

Transition Year

2023-2024

  @SMESecondary

TY 23-24 November Edition Newsletter

The TY PR team is delighted to produce its very first official newsletter, consisting of

Drama Workshop

Drug Prevention Talk

TY Chess

GAA Coaching

Halloween

Gaisce Hike

Active Schools

Shoe Box appeal

Bake Sale

Talent Show

Breast Cancer Talk

STEM Week

Open Night

First-Aid

Stand Up Week

Drama Workshop



On the 11th & 12th of September 2023, Bernard Casey, comedian and actor, returned to St. Mary's to deliver drama workshops for Transition Year students. We gathered enthusiastically as he taught us drama skills and performed funny impressions. Next, it was our turn to perform in groups as Bernard gave us the opening line of a plot and we had to develop the storyline and act it out. This resulted in some amusing and interesting sketches.

The workshop helped us with team building, communication skills and with our self-confidence and it was a very positive activity for everyone who participated.

Drug Prevention Talk



On Friday October 6th all TYs took part in a talk facilitated by the Midlands Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force. This talk was aimed at teenagers and its main aim was to show teenagers the dangers of drugs and alcohol as well as to give us advice on struggles concerning addiction. Most TY's really enjoyed this talk and thought it was very educational and very interactive.

Chess



In Transition Year, Students take on short term modules such as Chess, LIFT, Self-Defense, and Public Speaking. Some students get the opportunity to teach chess to the rest of their class while others learn the fascinating board game. TY chess, gives you the chance to play against the great Mr. McManus. These short-term modules provide a different variety of subjects for students.

GAA Coaching



In PE, transition year students were given the option to take part in a GAA coaching course.

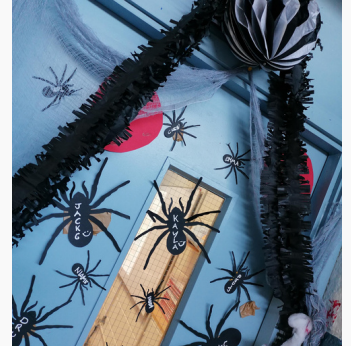
We were provided with the opportunity to do this course by Mairead Daly, who works with Offaly GAA and coaches herself.

All students who took part in this course really enjoyed it and are now qualified to coach a younger GAA team if they wish.

In this course TYs learned what games and drills to do with young teams and how to structure a training session for them.

Halloween

The week of Halloween, each TY class had to decorate its classroom door to be in with a chance to be treated to a pizza day. The competition was tough, but TYD won the challenge! Also on the Friday before our Midterm Break many students from all years dressed up. There were a lot of great costumes from pupils in TY



Gaisce hike

We went on our Gaisce hike to Glendalough



From Tuesday the 26th to the 27th of September, 105 Transition year students travelled to Glendalough to complete the 25km Gaisce adventure journey (one of the 4 challenges to complete the Gaisce award). On Tuesday morning at around 10am, we started our hike up the mountains. There was news of Storm Agnes for the next day so the 25km was completed in one day. Everyone was in good spirits as the scenery was beautiful. We finished up the walk with views of the Upper Lake. Many legs were sore that evening. Some went for a quick dip in the lake after the walk while others helped to cook the dinner. Wednesday morning, the teachers cooked breakfast before we set off for home. We spent a few hours in the shops and have lunch in Liffey valley before arriving back to school. This was a great bonding trip for our TY students and everyone enjoyed the trip.

Active Schools



TY trip to Mucklagh community centre. Our TY active schools class went on a trip to Mucklagh community centre to help students with additional needs get involved in sport and games. They have played a variety of games with the children like the parachute and Jenga race. They loved the challenge of trying to adapt to the children's needs and how to alter the games to suit everybody playing. Overall, it was a great learning experience for all the TY's involved.

Shoe Box Appeal



TY students have prepared their shoe boxes to send to Team Hope, who will then send them to vulnerable children in Africa and Eastern Europe. It's important to help make Christmas as magically as possible for everyone, especially at a time when we get so much. It is great to give something back!

Bake Sale



Some of our Transition Year students decided to launch a cake sale at break time on Tuesday November 14th. The cake sale was set up in aid of the Peter Mc Verry trust which is a charity for homeless people. It was a great success and over €300 was raised. Thank you to all students and teachers who contributed to the cake sale.

Talent Show



This year in SME the school, since Covid, had their first talent show 'stage sensation' The Stage Sensations show included 12 acts, 3 of them including TY students. The show took place over 2 nights, Thursday and Friday with a show on Friday morning for the local primary schools. Overall, the show was a remarkable success. The show was ran by our music Teacher Miss McEntee as well as Mr Tom and John Lawton. The competition was stiff, as there is incredible talent in St. Mary's. The overall winner of 'Stage Sensations' was Jake Murrin from TY. Jake sang 'Just the way I am' By The Tumblin' Paddies.

Breast Cancer Talk

Transition Year girls attended a talk facilitated by Breast Cancer Ireland. Students were very grateful for the useful information on early detection and prevention.



TY ART



The TY Art students were very busy designing, and painting four benches for the new courtyard in the extension. Not only are the benches bringing a beautiful touch of bright colours, they also carry beautiful messages that highlight our values in St Mary's and support student wellbeing.

STEM Week

Our Transition year students attended a talk by Dr. Rafael Morales on Tuesday the 17th of October. The topic was how statistics can be used to estimate the population size.

A second talk took place on the topic of electric vehicles facilitated by a former student, Sean O' Callaghan on Friday the 20th of October

Students enjoyed both talks facilitated and we would like thank everyone who was involved.



Official Opening of New Extension



Open Night

On the 18th of October, St Mary's held their annual opening night. This allowed our incoming first years to have a look around the school before September 2024. We had many Transition Year students involved in helping on the night. We would like to thank all students involved as it was a great success for our school.



First - Aid



All TYs took part in a two hour first aid course, delivered by local Offaly paramedic James Mullins. This was a favourite course among students as it was educational but also fun, we learned how to treat burns, seizures, broken bones and more. We also learned how to use slings and how to give CPR, this was so interesting and it's something everyone should know!

Stand Up Week

This week in St. Mary's was stand up week. This was a week to promote inclusivity and diversity within our school. On Tuesday morning the TY art students spent two hours working on a chalk mural, this was full of colour and joy as TY art is to promote wellbeing in our school, so this fit perfectly! On Friday we had a non-uniform day where we all wore colours of the rainbow pride flag, our TYs also got involved in face painting on break time, it was great to see so many rainbows around the school. So much support!



PR TEAM 23/34



This TY Newsletter is brought to you by the PR Team of 23/24, Thanks to the contributing members which includes (Top row) Lucy Cullinan, Clodagh Forde, Jessica Farelly-Morris, Sarah-Farelly Morris, Ciara McGuinness, Andrea Pender, Caoimhe Delaney, Lauren McKeon, (Bottom Row) Jake Murrin, Darragh Farrell, Sean Hogan, Oisín Murphy-Young, Brenden O'Grady and Manikandan Muthumanickam.