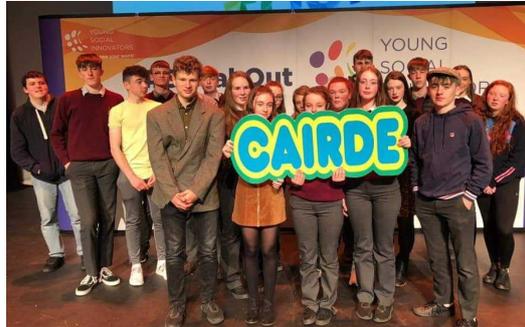


Transition Year Update



Welcome to Transition Year

Our TY students of 2018/2019 are on the pathway to transition to their formal Leaving Certificate programmes and they have built a great foundation for their futures. It is necessary to thank all of our teachers for all of the voluntary work, above and beyond their normal teaching obligations, which they have generously invested in our TY students. The challenges our students have faced and the experiences they have enjoyed have broadened their horizons. It has been wonderful to witness the growth in bonds that have been forged as our students supported each other on stage during the Christmas concert, on hillsides as they strive to train for the Gaisce challenge and during the variety of activities from wheelchair basketball to ice-skating.



The mutual-support offered during various events and initiatives such as The BT Young Scientist, The Young Entrepreneur, The YSI competition and many others has encouraged students to grow beyond their comfort zone. Our three YSI groups (pictured here) at the YSI speakout on March 28th represented themselves and our school admirably. It has been a very busy few months of learning, friendship, fun and laughter.

The many successes of this group in for example The Young Entrepreneur competition, debating competitions and the Ceist Bake Off have been celebrated, but all of the TY students who have chosen to get involved and try new things are winners. There are many trips and activities still to look forward to. Students and staff are planning for the Geography trip to the Aran Islands, the trip to Germany and many other events. I hope our newsletter 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. Geraldine Sullivan, TY Co-ordinator



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YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR

Congratulations to all of our TY students who took on the challenge to create a product and learn about the joys and the pitfalls of running their own business. On March 7th, a number of teams from St. Joseph's represented the school in the County Final of the Young Entrepreneur competition. Congratulations to 'Get Lazed' who won 3rd prize in the craft category and to 'Dermaglow' who took 3rd prize in the retail category. Well done to 'Seed of Happiness' who brought home 1st prize in the retail category with their product which encourages mindful gardening.



When asking: What was your favourite experience in TY?, the variety of answers is always fascinating

ART – by Adam Fox

I personally found Art to be my favourite experience thus far in TY. Despite all of the fantastic trips we've had and the work experience, plays etc. we attended, I found the few weeks I had in the art room, to be my favourite. I feel this way because it reignited a part of me that I haven't touched in years – my love of drawing.

What we did in the class was fun. Our teacher didn't teach us in the traditional way, we were encouraged to take responsibility for our own learning. She showed us Youtube tutorials to assist us individually at the level we needed so that we could get our own footing until we were drawing competently once again. We started with bees, then flowers and finally our choice of subject which we would engrave into plastic. It was a great experience overall and I wish it could have been longer. The class inspired me so much that I bought a drawing tablet and really enjoy drawing in my own time. I hope to practice enough so that once school finishes, I might consider graphic designing for companies. I'm glad that TY gave me the chance I missed in first year by not choosing art and I can only hope that other students have the second chance that I did.

The Christmas Concert – by Adam O'Neill

My favourite part of TY was the play. The play was very challenging and the work was intensive. It was interesting to see the different reactions from the different age groups of people. The younger audience were very easy to entertain. The audience of people from the secondary school were a lot harder to entertain.

The play was very intense and I went home every day feeling really exhausted from working on the play all day. The play out of all the things I have done in TY has probably been my favourite part of TY. I thought getting up on stage in front of all my friends helped me a lot with my public speaking and my self confidence as well. I know this has helped me because my presentations have improved massively.



