

Transition Year Newsletter

Tarbert Comp January 2015

Transition Year began on the 29th of August with an induction day for our 48 students and since then we've had a busy and productive first term. Activities and projects have been many and varied. We've learned how to surf, worked out in the gym, set up mini-companies, entered the BT Young Scientist, set up a debating team, taken Photography classes, done poetry readings and baked cakes. We completed two weeks of work experience and spent a wonderful week in France. We've also done lots of preparation for next year in our core subjects as well as sampling fifth year options. We did exams in November and we've already done part of our ECDL computer exam. Over the next 4 months we have lots more to look forward to. The French students will arrive in March, we'll be taking part in the school fashion show and we will spend two days in Kilfinane outdoor education centre. Also to look forward to we have a trip to the Gaeltacht, an open day in Tralee IT and another week of work experience to mention just a few.

BT Young Scientist Exhibition 2015

By Oran Pierce

As part of our TY science class, we all entered projects for the BT Young Scientist competition. We split up into groups, the brainstorming for ideas began and we all decided on our project topics. Even within our class, we had a wide variety of topics ranging from new methods of testing soil to the effects of chemicals on hair.

After much research and experimentation, we submitted our projects to the competition. Although none of us made the final selection for the RDS Exhibition, it was a great learning experience and all students received free tickets to visit the exhibition in the RDS.

We got good use out of our tickets when we all took a bus up to Dublin to visit the BT Young Scientist Exhibition. It was a fantastic event with thousands of people crammed into the exhibition hall. It gave us all a great flavour of the event, and what's needed to be successful in it. The huge variety of projects on display gave us an insight into the many different applications of science in daily life. The projects ranged from the science of snapchat to a Boxer's handwrap. I believe that taking part in this competition was a very worthwhile experience. We all learnt a lot about science and how it can be applied to solve every day problems.



Term 1 in Quotes

Here's what the TY students think of the year so far

"Best decision I ever made"

"I did TY to make new friends and find out what I'm really interested in for next year and my career and it's been exactly as I expected it to be"

"France was lethal"

"So worth doing"

"There is no one in my class I can't have a conversation with"

"I thought it would be a drag but it's flying by"

"The French trip was the highlight of the year and you make loads of friends"

"TY is great but it's not a doss, there's plenty of work to do"

"A chance to learn more about yourself"

"It's an amazing year and I would recommend anyone to do it"





Drama

By Catherine O Shea and Niamh O Connell

This year the T.Y's are doing two plays. The first is "The Romantic Lover" and the second is "In the Springtime of February 1915". We had to audition for these plays. The third production is the T.Y entertainment show. All of the T.Y's are taking part in this. We had to write our own script in pairs and we will act them out on stage in the coming months. Also for this show we had to learn a dance. The two plays are for competitions. They will be performed in Macroom in the next couple of months. The play "In the Springtime of February 1915" is about some soldiers going to fight in the Great War and they go to the local schoolhouse to say goodbye to their friends/family/neighbours. Irish dancing, singing and music make up parts of the play. There are 30 T.Y students involved in this play between the actors and backstage help. It will be performed in the Briery Theatre in Macroom on the 5th of February as part of the T.Y Light Entertainment show.

Enterprise

Enterprise is one of the main parts of transition year. It's where we all have to set up our own business. I think enterprise is a great idea because it builds up your confidence because you have to contact many different people about getting your product set up and when you are selling it you have to talk to people and get them to buy your product. It also teaches you how to set up your own business, how to do accounts and how to look after your money. Our business was selling American sweets we had to import all the sweets from America then we had to package them in plastic bags. We sold the sweets at school, craft fairs and in local shops. They were a big hit and sold like wildfire. There were so many different projects this year including JC turkeys (selling of turkeys), Bake to basics (baking buns), and homemade Christmas candle logs and two groups did Christmas centre pieces and there were many more!

On-Line Portfolios by Darren Kelly

We were all given e-mail accounts at the start of the year for school work. These accounts also allow us access to Google Drive and some other websites which are useful to us in transition year. We started using Google Drive which is a cloud storage service that allows us to store documents, photos, videos and more online. This website allows us to start things like documents and powerpoints in school and then if we want we can finish them at home, without using usb sticks to transfer them between computers. We can also share them with teachers and other students so they can see and make changes to what we have done. The site is very useful for doing projects with other people as two or more people can work on something at the same time. The drive also gives us e-mail addresses for the teachers so if we are stuck with projects or homework we can get help from them quickly and easily. Google Drive also allows us to send surveys to all the students in the school with our e-mail addresses so it is easier to get surveys done and it also saves paper! We have also started to create online portfolios. The portfolio is where we keep a record of everything we do during the year. We are doing these online portfolios instead of doing a portfolio box at the end of the year. We were taught how to create these sites properly in October. Since then we have been able to add things to them whenever we want to. We are allowed to choose the design, layout and content that is put on these portfolios. I think these e-portfolios are a very good idea as they are easy to use and we can do them whenever we want to. All of this as well as our ECDL course will be really helpful to us when we are in college and in the work place.



