



TY Newsletter January-Easter 2023



Welcome to another update on our TY class of 2022/23. The TY students have been very busy this term. The TY programme has been filled with exciting workshops and activities over the last few months, including the following:

Cat 4 Tests:

Our TY students completed their CAT 4 Tests. The Cognitive Abilities *Test* (**CAT4**) is a diagnostic assessment that is designed to help students and their teachers understand how they learn and what their academic potential might be. It assesses how students think in areas that are known to make a difference to learning.

The Cognitive Abilities Test is an assessment of a range of reasoning skills. The tests look at three types of reasoning: words, numbers and shapes or figures, i.e. verbal, quantitative and non-verbal reasoning. The results of these tests were sent by email as discussed at the recent Subject Choice Evening.

School Concert:

Our TY class scripted, choreographed and presented a wonderful school variety show with acts including music, dance, songs and sketches. The TY students scripted their own material and directed the show! A tremendous experience!

Work Experience

The TYs completed their second work placement from March 27th -31st. This term the students chose a wide range of workplaces including restaurants, factories, the ISPCA, dog-grooming, injection moulding and tool design, construction work and hairdressers. This is an integral part of their TY programme. We are indebted to all the businesses/employers in Lanesboro, Roscommon, Westmeath, Longford and the surrounding areas who facilitated us and provided our TY students with a wonderful learning experience.

BT Young Scientists

- The exhibition, now in its 59th year, is one of the largest and longest running STEM events in the world. The Young Scientist Exhibition highlights and celebrates a love of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and helps nurture Ireland's leaders of tomorrow. Our LCC projects this year were:
- *Running up that Hill,*
- *The Effects of Social Media on Gate Receipts*
- *Covid 19 Conspiracy Theories and the Internet.*

Well done to all involved!

ShoutOut Workshop:

ShoutOut promotes inclusion through education by delivering LGBTQ+ Educational Programmes in schools, workplaces and service providers.

The ShoutOut Student workshop is an interactive, dynamic and informative session where the facilitators explore LGBTQ+ terminology, scenarios where students can act as good allies, and ways in which to create a welcoming environment for LGBTQ+ students.

Our TY students enjoyed the facilitators sharing their own stories, of coming out, or becoming allies themselves, and explain how some language and behaviour during their time in school could be hurtful, and when it was supportive.

School Walk:

Our TY students participated in our whole school Annual 10km Sponsored Walk. Well done to all who raised much needed funds for our sporting activities throughout the year.

Midland Drug and Alcohol Taskforce Workshop:

As part of Wellbeing Week the TY students attended a workshop given by the Midland Drug and Alcohol Taskforce. The overall objective of the Taskforce is to continue to tackle the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs and alcohol.

TY Driving Lessons:

Our TY students have been participating in driving lessons with Coyle Driving School, Roscommon.

Coyle Driving School is owned by experienced driving instructor George Coyle, George's approach to driving education is renowned and he has built a reputation for being professional and approachable. George's approach is simple yet well thought out. He has taught hundreds of drivers throughout his career and is proud to boast a 90% first time pass rate for his students.

Schools' Photography Programme:

Ms. Shelley Corcoran is a professional photographer who works with the Longford Leader and has her own studio. In collaboration with the Local Arts Officer she has devised a photography course for TY students. Shelley unfortunately was unable to be with us this term so Ms Lena Coyle, photographer, stood in.

She worked with our students, developing their photography skills and teaching them the technical aspects of photography such as shutter-speed.

Access for All Disability Talk:

Our TY students were given a talk by local *Lough Ree Access for All* employee, Mark. Mark told his story and shared his own experience of disability. The TY students enjoyed a lively question and answer session with Mark and were moved greatly by his personal testimony.

St.Patrick's Day Parade:

Our TY students took to the streets of Ballyleague and Lanesboro in the recent St.Patrick's Day Parade with their entry "*Bean Feasa*"!

Bean Feasa, meaning 'wise woman', has its source in Irish history, mythology and folklore. She was the go to person in a Celtic community to heal relationships, heal the land and usher in a new creation.

In the St Patrick's Day Parade she had seven female dancers and 8 drummers with her while she brought healing to everyone on St Patrick's Day!

Congratulations to our TY students who won *Best Junior Float 2023*!

Summit Sisters:

Our TY girls are participating in an exciting new programme called Summit Sisters. This is in collaboration with Mountaineering Ireland and its aim is to support women and girls participation in sport. The TY girls have just completed the first of three challenges: a trek around Rathcroghan learning about our iconic warrior Queen Meadhbh of Connaught who was born and bred there.

As well as all of these extra-curricular programmes the Transition Year students also continued with their subjects such as:

German:

In German we have continued studying aspects of German history. We have looked at the First World War and watched the award winning movie, "*Im Westen nichts neues*", (*All Quiet on the Western Front*) set during this period of German history. *All Quiet on the Western Front* tells the gripping story of a young German soldier on the Western Front of World War I. Paul and his comrades experience first-hand how the initial euphoria of war turns into desperation and fear as they fight for their lives, and each other, in the trenches. The film recently won four Academy Awards at the 2023 Oscars. They are *Best International Film*, *Best Production Design*, *Best Cinematography* and *Best Score*.