Cairde – by Natasha Vickers

One of the things that I really enjoyed this year was meeting with the more wise and mature citizens of Tulla every Tuesday for our Cairde initiative. This is a group set up as part of our YSI project, with the support and guidance of Ms. Hogan. We engaged in various activities such as baking, drawing and board games. I really enjoyed it as it gives us the chance to talk to this group from our own community, listening to their life stories and learning from their experiences. Overall this has been a great experience and has really made my Tuesdays better.

MY TY—Shane Nolan

I'm now halfway through my transition year and I have thoroughly enjoyed every part of it. From getting to go on work experience in a hangar in Shannon Airport to learning new and different things that I would never have gotten to experience if I had skipped TY. One of the most helpful things about TY has been getting a taste of different jobs so that we can see what we might do as a possible job in the future. We've had engineers speaking to us about all the different aspects of engineering and programmers who came in to tell us all about computer sciences and the many job possibilities that can come from studying computer science.

I've also enjoyed doing our extra curricular activities such as swimming, bowling and even getting the opportunity to play wheelchair basketball. I've had so many great experiences already this year and I can't wait for what else is to come.

JUST A FLAVOUR OF THE WORKSHOPS AND TRIPS WHICH OUR STUDENTS HAVE ENJOYED

Coding Workshop – Ross Gleeson

On the 12th of March each TY class took part in a wonderful coding workshop. The workshop was led by Keith of TUD a college in Dublin, and informed the students on the low number of graduates and high demand for qualified computer science and coding graduates all over the world. Keith asked each student in the beginning if they would be interested in pursuing an IT course once they left school with only two students saying they would like to. By the end the numbers had increased drastically with up to eight people saying they would be interested in such a career.

Keith introduced the students to the BBC microbit programme on the website makecode.microbit.org and gave a task to programme lights to say their name. Each student thoroughly enjoyed this challenge as it was both fun and forced them to think in order to complete it.

This was a workshop that almost anyone could enjoy

Breast Cancer Awareness Talk – Rebecca Peer

On the 25th of February, St Joseph's Secondary School hosted a speaker to raise awareness about breast cancer. The speaker addressed all year groups above and including Transition Years. The speaker was a survivor of breast cancer, who now, travels around Munster visiting schools and companies raising awareness. I found her to be very insightful, as I found out breast cancer wasn't only a disease which effects women but men also. She informed us about what is, how many variations there are and what organisations are doing to stop and heal breast cancer. She encouraged us to bring home a leaflet to help inform other family members.

I think the talk was very beneficial and would recommend that businesses and schools contact 'Breast Cancer Ireland' to get someone out to your area, because they provide this service to the whole of Ireland for free!

Engineering

On Friday 8th March our TY year group participated in an Engineering talk organised for Engineer's week. The talk gave both myself and the year group a helpful insight in to what a career in engineering entails. Above all else, problem solving is the core of this career. We were shown a video of a group of secondary school girls participating in a trial engineering day at their local college. Both the engineering day and the video were organised for women's engineering week, to clear up the many misconceptions and barriers keeping women from pursuing a career in this area, as the percentage of women working in the field of engineering is rather low. One of the groups of girls in the video were tasked with designing a solution to crossing a river. The girls brainstormed and came up with the idea of building a cable car to pass over the river. Then they had to calculate how high the cable car had to be (taking into account water levels) and the general cost of the car. Our speaker was very enthusiastic and clearly loved his job. I certainly have a new perspective on engineering.

Architect Trip – Róisín Quilligan and Enda Madden

On Monday 4th March two Transition Year classes went on an architectural trip with a local architect. Firstly we visited UL and looked at their modern buildings as well as their older buildings. Liam Ryan, the architect, then explained the contrasts between the old and new buildings. We got to walk across the 'moving bridge' and we listened to how much work went into building it. We then drove to Killaloe where we got to see an old restaurant and the interesting features in it. After Killaloe we stopped at Two-Mile Gate. Liam told us how it was designed for locals. We took a walk by the river and got back on the bus to Ennis where we saw the county council building, a very modern building and we all appreciated the work that went into it. Each of us enjoyed the day.

