

# January/February Transition Year Update



- Students got an insight into the Irish Legal system, both Civil and Criminal, during the two day **law course** by barrister James Fahy. He gave some important insights to students as to how it all works and it finished up with a mock trial with students filling roles from the murderer to the barristers to the jurors.



- 14 students participated in a **Radio Production Course** ran by Aoibhin Fallon from WLR throughout January. They worked with a scriptwriter who wrote a drama all about teenagers, which they are hoping to, with the help of TYs, put on the radio. The group helped to give them an inside view of what being a teenager is like as they read through the scripts. The TYs came up with short scenes of their own in groups and were involved in recording them.

- The **Future Leaders** students braved the elements in January to organise their biggest event to date with some 1st years. They are improving their event management skills with each activity they are involved with. In order for them to receive their overall qualification, they must stay on top of their Future Leaders portfolio as they need five completed modules along with the big event at the end.



- All students produced a project for our first **School PE Xpo**. Projects ranged from areas of nutrition, wellbeing, psychology, components of fitness, ICT etc. Projects were judged by Dr. Niamh Richardson, Exercise Physiologist from WIT and she interviewed all groups about their projects. The top 14 projects qualified for the national final which be held in DCU in March.



- Most classes have been put through their paces in **self defence** during PE, with the other classes due to experience it after midterm. Very simple techniques were shown to all if they do unfortunately find themselves in an awkward situation.



- Students travelled into the **cinema** to see 'Beautiful Boy'. It is a story about a boy with a drug habit and his family. It will be discussed in SPHE in the coming weeks.

- Many students have completed a statistics project in maths which will be entered into the **John Hooper Statistics Poster competition** which is runs by the Central Statistics Office.

- It was lovely to see Ciara Guidera, Molly Curran and Ava Caulfield on **Nationwide** recently representing the school with their road safety project.

- A hugely beneficial programme has been set up between our TYs and 1st Years. Students have been matched with 1st Year students to help with **paired reading**. It's lovely to give the 1st Years the support of an older student in the school.

- The **Peace and Justice committee** have been working on two campaigns; plastics and gender equality. They held a competition for 1st years to see which class could bring in the most bottle caps and completed a survey throughout the whole school to see the use of non-reusable plastic bottles. They are planning on creating a art piece with the plastic they collected.

- The third and final week of **work experience** has been completed. I hope that all students have experienced both the positive and negative aspects of different career paths. We had a huge variety of work placements varying from our local businesses all the way to Seattle. A big thanks to all the places of employment who are so supportive year in, year out.

- This term 4A have been involved in **Paired Science** with Holy Cross 6th Class students. They travelled to the Tower Hotel this week with these students for an event with Calmast.



- In May all students will be examined on their **portfolio** as part of their TY assessment. Students will be required to bring their up to date journal, their eportfolio on computer and another piece of work from throughout the year. Students are reminded to keep their journal up to date and ensure they keep in putting information onto their eportfolio so that they spread the work throughout the year. Most of this can be done at home as part of their homework.

- The **Amber Flag committee** has been working on creating a new display board and just recently surprised the 3rd & 6th year students sitting their pres with a cookie and a little note of encouragement. They have also been working on their new initiative “Headbomz”, which is a mental health awareness workshop they are planning on completing with first years after the midterm.

**THE AMBER FLAG**  
*Promoting Positive  
Mental Health*

- 4A, 4B and 4C have completed their **Differentiated Aptitude Tests (DATs)**. 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.
- Businesses have been selected for the **mini business finals** which will take place in early March. For the finals, businesses had to submit 3 bound copies of their business report and need to work on their displays for on the day.

- The **Gaisce** overnight adventure activity will be taking place in early April so students are encouraged to get their documentation in order to show that they have fulfilled the other three areas needed such as community involvement, personal skill and physical recreation.
- The **Pope John Paul 2nd Award** students organised the following activities to celebrate Catholic Schools Week: A Treasure Hunt that all students were invited to participate in, a First Year Mass attended by the parents and grandparents and daily reflections. The following JP2 students Megan Hough, Cian Rellis, Stephanie Pierce, Josh Flynn, Fiona O' Kane, Ceri Griffin , Julie Whittle and Ava Dineen participated in a liturgy of appreciation for the Religious Orders and Congregations in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore in the Cathedral of the Most Holy Trinity on Friday 1st February.



- TY members of the **Student Council** are Emma O' Neill and Tom Breen. The members of the SC have been meeting regularly and are involved in a number of school policy committees. At present they are busy planning for the annual Student Council Day and the relaunch of their SC Newsletter which will take place during Wellness Week.
- A number of students participated in a **volleyball refereeing course** run by the VAI in early January. They learned the theory and the practical side of refereeing.
- The members of the **Young SVP** are planning a number of awareness activities with the first years and the local community in the coming weeks and are busy planning for the annual conference day which will take place in April.
- Student talks on **Leaving Cert subjects** will start the first week back. Students are encouraged to talk to their TY teacher if they have any questions they are not sure on about taking the subject at Leaving Cert level.



I hope all our skiers have a fabulous time on their trip and I'll see you all for a busy few weeks before Easter.