



Transition Year Update

Welcome to Transition Year

Our Newsletter is filled with a taste of the experiences and enjoyable moments of the second half of TY 2017/2018. I hope it gives you an insight into what TY students got up to in the last few months. ‘You get out of TY what you put into TY’ is a phrase we use frequently and it remains true of this year’s groups. Many students have dipped their fingers into new pursuits. Some students seem to have involved themselves in every possible opportunity. While we celebrate successes, I am exceedingly proud of the efforts of all students as they have matured and learned so much though out the year. We have had new and exciting additions to the programme. Students enjoyed a fantastic sunny day cycling across Inis Mór and another (less sunny) day on a Seaweed Safari. The Jaguar company paid us a visit as did members of the Royal Society of Chemistry. The experiences of a number of students who were accepted on TY taster or internship programmes are shared inside our newsletter. We are delighted for and proud of TY 2 for securing a place in the National Final of the YSI competition and TY 1 for securing a place in The National Film competition. It has been a great year of learning, fun and opportunity.

Just as we go to print with this newsletter, the fantastic news has arrived that our students, under the guidance of Ms. Hogan, won their category at the YSI final (a first success at this level for St. Joseph’s). This group presented a thought provoking project on domestic abuse.

Many other articles could have been included in this newsletter as it has been a highly successful year, thanks to the efforts of students and parents, but I hope the pages ahead give you a sense of the fun, enjoyment and learning that went on in TY this year. As always I must acknowledge the huge amount of voluntary work, by staff, that goes into making TY in St. Joseph’s a success.

Geraldine Sullivan, TY Co-ordinator



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A New Addition to This Year’s TY Programme

This year our two geography teachers Ms. Fitzgerald and Mr. O’ Loghlin, decided to try something different and a trip to Inis Mór was proposed. As you can see from the photo —the weather was specially ordered that day. The ferry company wanted to know how we had managed to book the first sunny day in the year—weeks previously. Our students braved the Atlantic by boat, then cycled across to the historical Dún Aonghusa taking in a variety of geographic points of interest along the way. For some, the cycle posed a challenge while for others it was timely practice for their Gaisce challenge which was to follow. Others couldn’t wait to dive in and did just that at the beach, braving the waves to cool down.

In a true cross-curricular effort, we calculated distance, time, used a few Irish words and aimed to include our music and dance subjects. Never a quiet bunch, the TYs were inclined to sing on the ferry on the return journey. Everything from Danny Boy, to You’ll never walk alone to the ‘Titanic Song’ was heard much to the entertainment of the other passengers. Some joined in. The ferry company provided appropriate background music. This was a fantastic trip and many of the students rated it as a highlight of the TY year. Thanks to all the staff who accompanied the group. It was a once in a life time experience.



Architects in the Classroom

Our school was lucky enough to have been chosen to be part of the Architects in the Classroom Initiative this year. Mr. Monaghan attended two days of training on the process and a member of the Architects of Ireland has joined us in the Woodwork room for a number of weeks. This project combines aspects of the Leaving Certificate curriculum with a very practical aspect; rural development. Students are active and engaged and we have been overwhelmed by their capacity to see opportunities and to plan for the future.

The students have been exploring the town of Tulla to see what the town might need physically and socially and what they can offer.

Through brainstorming, interviewing people of different ages, consulting with the development plan, mapping and a walk of the town the students settled on two derelict building on the main street as their site. From careful observation it was decided that a small town needs small scale interventions and multi-use spaces that will be sustainable over time. With this in mind, the students developed a brief which includes a small theater/screen room/presentation room, a music rehearsal/recording room, a small gym, a cafe, and a multi purpose room. Over 5 weeks the plan is to develop designs through drawings and models. There has been great creativity and enthusiasm on display and we are looking forward to seeing the finished product.

The students' viewpoints: The architect was very interesting and we enjoyed our time with her. She made us feel welcome and she interacted with all of us, encouraging us to express our ideas, by playing games at the start of each class. We didn't just work in the classroom. We went outside and walked around Tulla to look at the architecture of the buildings in Tulla. We were put into groups and we got to design our own plan for a building in Tulla. After we design and plan it out we will be making a 3D model which will be very interesting.

I really enjoyed participating in the Architecture Workshop with Jacintha Curley. She made us all feel welcome and was pleased to answer any questions we may have on the career in question. We were able to express our creativity though designing a new community building. I was fascinated by our trip around the village as we discovered the past of the old buildings. I enjoyed creating a small newspaper model of a church with my friends. I learned a lot about different factors which need to be anticipated when building a new house, like lighting and aspect. This workshop was practical and educational. I really enjoyed it.

