



Transition Year

2023-2024

  @SMESecondary

TY 23-24 March Edition Newsletter

The TY PR team is delighted to produce its second newsletter, consisting of

Santa Dash

Financial Literacy

TY Art

Yoga

Forensic Fun - JFK

Chess Tournament

Work with Kare

Work Experience

Enterprise Market Day

Exchange Programme

Teaching French with Primary Schools

St. Vincent De Paul

International Women's Day

Make a Wish

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

JCPA

Santa Dash

Active school class held a whole school event on the 20th of December. On the day you could either run 3km on the canal or walk 5 km on the new school track. We had prizes for the fastest boy and girl runner and a selection box for the best dressed at the 5km walk. Our prizes were kindly sponsored by Ian and Francy McGuinness from Dayfast couriers. We had a girl and a boy winner from each year group and the runners won a voucher for 1st place and 2nd place. The winners recently received their awards. We also had a sponsorship from a past PE teacher and deputy Principal, Mrs O Kelly, who kindly presented trophies and medals.



Financial Literacy

A group of 28 TYs took part in a Financial Literacy workshop. For three weeks the pupils explored the world of investment and saving. This Workshop was delivered by a former student in St. Mary's, Brendan McGrath, who now works with Irish Funds, the sponsors of this workshop. The students really enjoyed this opportunity as it provided them with knowledge on how and where to save money and most importantly it gave them a lot of information regarding the stock market and investing in companies. This glance into the financial world might spark a few careers!



TY Art



In TY Art, our goal was to promote wellbeing in our school environment, so we decided to create a wall full of positive words to inspire students passing by. Each of us chose a motivational word we liked, and we painted them onto black card in beautiful colourful graffiti lettering, we then put them into picture frames that we had individually painted to match our words, Ms Farrell assembled our frames in a display for our TY area. They are so positive!

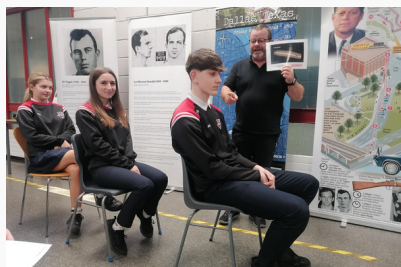
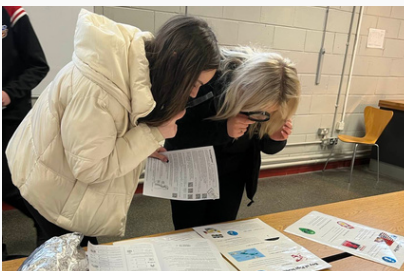
Yoga

Transition Year students gather to do yoga with Ms. Galisson once a week. TYs are taught a variety of yoga poses as well as relaxation techniques and breath work. It can be physically challenging but helps relieve stress and tension. It is a great module, especially in TY as it introduces something new and promotes good physical and mental wellbeing.



Forensic Fun

JFK Assassination



On January 12th 2024, TY took part in the forensic fun two-hour workshop.

We were taken through the whole story and investigation of the JFK murder and supplied with interesting facts including conspiracy theories on the JFK assassination. We examined evidence associated with it as if we were the investigators.

We all used VR sets which brought us back to the scene of the assassination, and this was a great activity to participate in. We also got to use prop guns, took our fingerprints, looked at autopsy reports and completed worksheets as part of our investigation.

It was interesting and lots of fun, a great way to study both History and Science.

Chess Tournament

St. Mary's is holding its very first chess tournament, which started on the 29th of February. The event is organised by Mr. McManus, our school's Chess Master. There are great prizes to be won by students from all year groups. There are a total of 25 participants for this competition, we wish them all good luck.



Work with Kare



Over the past few weeks our amazing TYs have been volunteering with the KARE centre Edenderry working with people of all ages with additional needs.

TYs have visited the Kare centre and were given a great tour of all their facilities, this week our TYs have been doing some great arts and crafts with the Kare service users. Below are some photographs!

Work Experience

Clodagh Forde

For my work experience I volunteered for a week at Barretstown. Barretstown is a camp where terminally ill children and their families can unwind together, have fun and de-stress all with behind the scenes 24 hour medical and nursing care, and with no cost to the families.

During my work experience in Barretstown I got to try out the activities the campers do, such as archery, canoeing, fishing, rock climbing and building forts. These activities let the campers feel strong and powerful and forget about the hard times they're having with their health. Although my work experience was fun, there were parts that made me appreciate what I have. We made up and decorated the campers' cabins to give them a comfortable feel, made welcome cards... Throughout the week we had different guest speakers in to talk to us. We had Guarda Paul who told us about his time in Barretstown and how he overcame his illness, another speaker was a man called Mark who spoke about his son's stay in Barretstown and how the workers there made it enjoyable for him although he was very sick. Mark now does an annual swim for a fundraising event in memory of his son and donates all he makes to Barretstown.

