

# Christmas TV Update



- In November, Theatre Royal was the destination of choice for the English department, to attend the show **Psycho Spaghetti**. It was a brilliant comedy written specifically for young people around the age of 15 to 18.



- As part of the PE programme, we have introduced a new module this year on **Adapted PE**. Students will be introduced to many different Paralympic sports and a small group will be chosen to participate in a wheelchair basketball tournament after Christmas. A huge number of students helped out in the fundraising event for the Irish Wheelchair Association by selling Angel Pins around Tramore. We raised over €1000 over the two days which is a great achievement in itself. Thank you to all students involved.
- This term we have completed 5 of our 10 sessions of the **Architects in Schools** Initiative. Throughout that time the students have looked at architecture and architects from Ireland and around the world. They have also looked at the language of design and graphics and the relevance of these in architecture and product design / manufacture. An example of this was in session three where our students completed a design and build of a structural sound stool from a single cardboard box. They have begun to look at mapping with a focus on moving from large scale mapping to smaller scales so that they can analyse the needs of the school in the remaining sessions after Christmas.

- We have been involved in a very exciting new project this year in science. Led by Sanofi and Calmast, the **Paired Science** programme has seen students from 6th class in Holy Cross come in every week to work with our TYs. The students have worked through a teaching programme about Multiple Sclerosis, brought the younger students through a set of experiments in the science labs and finished up with a workshop in the Tower Hotel. The programme was mutually beneficial for our current students and our future students.



- Congratulations to Laura Jane Murphy and Conor O' Cadhla who are the TY members of the **Student Council**. They, along with the other council members, organised a Student Council Day, where they organised a meet and greet, a logo, treasure hunt and best suggestion competition and attended a presentation by Ms. Ann Marie Power to mark the Student Council Day where she shared her experiences as a councillor and former Mayor.

- After completing their **drama module** with Ms. O' Brien and combining it with music class with Ms. Somers, 4E took to the stage to perform their Grease segment. While Rachael Dunphy and Andrew Burke took centre stage as the leading couple, it was a massive class effort. Many of our students had never participated in anything like this before and they came out of themselves and showed great confidence after the whole experience.



- The choreography for Grease led on from a **dance workshop** that they had participated in by Pat Grant. All other classes will get the opportunity to experience this workshop in the New Year.
- In the lead up to Christmas, the students got the opportunity to go **ice skating**. While some twirled around the ice, some others held the side and gripped onto each other as they ventured around the rink. All returned to Tramore with all limbs intact.



- Dermot Blount has been taking groups of TYs out around Tramore and putting them through their paces **cycling** on a bike. Those who haven't had a chance will be given the opportunity when the weather gets better.
- Students attended 'The Science of the Circus' workshop as part of **Science week**.



- 4E have just completed a four week **Arts programme** run by Waterford City and County Council. The aim is for participants to explore their creativity by engaging with visual Art processes. Students were introduced to the processes involved in observation, drawing and painting inspired by their natural and built environment and inspiration taken from the work of Irish Artists from the Waterford Municipal Art Collection. Each student produced a series of Drawings and Watercolour Paintings and these are now in a Waterford Art Gallery. The Artist in Residence was Christine O' Brien.
- A combination of a **maths and science trip** took place in November. All students got the opportunity to challenge themselves and use their problem solving skills in The Great Escape. This was followed by a lecture in WIT as part of Science week. These lectures ranged from the State Pathologist Marie Cassidy to Internet in Your Car to Newton's Mechanics.



- Some of our Transition Year students volunteered to train under a visiting **Occupational Therapist**. They were trained on how to develop a peer conversation skills group in the school to promote inclusion. They have had three sessions so far and it is proving a great success and one that we hope to develop. Thanks to Sarah O' Connor, Áine O' Sullivan ,Rachael Dunphy, Alannah Jones, Shilanne Giles, Ciara O Kane and Jessica Flynn for taking part and Oonagh McCarthy for providing the training.
- As part of College Awareness week, Ms. O'Doherty and Mr. D. Leahy brought a group TY year students into **WWETB** (Waterford Wexford Education & Training Board) on the Cork Road. They learned about different types of apprenticeships and saw demonstrations from trainers and apprentices from various trades. Apprenticeships no longer have to be an end in themselves. Frequently apprentices are using their trade qualification to go onto complete degrees. They also learned about some of the new apprenticeships now available in the Financial Services Sector.

