

January / February Transition Year Update



- After a vigorous interview with Antoinette Troy from Bank of Ireland and a detailed application process, the **school bank team** was chosen. Antoinette commented on the incredible standard of interviews and found it very difficult to choose the team. The following were chosen and have been working hard in preparation for launch day.
Manager - Matthew Hogan, Assistant Manager - Andrew Burke, Sales Manager - Paula Halley, Marketing Manager - Emily Cronin
Digi Advisors - Shilanne Giles, Alannah Jones, Ciara O' Kane, Caoimhe Farrell-Power, Maria Halley, Emma Murray
Audit advisors - Seán Foley, Aoife Carey, Shona McNicol, Ciara Gaffey.
- A group of girls had the opportunity to travel to the IWISH conference in the RDS. **I WISH** is an initiative to inspire, encourage and motivate young female students to pursue careers in STEM. It featured a conference and interactive exhibitions. The conference also featured workshops, daily keynotes and engaging talks by women and men who have seen the opportunities for a great career in STEM.
- Following on from an adapted PE module, a Transition Year team travelled to Carriganore to compete in a **Wheelchair Basketball tournament**. It was all very new to them and they hadn't realised how difficult it would be. However they progressed from a hard loss in the first game to reaching the final, improving with every game. They will now travel to the National Basketball Arena to compete in the National finals in March.
- Two groups have had the opportunity to participate in the **Under the Sea workshop**. It gave them an insight into being a Marine Biologist for the day and was very hands on, dissecting many sea creatures, many of which are very similar to humans.



- 4E, along with Mairéad Butler (4D) attended the 18th All Ireland Transition Year **Drama Festival** in Macroom in January. 4E competed in the 'Light Entertainment' category with their energetic take on the opening scene of 'Grease', while Mairéad Butler entered her play, 'Group Chat' in the 'Drama' category. The feedback from the adjudicator was excellent, with 'Group Chat' being praised for its ingenuity. The adjudicator suggested that Mairéad write a longer play, which is certainly a vote of confidence in her talents! The adjudicator was extremely impressed with 'Grease', and voted it through to the final. He complimented 4E on their singing and dancing, as well as their bond as a group, which he felt contributed to the performance overall.



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- On Tuesday 23rd of January, all TY's went to **WIT** for a tour of the campus and they got an introduction to all of the courses on offer there.



- Pat Grant, the talented drama teacher and choreographer, was in Ardscoil na Mara in January to complete workshops in **drama and dance** with TY students. Pat had previously choreographed 'Grease' with 4E, so the TYs were looking forward to some energetic and fun lessons with Pat. The students engaged really well in the workshops, and Pat commented on their energy and enthusiasm. Well done all!

- We had a successful day at the **Bond Trader workshop** in the Tower Hotel. One of our teams came 3rd against mostly 5th Year business students from other schools: Dylan Tobin, Cian Denton, Erina Mooney, Jake Bagge.



Students had to respond to real market scenarios and make decisions on how to manage their own bond portfolio under time pressure.

It is a game that teaches a number of concepts;

- the laws of supply and demand
- the relationship between interest rates and inflation
- the importance of economic indicators.

- January has been busy for all our **Mini Businesses** in school. Students had the opportunity to attend a business expo in Carriganore. This was followed up by our school final. All Transition Years took over the hall and displayed their businesses to a huge number of our students in the school. A Chia Bia team came to help with the judging and picked out the ten businesses who will progress to the county final in March.



- Two of our TYs, Conor O' Cadhla and Tom Kiely, participated in this year's **BT Young Scientist Exhibition** at the beginning of January. Conor's project "Could your blood be killing you? An investigation into the awareness of Haemochromatosis" was one of the finalists in the Social and Behavioural category. Conor met with Minister for Health Simon Harris to discuss his findings. Tom's project "An Eye for Colour? An investigation into the differences in perception of colour between males and females" was in the Biological and Ecological category. Both students were fantastic representatives for the school. Hopefully this has ignited their passion for science and they will continue to pursue a STEM path.



- We are very lucky to have been one of the pilot schools for the **Transition Year eportfolio** for the past year. Two of our IT teachers Mr. Rob Kenny and Mr. Barry Musgrave have led the way in its development in the school and on a national level. They were invited to Croke Park, along with Padraig Brennan and Maria Halley, to display their work and to share in their learning. Each student is working on their eportfolio in IT class and hopefully developing it themselves in their own free time.

- The students are continuing in earnest with their parish and community work which will count towards their **John Paul 2nd Award**. They assisted with activities for Ardscoil na Mara Catholic Schools Week and participated in a celebration Mass in honour of Religious Orders in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore in the Waterford Cathedral on Feb 3rd.



- The **Young St Vincent De Paul** meeting was recently attended by the regional coordinator Debbie O' Halloran. The group are planning a Young St Vincent De Paul Awareness Week to coincide with the Ardscoil na Mara's Wellness Week in March.

- The **Peace and Justice group** handed over a cheque for €1119 to Focus Ireland as a result of their Sleep Out last December.



- 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 England. A big thanks to all the places of employment who are so supportive year in, year out.

- Students have been busy completing **projects** in many different areas including history biographies, film studies and statistics projects which will be entered in to the John Hooper competition after midterm. There are many more to be seen in their eportfolio.

- Parents of 4E are cordially invited to the official opening of the **art exhibition** 'Treelines and Skylines' in Greyfriars Municipal gallery, where their work from the workshops with artist Christine O'Brien will be on display. This will take place on Thursday 15th February at 7.30pm.

