



TY Newsletter January-Easter 2024



Welcome to another update on our TY class of 2023/24. 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:

Personal Development Day:

Our TY students enjoyed a day of Personal Development to start the new term and the new year. *An Tobar Nua* teams delivered a full day focusing on developing the student's overall well-being and encouraging self-reflection in an interactive, relatable, fun and contemporary manner. The team hoped to inspire our students to discover meaning, value and purpose in their lives. The TY students were given the opportunity to express their views and thoughts in an inclusive, welcoming environment.

First Aid Course:

The TY students participated in a first aid course in January led by Martin Mulvey, a paramedic with the HSE. Our students learned vital lifesaving and emergency medical skills. Many thanks to Martin Mulvey for his time and expertise.

Ericsson:

The TY students welcomed Edel and Oisin from Ericsson, Athlone, to talk to them about their STEM program, *Investing in Future Software Engineers*. Edel and Oisin spoke to the students about their educational backgrounds and their pathways into the world of IT. In addition, the students were introduced to Telecommunications & Software Engineering and the wonderful opportunities that a career in this industry offers. Finally, any students who have a keen interest in a career in IT were encouraged to make an application for the month long paid summer internship in Ericsson. Information for this can be found on the Ericsson website under the Infuse section. The Transition Year students would like to thank Ericsson for the invitation and to Edel and Oisin for taking the time to come out and talk to the students and for giving us a glimpse into their working world. This will be invaluable to the students as they are now starting the process of selecting subjects for senior cycle.

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.

Work Experience

The TYs completed their second work placement from March 11th – 22nd. This term the students chose a wide range of workplaces including restaurants, hotels, leisure centres, factories, the K Club, dog-grooming, metal fabrication, construction work and plumbers, electricians, carpenters, pharmacies, physiotherapists, hairdressers, and equestrian centres. 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.

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

German:

In German the TY students completed projects on various topics of their choice relating to some aspect of a German speaking country. They chose, researched and made PowerPoint projects on their topics. They presented their findings to the class and in doing so not only developed their German speaking skills, but also their presentation, public speaking, and communication skills. Some examples of the topics covered include BMW, German festivals, food and culture, famous German composers, famous German footballer Mesut Özil, Vienna, famous German band “Tokyo Hotel”.

Maths:

The TY students entered John Hooper Medal for Statistics competition where they had the opportunity to design a statistical poster on any topic they liked. The John Hooper Statistical Poster Competition provides teachers and schools with an outstanding opportunity to showcase students’ data, analytical and interpretation skills. The competition evaluates students’ abilities to identify a real-world issue within their environment and with the help of statistics to describe, analyse and interpret their findings in written and graphical form on a poster.

They also completed the Peters Problem Maths Competition. Peter's Problem is a problem-solving based competition, named in remembrance of Peter Tiernan who was a devoted contributor to the Irish Mathematics Teachers' Association for many years.

Applied Maths:

In Applied Maths our TY students are learning about networks and graphs, which is a topic studied at LC applied maths. This will provide a good foundation for any students wishing to continue the subject further.

History:

The TY History class have started a module on post war American history. Students have learned about the structure of the US government and how and why America became a Federal Republic. Currently students are learning about the discrimination faced by African Americans, due to the system of segregation that was enshrined in state law in some states in America

Gaeilge:

The TYs have been working on improving their proficiency in written Irish by focusing on grammar and sentence structure.

Dhíriomar ar chruinneas na teanga agus chaitheamar alán ama ag obair ar an ngramadach. Thugamar aghaidh ar stair agus tíreolas na hÉireann agus leanfaimid ar aghaidh le seo sa chéad téarma eile.

Rinneamar taighde ar Naomh Bríd, banéarlámh na hÉireann agus conas cros Bhríde a dhéanamh.

Rinneamar póstaer i gcomhair Seachtain na Gaeilge.

De ghnáth bíonn ceardlann damhsa againn thart ar Seachtain na Gaeilge, ní raibh an seans againn i mbliana ach gan dabht sa chéad téarma eile bainfaimid triail as.

English:

After returning from Christmas break Transition Year English students designed a lesson plan that they will teach to a 1st Year English class group upon return after Easter. Thus far they have worked in small groups to plan a hook, activities, exercises and homework within their lesson. Pupils have also viewed a Leaving Certificate film, "The Shawshank Redemption", directed by Frank Darabont, permitting them to prepare for film techniques and encounter a visual Senior Level text. Finally, students have individually composed letter correspondence to Innis Ree Lodge Nursing Home residents.