The Playboy of the Western World – Daniel Withycombe

On March 1st we went to the Lime Tree theatre to see a production of 'The Playboy of the Western World' by John Millington Synge. The play was set in County Mayo from older times where a wandering man finds a pub. He then becomes a lodger at the pub where he falls in love with the pub's owner's daughter. This takes a peculiar turn when he claims that he killed his own father which is a lie. I really enjoyed the play as it was the first time ever I had been to a play. It was also quite funny which made it more enjoyable. The play was also interesting because it made references to towns in East Clare. The plot was quite interesting and I didn't find myself drifting but quite enthralled in the story. The only downside was that the interval was quite short.

INTERNSHIPS AND TY TASTER PROGRAMMES

The Bar of Ireland “Look Into Law” TY Programme by Aine Murphy

From the 4th to 8th of February 2019 I took part in the TY Programme run by the Bar of Ireland and really enjoyed myself.

On Monday, registration was at 9:15am in the Distillery Building where we were divided into groups and given a colour. We were given a short introduction and then we met our Shadow Barrister (ours was Emma Ryan) for the week. Emma brought us to the CCJ- Criminal Court of Justice. We sat in on her client’s trial due to assault allegations; the judge adjourned the case for another date pending a report on her client’s financial situation. After lunch we had several talks. Firstly, from the DPP who told us about the role of the DPP in Ireland’s legal system. Secondly, from a defence solicitor who told us about her job. She must defend the person that charges are being brought against in court for our legal system to be fair. Thirdly, we had a talk from a Senior Counsel member. This is a barrister who was a member of the Junior Counsel for several years (usually 12) and applies to be on the Senior Counsel. This title is awarded to someone who is particularly experienced and knows a lot about one area of law.

On Tuesday after a short talk from a guest speaker we met our host barrister and went to the Four Courts. The Supreme Court, The High Court, the court of Appeal and Dublin Circuit Court sit here. We saw the court trial where a woman is suing over the alleged misreading of cervical smears. We also sat in on a trial in the Supreme Court the ‘DPP v Mahon’. After lunch we had several talks. Firstly, we heard from Orla O’ Donnell, a journalist, who works for RTE as a law correspondent. She told us about her job and what it involves. Secondly, we had a talk from a Garda Superintendent who told us about his job and what is involved in becoming a member of the Gardaí. After the talks we had Mock Trial Preparation, which would take place on Friday.



On Wednesday, a solicitor gave us a short talk and after which we sat in on the Bobby Ryan murder trial, widely reported in the media. After this we went to another murder trial where Robbie Walsh was on trial for the murder of Karl Haugh. We heard one of the witnesses, Sam Lucey a friend and cousin of Karl Haugh being examined and then cross-examined by the defence solicitor which was very interesting. We then went to the Four Courts where we had a talk from a judge. He told us the role he plays in the court daily and how he became successful in his law career.

On Thursday, after an input from a barrister we returned to the CCJ with our shadow barrister, Emma Ryan. We sat in on the Robbie Walsh hearing again. Later we heard the State Pathologist giving his autopsy report on Karl Haugh’s body. After lunch we were given an in-depth tour of the Four Courts and a talk on its history by the Law Library staff. After this we went to the Kings Inns where people go to get a diploma in law and become a barrister. We saw the Great Dining Hall and wore gowns that barristers wear. Again, we were given the history of the building which was very interesting.

On Friday, we had our Mock Trials. Everyone met at the Distillery Building before departing to go to Green Street Court House, a very old courthouse no longer in use where the four Mock Trials were taking place. These were very interesting and made us all understand how a trial really works by seeing one take place on a much smaller scale. These were a lot of fun and everyone had a role. At 3pm we returned to the Distillery Building where everyone had certificates presented to them by Chief Justice Frank Clarke, the most senior person in the court system in Ireland.



I would highly recommend this TY Programme to anyone even vaguely interested in law, not only in being a barrister. It was a lot of fun and I got to meet a lot of other TY Students and made new friends. I learned a lot about the job of a barrister and about the legal system in Ireland. I gained valuable skills and work experience.

