

Building Connectedness in Our School Communities

WEEK 2 OCTOBER 11TH – 17TH 2021

**A Series of Online Talks for Teachers Parents and Young People
in Post Primary Schools in Co. Wexford**



Talk 5 "Reuben's Story"

A TALK AIMED AT YOUNG PEOPLE

*by Reuben Hester
Singer Songwriter*

Singer Songwriter Reuben Hester, who plays the guitar, piano and cello, moved to Manchester from a small village in Ireland after leaving school at 16, with the intention of only making music. Shortly after, at the age of 19 Reuben travelled to Europe with a friend and played his music on the streets of all the European capitals. It was in Berlin, where he stayed for a year, where he became most popular and gained over 19,000 social media followers on Facebook, from his street performances alone.

A year later back in UK he became the singer and songwriter of the successful Manchester band China Lane, with over 1.5 Million Spotify streams.

However, after a quick rise, at the age of 25 Reuben decided to go his own way. Last October he showcased his talents on Little Mix "The Search" show on BBC 1, which aims to create the next big group, put together by the world's biggest girl band, Little Mix.

Reuben was proud to present them an original song; his debut single 'Sold My Soul'. He had written this song in memory of his father Kevin, who passed away last year following a drug overdose, at the age of 55. After his performance, he left the Little Mix girls dancing and singing his song live on the show.

Reuben released 'Sold my Soul' in December 2020 as a self-release without any label support. Nevertheless, the single immediately caught the attention of Spotify UK, was picked for the New Pop UK editorial playlist, and was presented by Little Mix on their social media channels.

After releasing his debut Single, he quickly gained stardom by climbing to #36 in the official Irish radio charts!

Reuben is now working toward his headline show whilst writing his story through his musical journey.

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