



Our BT Young Scientist Experience *By Brigid Flahive*

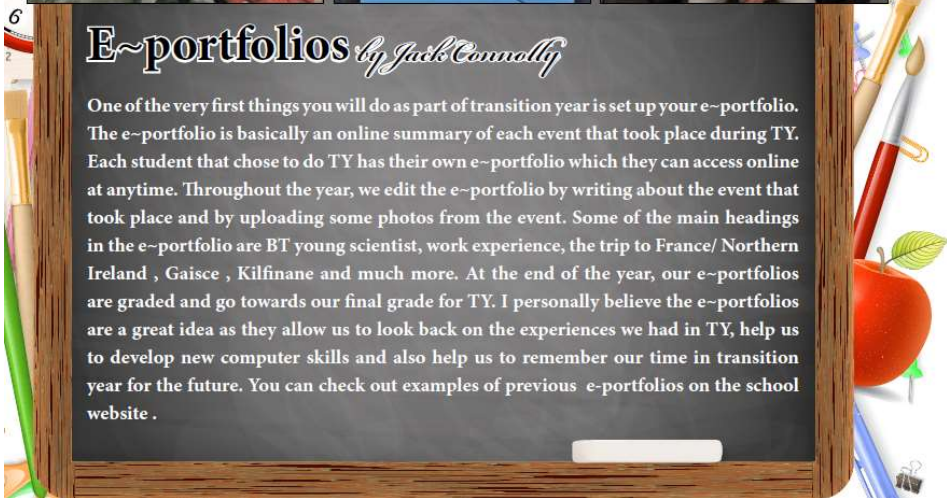
In early September, we submitted our BT young scientist exhibition proposals. Little did we know then that our projects would be selected by the judging panel to represent our school in the RDS in Dublin in January 2020. My project was titled 'Is this the final straw?' which was about the effects that both single-use and reusable straws have on the environment as well as on human health. As a group, Demi Quirke, Zuzanna Pals and I worked on our project both inside and outside of school with the help of Mr. Nash who oversaw both our project as well as the other project in our school that was accepted into the exhibition. Niamh Culhane and Sarah Scanlon presented a project called 'The hardest choice' which was about the care of the elderly. From Wednesday through Saturday, we showcased our projects in the RDS where we had three rounds of judging. For three days, the exhibition was open to all schools and the public so we got to meet a lot of new people and present our project to the 55,000 people who visited the exhibition. We were surrounded by 549 other projects. This allowed us to make a lot of new friends and to observe the ideas and discoveries that people of our age had made. I found the event very well planned as there was lots to see and do and you were never bored at any time. Not only was the exhibition very enjoyable, it was very fun to stay with your friends in a hotel for the week which was full of other schools participating in the exhibition. I would highly recommend for everyone to participate in the BTYSE as it is such a great opportunity to investigate science and technology and to expand your horizons and open your mind up to new ideas which you may have never thought much about.



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E~portfolios *by Jack Connolly*

One of the very first things you will do as part of transition year is set up your e~portfolio. The e~portfolio is basically an online summary of each event that took place during TY. Each student that chose to do TY has their own e~portfolio which they can access online at anytime. Throughout the year, we edit the e~portfolio by writing about the event that took place and by uploading some photos from the event. Some of the main headings in the e~portfolio are BT young scientist, work experience, the trip to France/ Northern Ireland, Gaisce, Kilfinane and much more. At the end of the year, our e~portfolios are graded and go towards our final grade for TY. I personally believe the e~portfolios are a great idea as they allow us to look back on the experiences we had in TY, help us to develop new computer skills and also help us to remember our time in transition year for the future. You can check out examples of previous e~portfolios on the school website.



Transition Year Newsletter Tarbert Comp January 2020

Welcome to our TY newsletter for 2019 / 20. Term 1 has flown by for our 71 TY students. Days and weeks have been filled with projects, presentations, trips, activities, subject sampling, work experience and preparation for 5th year. Terms 2 and 3 promise to be just as busy with a two day trip to Kilfinane outdoor activity centre, the Gaisce walk, 2 weeks of work experience, Fainne interviews, photography, drumming workshops, ECDL and the arrival of the French exchange students. Here's an account of some of what's happened in Term 1.

The Northern Ireland Trip *by Amy White*

On the 25th of November, myself and 23 other TY's, along with Mr. Trench and Ms. Lane, left Tarbert at 7:15 heading for Derry. We stopped along the way at Boston Scientific in Galway, where we received demonstrations on how stents are put in, as well how they are made. We headed for Great Escape Rooms, also in Galway, where we were split into three groups. Each group had a different set of challenges, and it was really cool. We reached Derry at around eight, where we stayed in the Hostel Connect. Around eleven, we decided to head out for a walk around the city, seeing the Peace Bridge and walking to the Walls of Derry. Tuesday started off a little early for our liking, but nevertheless we faced it head on. After breakfast at the hostel, we loaded onto the bus and headed for the Carrick-a-Rede rope bridge in Antrim. Unfortunately, the bridge was closed due to poor weather, but we were able to walk the trails and take in the views. The Giant's Causeway was next on the agenda, where we got to walk around and take pictures. We stopped at a leisure centre on our way back to the hostel. Some went swimming and the rest of us played a mildly-aggressive game of basketball. Back at the hostel, everyone was wrecked and more than happy when Mr. Trench and Ms. Lane produced an unreal dinner of pasta bolognese and chicken curry. Off to bowling next, where everyone was super competitive, and the accompanying arcade, where we played a few games before heading back. An impromptu talent show included a mix of singing, rapping and an appalling attempt to play the guitar. On Wednesday we headed to Belfast. The Titanic museum was the first stop, which was really interesting. We then got two and a half hours to shop in Victoria Square, before having a night in at the hostel, complete with pizza and board games. Thursday we said goodbye to Derry and started the journey home. Our first stop was Grianan of Aileach, a ring fort in Donegal. Next was the grave of W.B. Yeats in Sligo. In Co. Mayo, we went to Knock, where we saw the inside of the church and got loads of Holy Water. We said our goodbyes in Tarbert at ten. The Northern Ireland trip was amazing, and it will be one of my highlights of not only TY, but also my time at Tarbert Comprehensive.



