

## **ENTERPRISING STUDENTS FROM KEN STIMPSON REACH NATIONAL FINAL**

Students from Ken Simpson Community School have reached the National Final of an enterprise challenge for the second time.

The school's Post-16 Young Enterprise Company – Invictus – won the Young Enterprise Regional Final and now go forward to the National Finals on Monday 13 to Tuesday 14 June. Normally the National Final is held in London but Covid restrictions have led to the organisers adopting a virtual format for this year's final.

The 15 members of Invictus will represent the East of England, taking on the other 12 regional champions from the rest of the UK and Gibraltar.

This is only the second time that a team from Peterborough has reached this stage of the competition – the first was Dynasty in 2018, also from Ken Stimpson's sixth form.

Invictus have produced a series of children's books for six to nine-year-olds, helping children deal with key social issues. Benny the Bee focuses on bullying and Bella the Bear covers neurodivergence (with a focus on autism). Both books come with a crocheted soft toy. A book on climate change- Tilly the Turtle- is in pre-production.

The team also set up a professional website to sell the products online:

<https://www.invictusep.com/>

The Area Final took place at the University of East Anglia in Norwich last month, where Invictus finished runners-up to MySelf, a team from The Perse School in Cambridge. Both teams progressed to the next heat, making up two of the seven Eastern Region finalists.

The resulting semi-final took place online, where the team were required to conduct a team interview via Zoom, followed by a live presentation to judges and an online audience. The final part of the judging was for the team's Company Report.

A total of 70 teams entered the Young Enterprise competition from the Eastern region and Invictus are now the final team remaining. Thousands of students have taken part in Young Enterprise across the country gaining valuable business skills, including teamwork, creativity and leadership.

Kevin Abbott, Ken Stimpson's Link Teacher for Invictus said; "Reaching the national final in 2018 was one of the highlights of my teaching career and I am very proud that Invictus have earned the right to compete for the title of Company of the Year. Just making it to this stage of the competition is a phenomenal achievement for a group of students from a comprehensive school. The team are going to do their

utmost to win the National Final and represent the UK at the European Final in Estonia in July!

“I must pay credit to the efforts of the team's Business Advisor (and School Governor) Ray Rankmore who has once again given up many, many hours of his time to support, guide and challenge the team to fulfil their potential. As he approaches his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ray's is stepping down as a Business Advisor, after supporting many Young Enterprise teams over the years. It is a fitting tribute that his final team have made the National Final and on behalf of the students and the school, we wish to thank Ray for his involvement over the years.”

### Attached

- 1) Team photo of the students, Kevin Abbott and Ray Rankmore
- 2) Pictures of the Benny the Bee and Bella the Bear Books and toy