- **TY Business:** TY students had talks from James O Sullivan from WIT to learn about the importance of Intellectual Property, linking to their mini business module. They also had the opportunity to participate in a TY selling fair, great practice for the Student Expo taking place in WIT in January and the school final. Some of the classes had the opportunity to visit different businesses in Waterford.



Both **Cartimundi** and **Chia Bia** were visited, with students getting a tour of each factory learning how they operate from day to day and the business principles used behind the scenes.

- All students involved in the **pool lifeguard course** have completed their practical exam. They will hit the books for the few weeks after Christmas, learning the theory needed to become a lifeguard and to practise the important area of CPR.
- All TY's did the **Differentiated Aptitude Tests (DATs)** on the morning of Wednesday 20th December. These aptitude tests measure student's ability in Verbal Reasoning, Numerical Reasoning, Abstract Reasoning, Perceptual Speed and Accuracy, Mechanical Reasoning, Space Relations, Spelling, and Language Usage. Knowing where students natural strengths lie can help in subject choice and career decision making. For example the Verbal Reasoning test may be useful in helping to predict success in academic courses as well as in many occupations, including business, law, education, journalism, and jobs involving high levels of authority and responsibility. Abstract reasoning is useful in courses or occupations that require the ability to see relationships among objects in terms of their size, shape, position, and quantity. Examples include such fields as mathematics, careers involving chemistry or biomedical science, pharmacy, computer programming, music, drafting, and car repair.

- The students organised a very successful cake sale in aid of the **Young SVP** and are continuing their fundraising drive by selling candy canes in the lead up to Christmas. They will present a cheque to the St Vincent De Paul community to assist with those in need this Christmas.



- The members of the **John Paul 2 group** have been involved in the following activities. Mr. McLaughlin organised a Eucharistic Ministry course attended by a large number of the group. Fr. PJ facilitated a Minister of the Word course. They assist at the 10.00 am Mass and attended the parish and the hospice remembrance services during November. They organised the prayer room for the recent Open Night. David O Flynn and Caoimhe Colman shared their experiences as members of JP2. Upcoming events are the ASNM Carol Service, decoration of Holy Cross Church and assisting at the Christmas services. Their community work involves participating in the meals on wheels and homework club as well as activities such as L'Arch and the Young St. Vincent De Paul.



- Congratulations to Caoimhe Farrell Power who has completed her Gold Award hours for the JP II and is now starting the **Papal Cross Award**.

- 4C and 4D have both taken part in a workshop led by Jen Harris from the **One World Centre** around the area of climate change and the damaging effects of plastic on our environment. 4D went on to deliver the workshop to two first year groups. It is the aim that all the TY classes will take part in the workshops as part of their development studies module and will have a chance to peer teach in either 1st year or in the local primary schools.



- Many of the new members to the **Peace and Justice group** from Transition Year took part in the **Big Deise Sleepout** in aid of Focus Ireland. Over €1000 was raised in sponsorship so far.

- Thanks to our Peace & Justice group for coordinating the collection of all the shoeboxes for the **Shoebox Appeal**.



- Mairéad Butler had a wonderful experience as part of her **Meet Your MEP** trip to Brussels at the beginning of December. She visited the European Commission and European Parliament and got to see the work which our MEP Sean Kelly is involved in. She is a great representative for our school and really deserves to enjoy such a great prize for her effort in the competition.



- Week 2 of everyone's **work experience** is done and dusted and we received some outstanding employer's reports. The third and final week will take place for 4A, 4B and 4C on January 29th and 4D and 4E on February 5th.



- Agnes Aylward from **Lafcadio Japanese Gardens** came to the school to present the four students who were involved in the ghost stories nights around Halloween with certs, to show her appreciation of their fantastic contribution.

- Students have completed a huge number of **projects** in all different subjects varying from film directors, mathematicians, the meaning of life, sports science elements and a lán tionscadal sa rang Gaeilge to name but a few.

I'd like to wish all Transition Year students and their families a very happy Christmas and look forward to a busy new year in TY in Ardscoil na Mara.

---

Emily Campbell