My Experience on our Trip to Poland by Arnas Magilevicius

Our trip to Poland was incredible, fun-filled, educational and truly one of my highlights of Transition Year. Our trip was long, cold (to put it mildly) and packed full of wonderful experiences so thankfully we had a warm hotel where we were able to get some much needed rest every night.

The Schindler Factory and Museum was intriguing, it showed a great insight into the lives of Poles and especially Jewish Poles, during World War II. On our guided tour of Krakow we learned a lot about Polish history and culture and also the necessity to wear layer upon layer of clothing to stay warm in -17 degree temperatures. The architecture was stunning, once we learned how to keep the snow out of our eyes. Every type of glove, scarf and balaclava were used to keep warm. Some of us gladly resorted to putting socks on our hands!

Auschwitz was very eerie, but it was an unmissable part of this great experience. Its dark history was fascinating but incredibly sad. It will stay with us for a long time. The Salt Mines were surprising and the different stories about how they were discovered and the different types of jobs that were involved were fascinating. A highlight for many was the Waterpark, it was great fun and very different from any activity in Ireland.

I loved the fact that you could buy iced-tea at any restaurant. Also I met a person in the street who was fully dressed as Freddy Kruger and yes I got a selfie!

Overall, we had a brilliant trip and though freezing and exhausting, it was well worth it as we created special memories. Thanks to Ms. Lonergan for the enormous amount of work she put in to organise the trip and to Ms. Liddy, Ms. Lillis and Ms. Walsh for giving up their time to make sure we had a great experience.



TY PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAMME IN UCC by Aoibh O' Reilly

I applied for and was accepted to attend this two day programme on March 27th and 28th. On the first day, we spent most of our time in the Boole Library, where we met with psychology students. They gave us a workshop on how different psychological theories work, such as the placebo effect. We had a guided tour of UCC campus and attended a lecture on language in psychology. On day two we went to the UCC School of Psychology. This was the most interesting day. We read brain signals using EEG machines and we used VR to partake in simulated driving stress tests. I found the programme really fun and enjoyable, mainly because I have a great interest in this area.



SOLICITORS OF THE FUTURE PROGRAMME by Kaylee Cahill

This year our school was selected by The Law Society, to send a student to their Solicitors of The Future Programme, in Dublin. Our school enters annually, so there was great excitement when we were finally able to send a student to enjoy a great opportunity. Ms. Sullivan had asked us all to submit our names if we were interested in attending and my name was pulled out of the hat.

I, along with forty other TY students from different counties, got the chance to meet a number of interesting solicitors, barristers and Law students. I learnt about what their jobs entail and the skills and characteristics that are needed to carry out the various legal roles. We had lectures about each type of Law, given by people who specialize in those areas. We also got the chance to go to Mason, Hayes and Curran Law firm and we visited the Central Criminal Court. There we got to see how the law really works. At the end of the week we participated in a mock court where we got to practice the skills we had learnt throughout the week. It was a really brilliant experience.

IBM TY Internship Programme— By Naoise O' Sullivan

In April, I spent four days at the IBM Complex. On our first day we had a tour of our base building (one of 6 in the complex). Our project on the first day was to build a ferris wheel out of K'nex. There was a twist however, we had to have a meeting with our suppliers to secure the missing pieces to complete our project. On the second day, we focused on Design Thinking. This is how 'IBMer's generate ideas. We had to create an APP which helped people and compete against other teams, to create the most useful APP. On The third day we followed our sponsor—an adult who assisted us to get a place on the programme. I spent the day in the Coding and Graphic Design building. Its' interior reflects its purpose which is all about sharing ideas. On the last day we were then placed into teams to create wind powered cars. The car that travelled the furthest won. Finally we had to pitch the App we had created to the Vice President of the Sales Department. It was a fantastic experience.

Our trip to the BT Young Scientist by Orla O' Brien, Alex O'Sullivan and Emma Cooper.

Our experience at the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in the RDS, Dublin was one we will never forget! Our qualifying project was based on the effects of energy drinks on heart rate and blood pressure. We set off to Dublin, on the train, with our two teachers, Ms. McGuinness and Ms. O' Brien, excited but not knowing what was ahead of us. The exhibition began on January 10th. We were staying about a ten minute walk from the venue. The exhibition hall was enormous and filled with busy activity. When we arrived, we set up our stand. We spent our days meeting members of the public and judges and we also wandered around taking in all of the other projects. Our days were very busy. We had to get up at 7am and we didn't get back to our guest house until 11pm each day. The experience was incredible. We bonded together as friends and had a great time researching our topic and representing our school. We have been invited to show our research and a sports event in UL and we are looking forward to that.



The Young Entrepreneur County Final— A great haul for TYs in St. Joseph's.