A Wonderful Week in Ballymaloe



Rebecca and Aoibhe, two of our students, had the opportunity to get some work experience at Darina and Rachel Allen's cookery school, 'Ballymaloe,' in Cork. They found it to be a rewarding experience due to the variety of areas of food production that they learned about. They were sent to help out in the market kitchen where they would prepare goods for their shop and product for the annual Saturday market, letting them get a hands-on experience of working in a kitchen where they baked, washed and cleaned dishes, and packaged food. They also got the opportunity to sit in on some informative cooking demonstrations which were on daily for the students there.

Other activities were also on offer if they wished to get involved, such as: learning about the process and importance of fermenting, milking cows, making butter, or taking care of the hens and calves. They could also wander the gardens if they so wished when they weren't working and could see how the gardeners grew and laid out their crops.

Rebecca and Aoibhe would definitely recommend this place for work experience due to the unique opportunities there. As a plus, they also got a free Ballymaloe apron and lots of recipes along with a recipe book by Myrtle Allen 'The Ballymaloe cookbook'.

My Week in UL's School of Law

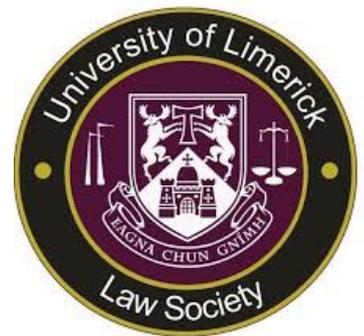
My name is Aoife Halpin and from February 4th to February 8th I attended the School of Law in UL. During the week I was given a feel for what studying law in UL would be like.

Along with 5 other TY students I attended lectures on interesting topics such as sport and the law, labour law, tort law, criminal law, EU law and many more. Each lecture covered a different area of law. My personal favourite was criminal law because of how fascinating it can be. In this lecture the lecturer covered the laws and punishments surrounding homicide.

We were also introduced to current second year law students in UL. They gave us a tour of the campus and explained what studying law was like for them. It was beneficial to speak to these students because we got to hear how they deal with study and what their years at UL consist of.

One of my highlights from my week was a talk on juvenile crime by Eoin O'Meara Daly. Eoin talked to us TYs about common crimes committed by juveniles and how juveniles are treated in the Irish justice system. Eoin's talk was very interesting and it opened our eyes to dealing with crime amongst people our age.

Another activity we were involved in was an annual Law Society mooting competition. Law students in 1st and 2nd year competed against each other in a mock case. One team acted as the defense whilst the other team acted as the prosecution. Many teams competed against each other throughout the day until 2 were chosen for the final which was held in UL's mock appeal court room. The TYs acted as time keepers for the moots. I loved watching these as it showed what a job in law is like and how barristers defend and prosecute in the court.



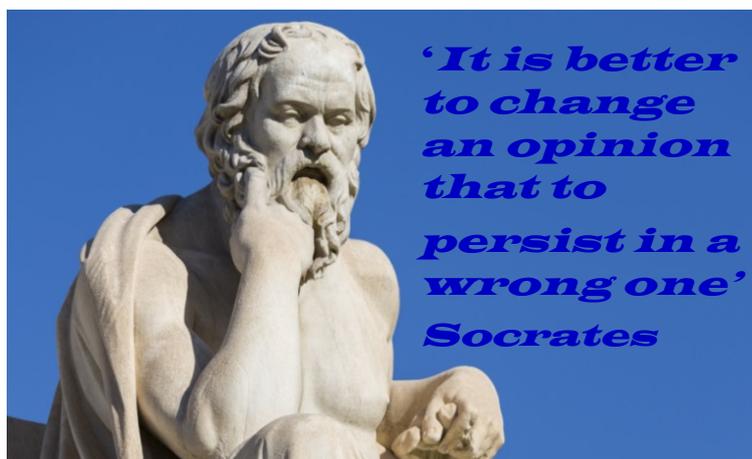
TY STEM PROGRAMME SHANNON March 11th to 15th.

