

A Brief History of Young Enterprise at Tiffin Girls' since 2002

2002-2003 Girls on a mission, not to sell but to educate

Five teams were set up at Tiffin in September 2002 and traded successfully throughout the year. However two teams qualified for the Kingston and Richmond Board final held Kingston University in May. Odyssi promoted and sold a series of products to improve and encourage personal safety and walked away with a number of prizes including best overall company. The evening was particularly successful as the other TGS team FIB also qualified for the South London final held a week later in Croydon. Unfortunately both teams were knocked out of the competition at that point by a team from Sutton High School. However some of the disappointment for Odyssi was forgotten as they were invited to a gala dinner held by the National Business Awards in London at the Grosvenor Hotel, Park Lane to collect a prize for the entrepreneurship they had displayed that year.

2003-2004 Clip it, don't drip it!

Three teams participated in the programme this year, but by far the most successful was Vivacity. They developed a product for the medical industry to help patients in bed drink more easily. Vivacity were runner's up in the Kingston and Richmond final but once again we failed to progress further in the competition. Nonetheless the product known as the Glasp subsequently underwent clinical trials at UCL hospital for potential use throughout the NHS and was sponsored by the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

2004-2005 The Tiffin Brick and the curse of Croydon strikes again!

In the aftermath of the Great Tiffin Fire, three teams participated in YE. The year was perhaps most memorable for the way Element were able to part punters from their cash by selling (slightly) charred bricks salvaged from the burnt wing and sell them for £10 each. All three teams reached the local final but Shh! with their innovative CD Rom to prepare students for 11+ exam emerged as the best overall company, with Ellipsis from St Paul's Boys also qualifying as runners up. However at the South London final the positions were reversed and Ellipsis won best overall company and Shh's adventure came to an end.

2005-2006 Making Education Stick – the breakthrough year!

Two companies competed this year, Room 18 and Opus. Opus produced an educational toy called the Mag-it and they won the majority of the categories at the Kingston and Richmond final including best overall company. The team went to the Croydon final with some trepidation given the previous three years experiences, but needn't have worried as they won best report and most innovative company and qualified for the London Final. At this point Opus also appeared on the Working Lunch programme on BBC2. At the London final Opus again emerged victorious and for the first time TGS qualified for the National final held over three days at The Savoy Hotel in July. Although Opus didn't win the girls had a tremendous time, although the team enjoyed very little sleep as London was gripped by record high temperatures.

2006-2007 Thinking while you drink - and another national final

Two companies competed this year. Blinc produced the Frutree and educational toy to encourage children to eat the recommended amount of fruit and vegetables per day. The product proved so popular it was sponsored by the Innocent drinks company and at the local final Blink won best overall company. For the second time both Tiffin teams qualified as Vivelle with their disposable cups with puzzles on them to promote productivity in the work place were runner's up. However at Croydon once again the positions were reversed and Vivelle emerged victorious to qualify for the London Final. The London final was held at the Clifford Chance Building in Canary Wharf and Vivelle again won most innovative company to qualify for back to back national finals at the Savoy Hotel. Unfortunately just as in the previous year Vivelle did not emerge as the overall winner but greatly enjoyed their three days in London.

2007-2008 Fit into your financial future - just in time for the Credit Crunch!

5 Squared was of the two teams that competed this year and they brought a bit of glamour to the competition with their Retail Therapy shopping game. At the local Final held at TGS for the second time, 5 Squared in a veritable riot of pink, walked off with best stand and presentation awards. However it was the other TGS team Estilo that won best overall company. The team had developed educational website the Share Exchange to encourage students to improve their financial understanding. The team were incredibly successful in raising advertising for their site and clients included JP Morgan and the Chelsea Building Society. However, despite their financial success they didn't progress to the London final.

2008-2009 Keep your hands ink free with memo-me!

For the first time the two Tiffin teams participated at the Stratford upon Avon national trade fair with fifty other companies from around the country and TGS collected first prize and a cheque for £350 as Sienna won best company with their reflective hooded product that promoted road safety. It was Avenue, however who won both the local and Croydon finals and progressed to the London Final held at the Meryl Lynch Building in Canary Wharf. Although Avenue and their memo-me product didn't win they did pick up the best website in London prize and best report award and sold a hundred units of their product to Bentalls in Kingston.