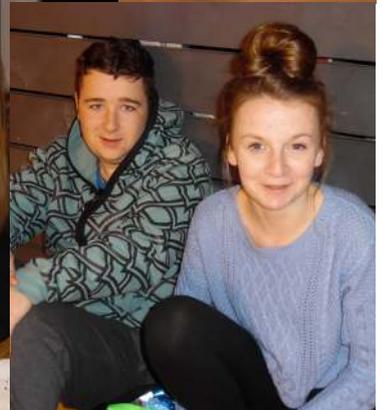
T. Y. Debating Peter O'Donnell

During the second week of November, Ms. Carrig came and told us that the school would be forming a debating team from Transition Year student. It took me all of two seconds to decide to put my name forward. After two weeks, eight people had put their names forward for the team. To decide how would be on the team we held a small debate between T.Y. 1 and T.Y. 2. After the debate the team was chosen and the members were Grace Leahy, Catherine O'Shea, Shane Healy and myself as captain. The following Monday, we went to a debating workshop in Limerick city. Schools from Limerick, Kerry, Galway, Clare and Mayo were at the workshop. That day we learned a lot of techniques about debating and presenting. We also made new friends and had a great day. Our first debate was away against Mercy Mounthawk of Tralee and it was about the Ice Bucket Challenge. After weeks of practice, we lost the debate by only two points. It was a very good result as Mercy Mounthawk has a great tradition in debating. Debate two was at home against Laurel Hill Secondary School in Limerick and the topic was about Irish aid in Africa. Unfortunately we lost that debate but we put up a good fight. Our last two debates were against St. Josephs Secondary School in Ballybunion and Crescent Comprehensive School of Limerick but they both forfeited. Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed myself throughout the experience and I learned a lot of new skills. I am delighted with my decision to take part in the debating team and I would recommend both debating and Transition Year to everybody.

The French Exchange Trip

By Rebecca Long

In my opinion the exchange trip was a great success and enjoyable experience for all. We got a chance to experience life with a French family for a week, and also took part in lots of different activities and events during the days we were there. We were matched with our pen-pals before we left for France based on similar interests. I think this was a really good idea because we got to chat with our French person through social media before we met them, making for a much less awkward meeting in person. Family life was interesting and I have to say they were really welcoming! While in France, we really had an action packed week, there wasn't a day that went by that we didn't have something to do, which was great! The travelling aspect of our trip was quite long but I still enjoyed it because we all got to know each other better. Overall I think the exchange was a really good experience and I would even say that it has been the highlight of TY for me so far!



MY TRANSITION YEAR EXPERIENCE - Paul Murphy

I had always intended on doing TY. It seemed like a good idea to me so I could sample all the subjects for leaving certificate and possibly shine a light on what my future career might be. I was not ready to begin studying for the Leaving Certificate. But when the forms were given to us to decide whether to do 5th year or TY, it was not an easy decision. A lot of my friends did 5th year but I decided on TY and so far I'm glad I did. One of the first experiences of TY was the Work Experience. I decided to do my work placement in a National school because I have an interest in teaching. I was very nervous before my work experience but after doing it I feel I have learned many valuable life lessons. Also I think I might have possibly found my future career which is brilliant. The French trip was a great experience and I learned a lot about the French culture and language. It was great as we gained a great sense of Independence. It was very difficult to understand the French for the first day or two because they talk very quietly and quickly but by the end of the trip my french had improved greatly. One of the best experiences of TY for me would be the Enterprise projects. We had to set up mini-companies and our aim was to make a successful profitable company. It was not always easy and there was a lot of hard work but it gave us all an insight into a working life and running a business. I ran my own company making wooden candle holders which was very successful. I really enjoyed the sales aspect of the project and gained vital communication skills. In short, some of the best moments of Transition Year have been shared with the people in my class who I'm really proud to call my friends. We all have different personalities and interests, but we've become quite close in the past couple of months. I'm looking forward to the rest of the year with them. I love Ty as I have learned many things about myself from it and I would recommend it highly.

