



Transition Year Christmas Update

- Congratulations to Ciara Guidera, Molly Curran and Ava Caulfield who were joint 1st and won €1000 in a **road safety initiative** run by Carrick Motor Club. The girls had visited Holy Cross to give a presentation to 3rd class students and showed them the importance of using the safety belt correctly. They presented their project during an event at midterm.
- Following up on last year's successful introduction, the **Paired Science** programme has seen students from 6th class in Holy Cross come in every week to work with our TYs. Led by Sanofi and Calmast, the students have worked through a teaching programme about Multiple Sclerosis and have brought the younger students through a set of experiments in the science labs. The programme was mutually beneficial for our current students and our future students
- In mid-November, all Transition Year students made the journey to what was once the largest prison in the world, **Spike Island**, Co.Cork. After a short ferry ride to the island they enjoyed a fascinating tour of the island and fortress. They learnt about the harsh conditions that the prisoners endured (some as young as 10 years of age) and about some of the notorious Spike Island characters. Students and teachers got to visit the artillery rooms and a visit to the punishment block with its own resident ghosts speeded up our steps. A very enjoyable and thought provoking experience had by all.
- 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.



- As part of College Awareness week in November, all TY students travelled with their Guidance Counsellors, Ms. O'Doherty & Ms. Walsh, to the **Education & Training Board** to learn about Apprenticeships. They were told about the traditional craft apprenticeships and also the new Apprenticeships in insurance practice and financial services.



- As part of the PE programme, many students have taken part in **adapted PE**. Students were 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.
- During **science week**, two classes travelled to WIT to attend a lecture on 'What's IT got to do with it?'. This was followed by all students attending a talk in the school from James Soper 'the juggling scientist' on 'The Real Science of the Circus'.
- 4E have 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.
- 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. In conjunction with Ms. Fitzgeralds CSPE class, they have raised €1500 in sponsorship so far.
- Thanks to our Peace & Justice group for coordinating the collection of all the shoeboxes for the **Shoebox Appeal**.
- In December Amanda Freeman Gater, a lecturer in computing from WIT, spoke to 4th Years about **careers in computing** and how it's a major growth area with more vacancies than can be filled. She outlined some of the skills needed and the various degrees available in WIT.

- In November a large number of students applied to be part of the **school bank**. After completing interviews the following were chosen for position within the school bank.

Branch Manager – Holly Ahern,
Sales & Marketing Managers –
Ava Dineen, Josh Flynn, Roisin Groves

Customer Digi Advisors – Sam Morrissey, Anna Fanning, Aoife Kelly

Operations & Audit Specialist – Joy Kelly, Rachael O'Dwyer, Ceri Griffin.

The students received bank training and set up their school bank every day during financial week in the school. Bank of Ireland also provided workshops to all TYs on interview techniques and cv preparation, social media, financial literacy and business start-up.



- Garda Grainne O' Sullivan spoke to all TYs about **road safety** during a two hour workshop. She shared some harrowing stories and hopefully has influenced the students to think more about road safety.
- 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 February 4th and 4D and 4E on February 11th.
- Jean and Monica are still working with all the groups on the **Squashy Couch Sexual Health programme**. These will continue into early next year.
- A large number of students travelled into Carriganore to participate in a **mini business expo** last week. They are winding up towards the school final in the new year. Most students have witnessed the highs and lows of setting up and trying to run a business in the last few months.



- In maths class, all students are participating in a **performance analysis module**. This is part of the Future Leaders programme too. However all TY students who complete the task will receive a cert for it.



- The **Future Leaders** group have been involved in organising a football blitz for 1st and 2nd Years and most have completed their coaching and refereeing modules. They have worked on a sports administration module with input from Tramore GAA Juvenile Chairperson, Tom Cullen, about the workings of a committee.

- A small number of students helped **Tramore Tidy towns** plant daffodils. They will be able to see their hard work every spring and appreciate the importance of keeping their town well kept.



- Last week the TY group travelled to the Watergate Theatre in Kilkenny to attend the show **Psycho Spaghetti**. It was a brilliant comedy written specifically for young people around the age of 15 to 18.

- Gareth and Cian from WIT came to talk to TY and 6th Years about **drone technology** and to fly drones.



- Students have just completed their second practical module this year and began their third module. In **Construction Studies/Woodwork**, the students are making a small storage box project. The project involves marking out, making joints by hand, sanding, varnishing and installing hinges.

In **Engineering**, students develop the skills and initiative in the planning, development and realisation of technological projects in a safe manner. Practical resourcefulness, creativity and design in the planning and development of technological projects are emphasised. There are two main areas of study: workshop processes, and materials and technology.

In **DCG** they are learning how to design and construct various 3D shapes and objects on the computer programme "Solidworks".

In **Electronics**, students learn how to build circuits which includes practical work and thinking. It includes working with electricity and solving problems using formulas and ratios.

In **Creative Ceramics**, students learn how to make 3D tiles by working with clay and plaster of Paris. They gather flowers and leaves from the local area and print them into the tiles.

- The members of the **Young St Vincent De Paul** committee relaunched the Young SVP on Friday 23rd November by organising a cake sale and a raffle. They are grateful for sponsorship from the following local shops and businesses in Tramore: Red Lane, Boots, Urban Beauty, The Lion Barber, Paper Rock Scissors, Beauté, Super Valu and Errigal Operations Software. Over €200 was raised by the SVP committee.



- The members of the Pope John Paul 2nd Awards are working very well on their parish and community work. They assisted at the school and parish November ceremonies, and also at the Hospice Remembrance Mass held in the Holy Cross Church.
- Emma O' Neill and Tom Breen the Student Council representatives of TY have been attending regular meetings of the SC. They participated in a Student Council training day and are busy planning for an upcoming Student Council Day, the Christmas Jumper day in aid of Yemen and assisting at the Annual Carol Service.
- Well done to the large number of students who have received a **compliment card** since September for receiving 10 positive points and some who have received an incredible 20 positive points. Thank you for having such a great attitude throughout the year.



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.

