

# October Transition Year Update



Firstly I would like to congratulate this year's Transition Year class for the positive start that they have made during their first few weeks. This year we increased the student intake up to 120 students because of the calibre of students who applied for Transition Year and it has been a busy start to the year for all.

- In celebration of the student's Junior Cert results, they were treated to a mystery trip to **Fota Adventure**. The aim of the army bootcamp was to help the group bond with each other and this definitely was the case. Between combat archery, find the sniper and the assault course, the group gelled together. They had no choice but to work together to get to the end of the assault course, with some students standing out with their leadership skills.



- Ms. Denton and Ms. Wright are coordinating **Gaisce**, the President's Award. Hopefully most students are up and running- learning a new skill, volunteering in the community and involving themselves in a physical activity. Over eighty students have registered for it so try to keep focused on the elements required in order to get the award.
- **Homework club** has restarted in the school. A number of students have volunteered to help once a week. It is not too late to join up so if any student is interested, they can give their name to Ms. Shannon or myself.



- A group of six students are volunteering with the **Viking Halliwick swimming club** which is a swimming club for people with intellectual disabilities. The reports back from the organiser could not be more positive so thank you and well done to all involved.
- They could not have got a wetter day for the **Ploughing Championship** as they descended on Tullamore but some students did learn that a raincoat is important when living in Ireland.
- In **Business** class, a mix of different activities have taken place including a multitude of enterprise workshops, including a trip into the WIT ArcLabs to spur on ideas for the student's mini business. Many have completed an entrepreneur research task. This will be used further in the year as they continue their understanding of entrepreneurship and its importance in our economy.
- This year we have 40 students in TY working towards the **John Paul II Award**. It enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church, in the life of their community and society. They were very visible at the opening of year mass with many students taking on lead roles.



- Two of the Transition Year classes took in the geography and history of the **Greenway** recently. They cycled along the River Suir, passed the beautiful gardens of Mount Congreve and the site of an ancient Viking settlement, Woodstown. After stopping for refreshments at the Kilmeaden Railway Station, they cycled on towards Kilmacthomas, passing over many bridges and underpasses. They returned to WIT delighted they had survived the challenge.
- All students benefited from an invaluable **Leave No Trace workshop** by Eoin McMahon. Students learned about the impact their recreational activities can have on the natural environment and other people.
- This year saw the introduction of a **Community Care** module. The aim is for students to go out to places around Tramore and to help and give back to the community. On Tuesday afternoons, students have been helping out with Foróige homework club, St. Vincent de Paul shop, Tramore AFC, Klub Musik, Brothers of Charity Day Care Centre, Tramore Community Radio and Tidy



Towns/Tbay with a beach clean. We would like to develop community pride in students and instil empathy in them through their volunteer work.

- The 6-week TY **Drama module** kicked off with 4D. The group was fantastic, getting involved in games, sketches and improvisations. Next up, 4E, who will hopefully be collaborating with the Music Department to prepare an extract from 'Grease the Musical' during their 6-week Drama module.



- Antoinette Troy from the Bank of Ireland will be coming in to speak to all Transition Years just after mid term in relation to the setting up of the **school bank team**. Applications for joining the school bank will be due in shortly after the talk so students who are interested in being part of the school bank team must hand in their application to me. Interviews will take place in the coming weeks.

- Leading on from last year's successful bank team, the school was rewarded with tickets for the **Munster vs. Leinster rugby match** in the Aviva. Many Transition Years travelled on the trip up to Dublin. It's a nice bonus for the hard work that last year's team put in.



- Congratulations to Tom Kiely and Conor O' Cadhla who have qualified for the **Young Scientist**. They have lots of work ahead over the next few months but it will be all worth it come January.

- 23 TY students were part of the **Spanish exchange** over the last few weeks. I'm looking forward to hearing all about their immersion in Spain and I hope they have gained confidence in speaking the language.



- Many students were involved in the organisation of activities and the decorating of the school during **maths week**. Between maths trails and maths games, the TYs were busy throughout the week.

- The **School Life Air Run, 1<sup>st</sup> Year Bonding day** and the **Childline breakfast** all ran fantastically because of the help from the Transition Years. It gave many students the opportunity to display and develop leadership and organisation skills.
- This year we have 42 students training for their **Pool Lifeguard Award**. Thank you to Lola O' Sullivan who is putting them through their paces in the pool at the moment.
- This year's student representatives on the **Student's Council** for TY are Laura Jane Murphy and Conor O' Cadhla. Best of luck to both of them in their year ahead on the council. Well done to all who went for election.  
 4 A Paula Halley & Shane Cawley  
 4 B Ellenora Zlenko & Conor Ó Cadhla  
 4 C Katie English & Alex Keating  
 4 D Laura Jane Murphy & Tony Kelly  
 4 E Ella Power & Andrew Burke



- There were a huge number of applications for the **St. Vincent de Paul committee**. The following were elected onto the committee with another 30 students becoming active members. President - Mairéad Butler, Vice President - Kate Batan, Secretary - Caoimhe Keating, Treasurer - Shona McNicol, PR - Katie English, Ciara O Kane, Shilanne Giles, Faye White, Charlie Grimes, Photography - Emma Murray, Rachel Coady, Erina Mooney.



- Congratulations to Máiread Butler who entered the **Meet Your MEP** competition and has won an all expenses trip to Brussels to link up with MEP Seán Kelly. Máiread had to write a piece about 'Why the EU is important for me' and was chosen out of a large number of entries. The agenda for the trip includes meetings and tours in the European Parliament and the European Commission, free time in Brussels (including the famous Christmas Markets), and the visit to Ghent and Brugge. Well done Máiread.
- This year's **PE Expo** will take place in DCU in March. It is the PE version of the Young Scientist, on a smaller scale. Students will work on a project in areas such as the science behind sport, nutrition, sports psychology, ICT in sport, wellness etc. Any other students who have not signed up to do a project and have an interest in a particular area are more than welcome to discuss it with me and I will support them through it. Most students have had a small taste of sports science in PE class and science class this term.

- Laura Jane Murphy attended **Comhairle na nÓg** on Friday 20th.
- The **GAA coaching course** began last week. Students will be introduced to the basics of coaching and will take the first step on the coaching ladder.



- TY Home Economics classes are doing a **Safefood programme** at the moment . The course involves learning about safe preparation, storage and serving of food. They will receive a certificate in Safefood that may be useful when looking for a summer job if they pass a test on this module.

- During Halloween, the **Lafcadio Japanese Gardens** hosted two ghost stories evenings. Alex White, Erina Mooney, Dylan Tobin and Tom Kiely have had a number of acting workshops in the school and used these skills as they brought the ghost stories to life in the gardens.



- Every day, six students go down to the Community Care Centre in Tramore to help with **Meals on Wheels**. They help with the delivery around Tramore and the clean up afterwards.
- All students have completed one week of **work experience** so far. Their next week is approaching fast so they should make sure that they have passed on the contact information onto Ms. O' Doherty as soon as possible.
- Many students are training hard in their respective **sports** and are also helping out with younger students in the school. Best of luck to all students as they represent their school in a variety of different competitions.