Enterprise *by Chris O'Donoghue*

As a part of the TY programme we all have to set up a TY mini enterprise and sell our products. Myself and Cillian thought of wine glass decorations, these were upside down wine glasses filled with fake snow, decorations and decorative balls. We met on the weekend and after school and made them. The first time we could only make 10 in day but as time went on we could make 20 in an hour. We made 40 wine glasses and prepared ourselves for our first Christmas market. The product cost €6 to make and we sold 1 for €12 and 2 for €20. We set up our stall in Ballylongford. Throughout the day we sold 25 of them and made €300. We then split the profit 50/50 and made 150 each. We continued to make and sell the product over the next two weeks. What I have learned from my TY mini enterprise is that you need to be creative and that hard work pays off. In total we made €834 and split it and I made €417 and minus the €90 I invested. I walked away with €327.



PE Activities *by Liam O'Connor*

Throughout the first half of this school year, Transition Years have had the opportunity to take part in lots of fun activities during PE classes on Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons. Over the first month of the school year, each Transition Year class got to go surfing in Ballybunion twice. We had a lot of fun catching (or trying to catch) waves. Later on in the month we had a bonding day on Banna Beach. That was good craic too, it was nice to be around everyone from school all day, in a more relaxed environment. We also did self defence for several weeks in the gym suite. It was really interesting to learn different self-defence techniques. As part of the GAA Future Leaders programme we did a football coaching course which is designed to help teach people how to coach GAA. We were taught different games to train players in different skills. This will allow us to help with coaching underage teams in our communities. We have also spent several sessions in the gym suite learning how to use the gym equipment. We also did a first aid training course. This course included basic first aid skills such as how to treat cuts, burns and wounds, as well as how to perform CPR.



The French Exchange *by Adam Finucane*



On the 24th of November 2019 myself and 44 TY students along with Ms Hogan, Ms A O'Sullivan, Ms Behan and Mr O'Keefe set off to France from Dublin airport. When we arrived in the city of Nantes, our tiredness was quickly made up for spending an enjoyable day within the city centre. We shopped in the local markets and discovered things such as food culture and the lifestyle of the locals. During these couple of hours we explored the city and enjoyed the experience of being abroad. That evening we arrived in Mûr de Bretagne. We were brought to the school where we would meet our exchange students. Everybody found their correspondent and had a well deserved relaxing evening with their family. A good start to one of the most enjoyable weeks of the year. On Monday the 25th we set out on our first trip with the French students. We went to visit two very popular and historic places. The Bon Repos Abbey and French Resistance museum. We had great fun and laughter on the bus to the destinations which was a nice way to get to know not only the French students better but to get to know each other better. This I believe is one of the main highlights of the exchange. The Abbey and Resistance museum were very interesting and each place containing unique knowledge of the area such as the bravery displayed by the French during the Resistance and trying to combat Nazi occupation. We had lunch together which gave another opportunity to laugh and enjoy one another's company.

The Tuesday and Wednesday for me were the most enjoyable and memorable parts of the week. On Tuesday we went to the historical, fortified town of Dinan. We were given a tour of the beautiful area and gained much knowledge on its history. We observed the picturesque landscape form the high towers along the city walls. Afterwards we had free time to shop, eat and explore around the town. It was a great experience and spending it with class mates makes it all the more enjoyable. That evening all students both French and Irish were invited to a 'soirée'. We ate, we laughed, we danced and most of all we had fun.

On Wednesday we paid a visit to the local council office of the Brittany Region. It was in a building quite similar to the UN or the Dáil. We learned about the importance of planning within an area and looking after the citizens. We were given the opportunity to ask questions and I believe overall that it was very educational. Many of the families that evening went out to enjoy themselves. Many of us including myself went bowling with our French family and played laser tag with their friends.

On Thursday, our last full day with the French students we had a series of French classes and went to a local sports centre to learn Breton dancing, Judo and play basketball. I really enjoyed the classes and it was so interesting to see what French classes are like in comparison to Ireland.



After the classes we had visited a steel factory located in the heart of Brittany. We learned a lot about the production of steel and the processes involved. In late afternoon we went to the sports centre. Learning Breton dancing was similar to Irish dancing which branches from Celtic culture. Judo was equally as interesting and great fun to do.

That evening was our last dinner with our families. Me personally I couldn't ask for more. We had a lovely meal which originated from the Réunion island. It was different and delicious. We had great conversation despite the language barrier and laughter was had also. A great way to finish off the week.

Friday, we finally had to say goodbye to our families, correspondents



and new friends. Overall I really enjoyed the entire experience. Meeting new people, learning a new culture, speaking a different language and getting to know my classmates, my year group and teachers better. A memorable week for all of us. We are looking forward to welcoming the French students to Tarbert in March.