Novel Study

401 explored some key moments in the novel *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon. They took turns reading with fluency, understanding and competence. Some of the areas discussed in class were: Setting; themes; plot and characterization. A staged version of the text was then viewed from YouTube. Students were able to appreciate the different features of stagecraft-props, costumes, lighting etc., in assisting to narrate the story of the protagonist Christopher Boone, a fifteen-year-old with Asperger's Syndrome.

Comparative Study

Students viewed a film from the prescribed senior cycle English list 2024. They engaged with and considered a number of modes of comparison (social setting; theme; hero/heroine/villain) throughout their viewing of this text.

Letter-Writing for Well- Being Week

The students recently participated in a letter writing initiative where they took the opportunity to connect with some of the residents in the local nursing home. They wrote about their transition year experiences and activities to date, along with sharing their hobbies and interests. The students really enjoyed working on this. They edited their work before typing the letters for sending. A number of students visited the nursing home to deliver the letters in person as part of Well-Being Week with Ms. Keenan. Well done to all!

Physics:

We carried out experiments with water rockets to see what made them launch the highest. This was in combination with our study of space flight and gravity. The Apollo missions and the race with the soviets was a bit part too.

Environmental Science:

Carried out a inquiry into the bins and recycling currently in the school. Spray painted the bins to make them colour coded for different waste and recycling.

Digital Literacy:

We were the first group to use the new micro bits and coded them to say hello and display emotions.

Chinese:

We learned how to read some Chinese characters and how to write them using the art of calligraphy. We celebrated Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon) by making red lanterns and banners saying "Xīnnián kuàilè" (新年快乐).

Science:

20 TY Students have been chosen to take part in Stem Passport for inclusion programme, this programme offers a University Accredited qualification in STEM for TY students in every DEIS school. The module is worth 5 credits at level 6 and is currently accredited in three universities: Maynooth University, Munster Technological University, and Atlantic Technological University. Student that complete the module can earn 50 Leaving Cert points towards specific STEM courses at Maynooth University and Munster Technological University. The chosen students worked hard on their applications for the programme and had their first STEM Day on March 5th and will complete the programme after the Easter holidays. The programmes innovative approach, which combines an educational qualification, education supports and mentoring from industry role models, provides a unique pathway for students to progress to third level education.

Business:

The 401 Business class have participated in a module on Safety in the Workplace in preparation for their upcoming Work Experience.. This programme introduces students to the principles of workplace safety and health. On successful completion of this transition unit, students should be able to:

- Identify and categorise hazards
- Estimate levels of risk
- Recognise where responsibilities lie
- Explain the effects of mismanagement of safety
- Communicate concerns regarding safety
- Make proposals on how safety can be improved
- Access safety information online and elsewhere
- Show an increased consciousness of safety in day to day life
- Understand the value of work/life balance

Congratulations to the class for completing the course and they will be presented with their certificates after Easter.

Lena Shaw from North Midlands Credit Union visited the TY Business class recently to introduce them to the Clued –In programme and project, that they will begin in the next term. Clued-In is an educational programme aimed at secondary school students. The purpose of this programme is to explain to secondary school students the importance of personal finance and the role of credit unions in society. It is vital that young people learn how to oversee their finances because if money skills are learned at an early stage, it is likely they will be installed for life.

French

les vacances de Paques 2024.

This term, we concentrated on project work using technology, la technologie.

Each French student decided to present a powerpoint on an aspect of French culture that appealed to them.

We are lucky to have a native Parisienne in our TY French class this year so she informed us about her life in Paris and the differences she finds between life here in Ireland and life in France.

We booked our slot for the laptops and class time was spent researching, translating, typing and presenting.

An array of topics were presented. These included, French rugby, French football, French food, French fashion, The life of Coco Chanel, Edith Piaf, Le Tour de France to name but a few.

PE

The TY students were involved in a full week coaching and leadership workshop with Longford Sports Partnership led by Brendan Doyle. They had to develop their coaching and leadership skills to complete numerous tasks. They will receive their award certificates soon. This built on their activities in PE class where they planned lessons and activities for their class.

Ty girls travelled to Edgeworthstown with other local schools for a day of Sport and activities, including Yoga, Strength and Conditioning and Basketball for International Women's Day. An enjoyable day was had by all.

Culture

TYs have been exploring cultures of the world and presenting them to class.

As part of wellbeing week we welcomed Mark and Lisa from Lough Ree Access for All who gave an inspirational talk about careers and dealing with adversity.

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

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