Three of our students, Fintan Caulfield, Lauren Slattery, and Alex Cronin were invited to the second of two programmes co-ordinated by Molex, this year, where students can get an insight into a number of different engineering fields. Intel, Lufthansa Technik Turbine Shannon, Reagecon, Chemifloc, and Zimmer Biomet co-operate to provide an interesting range of activities, challenges and site visits for students. The students visited a different company each day and got a flavour of the different types of Science, Technology and Engineering careers available in each environment. Each day students were treated to a business lunch and at the end of the week, along with a much better insight into these fields of work, students leave with a goody bag of stationery and tech gadgets. It is a fantastic opportunity for any TY student in our region.

Philosophy— A new initiative in TY this year

The transition year programme at St. Joseph's Secondary School in Tulla, aims to facilitate the holistic development of participants and prepare them for their role as active and responsible members of society. One of the main objectives of the programme is to encourage students to discover and develop their individual talents and aptitudes, while developing key leadership skills and resiliency building for the future.

Philosophy is but one of many innovative learning options available to students, and a new addition to the transition year programme in 2018. This short course, introduced by the NCCA, encourages students to explore a range of different topics, as well as the questions which arise from their everyday life experiences. The course, aims to provide a democratic forum for students to respectfully exchange their views, and have their voices heard. It also aims to empower them by making them collaborators in selecting the topics that will be discussed, and students are given the opportunity to engage with a variety of different philosophical strands, including the philosophy of science, sport, politics and ethics.



Students learn the importance of reflecting on different issues and are also encouraged to engage with viewpoints other than their own. In this way, philosophy fits very well with the mission of the school and the aims of the transition year programme. It enhances problem solving and analytical reasoning, and thereby nurtures the development of key transferrable skills, while supporting the students' social development and general wellbeing by providing them with the analytical tools to deal with life's many challenges.

Commenting on the importance of philosophy in our schools, invited speaker to the programme Dr. Orla Slattery, from Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, noted that:

'We live in an age where young people have more access to information than any other generation, and we, as teachers and as parents need to find productive ways to empower them to develop a voice and think for themselves. By engaging with alternative viewpoints, philosophy encourages the development of critical reasoning and reflective skills, which not only encourage a deeper understanding the self, but also of the diverse and pluralistic society in which we live.'

The programme has proved very popular with transition year students, with one student commenting *'I really enjoyed how Philosophy let me explore my opinions on many interesting classroom topics'* – Rebecca Peer. Another student noted *'It was nice to share my view point and to be able to anticipate a response'* – Laoise Carey. Cathal Molloy noted that *'I liked trying something different'*. Caelyn Donlan noted *'I liked the way we worked individually or in a group setting each week'*. Shane Nolan commented *'choosing different topics built on my research skills'*.

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple." Dr. Seuss

The CEIST Bake Off

On Friday, March 8th I headed for Athy at 6AM having secured a place in the finals of the CEIST – Odlums Flour Bake Off.

In the previous weeks, I baked and decorated a cake in the Home Economics room with the great help and support of my teacher Ms. Walsh. I took a photo of my creation and submitted it with an application form. Days later, the good news arrived that I had gotten through to the finals which would take place two weeks later. I was shocked and over the moon at the same time.



This is when the hard work started. I had to practice over and over again to try to complete the cake within the three hour time limit. I discovered, three hours is a really short period of time.

As soon as I reached Ardscoil na Tríonoide in Athy, the staff and students were so welcoming. They showed us around and brought us to the kitchen to set up and ready ourselves for the competition.

At 8.45 the supporters were asked to leave the kitchen and baking started at 9am. At 12noon, it was time to down tools and hope that the finished product would impress the judges. The judges carefully examined the cakes, their design, taste and texture. My supporters and I then had time to sneak a peak at the other competitors' cakes. We were treated to lunch in the school and the atmosphere in the building was incredible. At 2PM we were invited back into the hall where many people spoke and thanked the people who had worked hard behind the scenes to organise such a successful and exciting event.

The award ceremony began. The six senior competitors waited anxiously. Sixth place was announced, then fifth, then fourth and my name was yet to be called. I was thrilled to be in the top three. Third place was called. I couldn't believe it – it wasn't me. Second place was announced and I realised that I had won. I was thrilled. I couldn't have done it without the help of Ms. Walsh and I am so grateful and thankful for all the support she gave me.