On the 8th of March , we presented the Business products we had been preparing since September. We displayed our stalls and pitched our ideas to a panel of judges. The day itself was great fun with lots of games to be enjoyed and spot prizes to be won. It was topped off with three of our groups taking First Prize in their respective categories. Saoirse Boyce and Joanna Sullivan came first in retail with their product, Beeswax Lip Balm. Ellen Lenihan, Katelyn Baker, and Orna Mulconroy came first place in the manufacturing category. Their business 'Roll on Stain Off' is a tan and makeup remover for clothes. Alex O'Sullivan, Nessa Flynn and Orla O'Brien won first place in the food category with their business. Ready Steady Cook, hampers for all beginner chefs.



St. Joseph's Secondary School Fashion Show

Our Business teachers posed a challenge to us – to develop an idea that would generate a profit, for our Enterprise class. Four of us decided that we wanted to plan an event that would benefit the two charities that we were personally connected to - Alzheimers Society of Ireland and Cystic Fibrosis Ireland. We approached Hilary Thompson Modelling Agency and they were very professional to work with. Hilary herself was very generous helping us with everything we needed. We are grateful to the teachers and students who took to the catwalk to support our fundraising effort. Thanks to the LCA students who built a sweet cart for us. Thanks to Adam Moloney and Sparks Dance school who provided entertainment on the night and to the many sponsors of spot prizes for our raffle. Thanks to Joelle's Hair Salon and Tara and Jovana for all the help with Hair and Make-up for the night and to Marco Cavalieri for the photography. We raised over €3000 which will be split between the two charities. It was a great night, and all the hard work was worth it.

TY in brief from A to Z (almost)

*Architect in the Classroom, *Bank Interviews and running the Bank ,*Bike Maintenance Workshop,*Board Games Key Skill Development Workshop, *Bronze GAISCE cycle to Doolin, *Cancer Awareness Lecture, *CEIST Bake Off, *Coaching Course, *Digital Schools Programme Training, *Duvet Day Literacy Initiative,*Faith Friends, *First Aid workshop, *French Play *Fresh Film Festival, *Geography Field Trip to Inis Mór, *John Paul II awards *Law workshop, *NUIG Taster Programme, *Publication of the Walking Tour of Tulla, *Radio Interviews, *Sea Weed Safari, *Spectroscopy in a suitcase, *The BT Young Scientist Final, *Theatre Trip to see 'The Field', *Trip to Poland ,*TY Fashion Show, *Visit in from Jaguar, *Young Entrepreneur County Final, *YSI Love Yourself initiative, *YSI speakout and National final.



We asked TYS - about their TY Experience

- ◆ It was a year of relaxation, making new friends, doing things I wouldn't ever had the chance to do. I was able to focus on non-academic activities. I improved my social skills and tried many new things. I loved the CEIST Bake Off, it was great fun.
- ◆ My favourite workshops were the Bounce workshop, the law workshop and the business workshops.
- ◆ I loved the Poetry workshop.
- ◆ I loved the trips to Poland, Achill and the Geography tour to Inis Mór.
- ◆ Inis Mór had some impressive sights and it felt great to get out on the bike with the wind in my hair!
- ◆ I think the First Aid course will be very useful in the future.
- ◆ I discovered a new skill in the Poetry workshop and got to express myself. I loved the law workshop because the speaker was hilarious. I loved the Bounce workshop because I learned a lot about myself.
- ◆ The bike maintenance workshop has already proven useful. The trips to Poland and Achill were cool!
- ◆ My favourite workshops were the Rock Drumming workshop and the Board Games.
- ◆ The Poetry workshop showed us that poetry is more than the old stuff we learn in school. I enjoyed the Board Games because it was fun and different.

The Fresh Film Festival This was held in the Bell Table Theatre in Limerick. Our short film 'Our Minds Distort Our Mirrors' was entered in



the competition. We watched 36 short films that were created in our region. Some were very entertaining, some dealt with serious matters and some were very creative such as the life of a teddy bears. We also watched two inspiring international films. The top ten films would go through to the national final .The results were announced. Though we were very proud of our film, we were beginning to lose hope of an award as the other winners were called out so there was a great shout of excitement from our group when our Film was called out. We were thrilled to be regional winners.

Our School Bank—2018 by Cara Close

In January we attended interviews for running our school bank. Aoife Leyden conducted the interviews and has been assisting us with the bank. There were six positions available. Cara Close was appointed Branch Manager. Liam Hogan and Kaylee Cahill were given responsibility for Sales and Marketing. Orna Mulconroy has responsibility for the area of Operations or Audit. Cormac Murphy and Ciara Halpin were given the roles of Customer Advisors. We open the bank every Monday where we open Accounts giving out application forms and accepting deposits. It is a great opportunity for students to open accounts, learning to take responsibility for their own money. Our team has learned about banking and business from working beside Aoife Leyden and we have developed our team work skills while getting to know students from other year groups. It has been a great experience.