Also in German the students completed projects on the *Languages, Cultures and Nationalities of Lanesboro Community College*. The students created powerpoints and projects on each of the nationalities represented in LCC. They surveyed the school population, both students and staff, and discovered there are 18 Nationalities in our school community. These were celebrated in music, flags and projects and displayed as part of Wellbeing Week in our school.

P.E.:

TY students visited Longford Athletics Club for a morning of activities recently. They tried out athletic events including the Long jump, High jump and Hurdles. It was great to use the super facilities with great coaching provided also by Longford AC coaches. Students then made a powerpoint presentation on their experience and learnings from the day.

Students have also participated in Rugby and Volleyball in PE class. They are some very talented students who have picked up the basic skills quickly. The students also

- prepared to climb Sliabh Bán,
- practised orienteering and basic navigation skills
- climbed Sliabh Bán ,
- read maps and trekked
- played volleyball and basketball
- participated in the annual school walk

Gaeilge:

TY students have just completed a module on spoken Irish, culminating in an Irish oral exam. This will be good preparation for their Leaving Certificate.

History:

TY history students are studying post war American history, a choice topic for Leaving Cert history. Students have learned about the American system of government and some of the major events of the Cold War that have shaped the world that we live in today.

English:

Within this school term the Transition Year students compiled letters to the editor and put together a performance piece for the Transition Year Show. In the case of correspondence, students chose a current online news or magazine article and composed an email based letter to the editor. This permitted a detailing of their reaction to a cultural, sporting, political, entertainment or pop culture issue, alongside suggestions on how said topics could be resolved, improved or altered.

The TY students also have been studying Brian Friel's *'Philadelphia, here I come'*. This 1964 play is set in the fictional town of Ballybeg, County Donegal and launched Friel onto the international stage.

Additionally, this Transition Year cohort embarked on a lengthy and complex task of scripting, staging and performing a twenty minute sketch piece entitled "Father Ted: A Song for Europe". The storyline centred around Father Dougal's enthusiasm for the upcoming 'Eurosong' competition inspiring Father Ted to enter them both into 'A Song for Ireland' with a 'borrowed' tune. The students made enormous efforts to bring together their talent, organisational skills and production abilities, to bring the piece to life.

TY Maths:

The TY Maths students entered the John Hooper medal for statistics competition in January. We have been looking at trigonometry since then.

TY Applied Maths:

The TY Applied Maths students have been learning about cryptography- encrypting, and decrypting texts. They have also looked at the formulas for uniform acceleration in applied maths.

Music and Movement:

Music and Movement Dance Routine developing the following music skills:

- Basic beat will resonate through the body when learned as a function of movement
- A kinaesthetic sense of rhythm and meter produces a stronger, more accurate musical response
- A feel for music phrases and cadences can be developed without the need to count every beat
- Sensitivity to the energetic quality of music can be achieved through experience in movement
- A sensitivity and interdependent working 'in concert' is gained by moving as a group

French:

The French TY students joined together with the German TY class for a viewing of the award winning movie, "*Im Westen nichts neues*", (*All Quiet on the Western Front*). This film tells the gripping story of a young German soldier on the Western Front of World War I. Paul and his comrades experience first-hand how the initial euphoria of war turns into desperation and fear as they fight for their lives, and each other, in the trenches. The film recently won four Academy Awards at the 2023 Oscars. They are *Best International Film*, *Best Production Design*, *Best Cinematography* and *Best Score*.

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Chemistry:

The TY students have been learning about Water in our world:

- properties of water
- water treatment
- water - a pure substance
- hard water and soft water

Gaeilge:

- The TY students helped with organising the Tráth na gCeist and the ceardlann dámhsa during seachtain na Gaeilge.
- They helped with creating a wall display in the assembly hall celebrating the best of Irish culture.
- In class they made St. Brigid's crosses in February.

- Each student carried out research on their chosen Irish saint or a character from Irish mythology. They presented their research as a power point presentation.
- The students are now researching modern day Irish heroes from the arenas of politics, sport, the arts, exploration and show business. Founders of charitable organisations and activists are among the characters that they are learning about.
- We also learned how our national day Lá Fháile Pádraig is celebrated ar fud na cruinne.

Physics:

We carried out an egg drop experiment to find the best device for protecting eggs against the force of hitting the ground. We discovered more about space while studying the James Webb telescope and the ground breaking images that it has recorded.

Chinese:

We learned how to read some Chinese characters and how to write them using the art of calligraphy. We watched the award winning *Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon* and learned about the ancient martial arts.

We wish all our TY students and their families a Happy Easter and look forward to a busy, productive and fun-filled next term!