By Aoife Kelly

Wheelchair Basketball

Ms. Sullivan announced before Christmas that each TY group would have the opportunity to experience this sport. We were looking forward to it, but didn't quite know what to expect. This was completely different from anything we had ever done before.

On January 9th, we travelled to Gurteen hall to try to play



Wheelchair Basketball. We were put into suitable wheelchairs according to size. We split up into groups and got a sense of what was needed to try to manoeuvre the wheelchairs. We soon discovered that this is not easy.

We warmed up by doing laps of the hall and I soon realised that my shoulder and arm muscles had never been used so much. After we got used to the wheelchair, we were taught how to shoot a basket. Then we were let loose on the court. Initially we were concerned with managing the chairs but soon, winning was uppermost in our minds. It was a fantastic fun-filled experience.

In Brief—just a few things in the pipeline for TYs

Law Workshop
NUIG Taster Programme
Trip to Rheinland
Bronze Gaisce Cycle
Road Safety Day
Driving Lessons
Cycle against Suicide
Geography Field Trip to Inis Mór
Final Portfolio Interviews

In Brief—what have we been up to

Architect in the Classroom
Bank Interviews and running the Bank
Bank of Ireland TY Academy
Bike Safety Work shop
Bridge
Bronze Gaisce Cycle
Cairde
Cancer Awareness Lecture
Careers Day in Ennistymon
CEIST Bake Off
Coding Workshop
Community Involvement
Drumming
Duvet Day Literacy Initiative
Engineering as a career— lecture
Faith Friends
First Aid workshop
GAA Future Leaders
Gaisce
John Paul II Award Preparation
Model Council of Europe Debate
NCCA Workshop on The New Senior
Cycle
Philosophy Lectures
Radio Interviews
Song Writing
Swimming
The BT Young Scientist Final
Theatre Trip to see 'The Playboy of the
Western World'
Visit from MEP and Local Politicians
Wheelchair Basket Ball
Yoga

EU Debate—by Sadb Kelly-Harrington

The Model Council is an annual debate for secondary schools organised by the European Commission Representation in Ireland. It is a simulation of a meeting of the Council of the European Union and involves teams from 28 secondary schools, each of which represents an EU Member State. The event allows schools to gain first-hand experience of the EU's decision-making process. Our school was chosen to speak on behalf of Bulgaria. This year, the topic of debate was the Multi-annual Financial Framework, or M.F.F., for the years 2021 to 2027.

Our team consisted of a first speaker, second speaker, researcher, photographer and five supporters. We spent the weeks preceding the event researching Bulgaria's stance on the M.F.F. and writing our speeches. We learned a lot about Bulgaria, the European Union and budgeting as a result. The debate took place in Dublin Castle on the 1st of March. We had the opportunity to meet with the Bulgarian Ambassador during a photo session when he kindly presented us with some gifts. Coincidentally, the first of March marks an important day in Bulgaria as it is Martenitsi- a Bulgarian tradition related to welcoming the spring. He provided us with a fascinating insight into his country's culture and customs.

The debate setting was very formal and tension and excitement began to grow. The debate began with opening statements outlining the viewpoints of each country. Then the Chairperson called upon the second speakers to begin debating. A considerable amount of time was required to hear the viewpoint of each state.

Lunch was a very political affair. Each country kept track of the demands of the others and formed alliances accordingly. We somehow found ourselves joining a coalition with Poland, Romania, Lithuania, Austria and Hungary. We also agreed to support Croatia with an amendment once they aided us in our plans to increase the budget for the CAP.

Unfortunately, Croatia were not true to their word, but they were very impressive speakers and ultimately winners of the competition. The debate lasted a further four hours and gained momentum. As the excitement and the competition intensified, it became less about the MFF and more about attacking the view point of countries who attacked in return. The need to be politically correct was forgotten. The passion everyone displayed for the EU was inspiring.



Despite the very early start, the day passed quickly and was an enjoyable experience. The address to all the contestants by Mairead McGuinness M.E.P. was particularly inspiring. We are looking forward to returning next year!.