who will be offered places on projects based at third level colleges in Dublin, Galway, Cork and Limerick.

"Already we have seen teachers' enthusiasm for science being passed onto children, with several North Dublin schools receiving accolades at the recent Young Scientist Exhibition. Teachers' participation in STARS will ensure that events like the Young Scientist Exhibition will be even more inviting to schools and I sincerely hope some of the teachers in my constituency apply to the scheme."

"Science is a key subject for young people seeking future employment when they leave school or third level. There are limitless options for science graduates," said Deputy Kennedy.

"I would encourage teachers across North Dublin to use this opportunity to take part in the research programme and pass on their new found knowledge to their students," he added.