I highly recommend doing your work experience, because it's something that will teach you so much, and it made me realize that I would like to do something to do with care after school.



Enterprise Market Day



The Enterprise Market Day took place on the 14th of December in our school hall. All TYs were present with their Enterprise Group. The businesses ranged from bracelets to candles, keychains to slime and many more. The market started at 9:30 and for the duration of the day every year group from 1st to 6th year made a visit to the hall along with their teachers to make some purchases. Also, for the first time ever, all our parents were invited to the market. Each group's table was laden with merchandise and decorated beautifully to show off the products. The atmosphere was electric throughout the day, and you could tell that each TY was proud of the hard work they had put in to create their finished product. We all had time throughout the day to look and admire each other's stands and purchase Christmas gifts for family and friends. The day allowed us to learn new money management and marketing skills which will be extremely beneficial in the long run. Overall, the day was a huge success for all the TYs with most groups taking home a large profit for themselves.

Another part of the enterprise program was the county final in the Tullamore court hotel on March 5th. The groups who represented us were;

- TYA: Sweet Scents
- TYB: Beachy Bracelets
- TYC: Eclipse Candles
- TYD: Jewellery Tomfoolery

St. Marys brought home a merit award through Sweet Scents, who won best marketing for their business in the senior category out of over 30 other groups.

Exchange Programmes



Finn Oltvolgyi - From Australia

Finn Oltvolgyi's thoughts on Transition Year.

TY is an amazing experience and the teachers are very nice. I love TY because the work is not as pressurised. My favourite thing about Transition Year is PE because it allows me to express myself. The thing that I am looking forward to the most is the Achill trip and Graduation Day. Overall, TY is really fun and everyone knows me as the 'Australian Guy'.

Finn also thinks that the uniform policy is strict but he likes the TY tops.



Luke Foran went to France on an exchange

Luke Foran's thoughts on France.

Luke stayed in 'Le Puy en Velay'. He enjoyed his visit there. He says, the school in France is very different as the days are much longer. The School day starts at 8.00 am and finishes at 5pm. Luke got to experience life in a senior secondary school for one week. He did a variety of subjects which include: French, Physics, Maths, English, Biology as well as History. As well as that Luke got to explore the region and do some rock climbing with the local club.

French Students Teaching in Primary Schools



Our Transition Years studying French, are helping to promote the French language to the incoming 1st years. The students created their own PowerPoints and worksheets as well as fun and interactive games for the children from the local Primary Schools. Some of the topics that we are teaching are 'Introducing yourself,' 'Numbers' and 'Colours'. The students are currently teaching St. Patrick's Primary School, St. Mary's Primary School and Scoil Bhríde. They will continue to teach the 6th class for another 3 weeks. Bravo à tous!

St. Vincent de Paul Workshop

Transition Year students took part in a St. Vincent de Paul workshop which was delivered by Clodagh. She explained how the organisation operates and how they make a difference in communities. They set up food banks in many towns where people donate groceries which are given to families in need. Students really enjoyed this workshop as it gave them an insight into how this charity works.



Society of St Vincent de Paul

International Women's Day



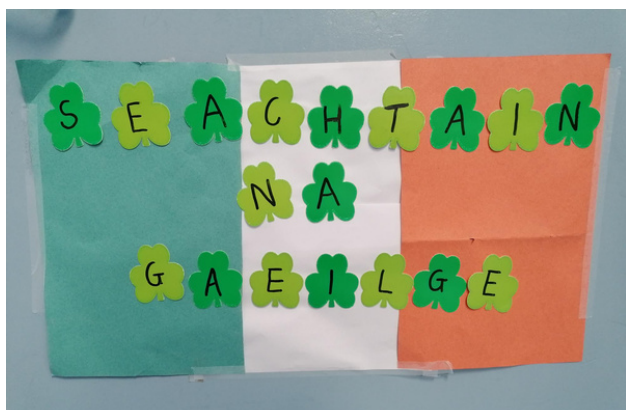
On the 8th of March, TYB celebrated International Women's Day with their Social Ed class

Make a Wish



TYA organised this event which took place on Friday the 15th. The event was a great success as a lot of items were sold. All money raised will go towards Make-A-Wish Ireland which is an organisation that grants wishes of children with some life-threatening medical conditions.

Seachtain Na Gaeilge



TY Irish classes visited all the local Primary Schools for Seachtain Na Gaeilge. They carried out Irish dancing workshops for the Primary school students. This was a lot of fun for everyone involved.



JCPA

The JCPA captures student achievements in a number of assessment elements undertaken over the three years of Junior Cycle, including the grades in the state-certified final examinations at the end of the three years. It also reports on students' achievements in Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs) in subjects and short courses, and in Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs) and, in time, achievements in Level 1 Learning Programmes (L1LPs).



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 Farell, Sean Hogan, Oisín Murphy-Young, Brenden O'Grady and Manikandan Muthumanickam.