

October Transition Year Update



- In celebration of the student's Junior Cert results, Transition Years 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.



- We are delighted to be part of the first year roll out of the **Future Leaders TY Programme**. It is a joint initiative with the PDST and the GAA. We have close on 50 students aiming for the award. Many have completed the coaching and refereeing section so far. Following on from these, they will complete modules on performance analysis, sports journalism, sports administration, nutrition, wellness and event management. As part of the programme students are challenged to organise and run a GAA Super Games Blitz later in the year.



- The **Young St Vincent De Paul** students are busy establishing a committee and planning future projects. The committee is President - Aoife Kelly, Vice Presidents - Fiona O' Kane & Caitlin Hickson, Secretary - Emma O' Neill, Treasurer - Ciara Buckley, PROs - Lauryn Walsh Lonergan, Jessica Hincks, Rachel O' Dwyer, Sarah Lynch, Aran O' Brien, Photographers - Seana Quinn & Natasha Dobbyn. Many more students are in the wider community.

- We are thrilled with our students Ciara Guidera, Ava Caulfield and Molly Curran who came joint first in a **road safety competition** run in conjunction with Motor Sport Ireland. The girls were interviewed by RTÉ about their project which involved teaching pupils in Holy Cross about the correct use and importance of a safety belt along with other car safety aspects.



- 11 students are taking part in **Formula 1 in Schools programme** this year. The teams will represent the school at the National Finals with a chance to go onto the World Finals if successful. The teams have to design and race a miniature Formula 1 car. They also have to come up with a business plan, seek sponsorship, develop team logo, colours, uniforms, develop social media accounts, displays for the competition etc. If any business would be interested in helping the teams with sponsorship, please contact the school office on 051 395124 and Mr. O'Brien (teacher in charge) will make contact with you.

- The students who have registered so far for the **Pope John Paul 2nd Awards** are Rachel O' Dwyer , Ceri Griffin, Róisín Groves, Caitlin Hickson, Fiona O' Kane, Ava Dineen, Jenny Carey, Joshua Flynn and Stephanie Pierce. This award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church, in the life of their community and society. They organised the Cheerios Childline Breakfast for all first years.



We wish them well with this parish and community work.

- TY Home Economics students have completed a **Safefood Programme** . Those that pass a final test will be awarded a certificate acknowledging that they have a level of food safety education. This may help students as a life skill and in addition assist them in obtaining part time work in a restaurant, cafe , deli or other food premises.
- Fiona Walsh 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**. They will have a workshop on cvs and interview skills before applications for joining the school bank will be due. Students who are interested in being part of the school bank team must hand in their application to me this week.

- Some of Ms. Driver's art classes have been working on the Waterford city and county council T.Y **artist in residence programme** with Christine O' Brien. This will continue in the coming weeks.
- A number of TY students were part of the **Spanish exchange** over the last few weeks. Hopefully they have gained confidence in speaking the language and had a great experience of Spanish culture.
- 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. Primary school students from around the town will be in trying out the maths games that 4B have made from a programme led by Calmast in WIT.



- Also to celebrate Maths week, students had the opportunity to go to **The Great Escape** in Waterford. Students had to put together clues in order to escape from the rooms.
- This year we have 24 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 Emma O' Neill and Tom Breen. Best of luck to both of them in their year ahead on the council. Well done to all who went for election.
- Megan Hough and Emma O' Neill attended **Comhairle na nÓg** on Friday 19th.
- 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.
- 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 or Ms. Walsh as soon as possible.



- Every day, eight 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.
- Three of our classes travelled to Kilkenny to complete **orienteering** training on the castle grounds. Students would have learned the basic skills of orienteering in the Junior Cycle PE programme so it is nice to bring these skills out to a bigger course.
- Over the next few weeks, Jean and Monica from Foróige are going to continue with their **sexual health programme**. All students will attend six hours of workshops and this will be supported with the SPHE programme later in the year.

- All students had the opportunity to try out some cupcake decorating when they participated in a **sugarcraft workshop**. I hope they brought some home to taste.



- Following on from being one of the pilot schools in Ireland, the students are now up and running with their **eportfolio**. They are using google classroom in many classes and each of them have an individual website to showcase their work. I would encourage students to work on their eportfolio outside of school and put their own stamp on it. They will be assessed on it during an interview at the end of the year.

- Ms. Wright, Ms. Dunphy, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Mansfield and Ms. Cronin 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. Lots of 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.
- Some of our 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. Others are involved in Deise Dragons, charity shops and many clubs around Tramore and Waterford to name a few.

- Thankfully we travelled to the **Ploughing Championship** in Tullamore on a drier, less windy day than the Wednesday. Some students did learn that a raincoat and good footwear is important when living in Ireland.



- In **Business** class, a mix of different activities have taken place including a multitude of enterprise workshops and talks, including a trip to Chia Bia for some to spur on ideas for the student's mini business and to see how the local business works. Most students have their mini business up and running- many of which will be ready for the Christmas market.

