



Transition Year Newsletter

Tarbert Comp January 2018



Term 1 has been a busy and productive one for our 46 Transition Year students. Here's a summary of the activities and trips that have taken place.

Induction day, Exchange trip to France, Surfing, Setting up enterprises, Presentations, Lá Gaeilge 24, Garda Road Safety Show, Rince Gaelach, Work Experience, Paired reading, Cinema trip – the Holocaust, Environmental workshop, Zumba, Circuit training, Art Day, ECDL, Food Fair, Say no to racism campaign, Shoe Box Appeal, Subject Sampling, Gaisce, Young Scientist, First Aid.

We still have lots to look forward to including the following:

French return Trip, Kilfinane OEC, Gaisce trip, 2 weeks Work Experience, Photography, Drumming workshop, PE activities, CVs and mock interviews, completion of ECDL, Fáinne Interviews, Graduation and more besides.

Our BT Young Scientist Experience

By Clara Hanrahan

On Wednesday the 10th of January we set off on our journey to Dublin for the BT Young Scientist Competition in the RDS. We met at the school at 6:30 am and got the train from Limerick to Dublin Heuston, from there we got a taxi to our hotel, The Clayton in Ballsbridge. It was a gorgeous hotel and we had a lovely stay there. We went straight to the Rds after our arrival at the hotel, got our student tags and we were escorted to our stands. Our school had two entries into the competition. The first entry was called "Unknown jobs for dogs" by Rachel O'Connor and Roisin Moran. Their project highlighted assistant dogs (ADS) that support people with disabilities and health issues and the different types of assistant dogs, rules and regulations around assistant dogs and charities that train them. Their project was in the social section of the competition. The second entry was called "Life Saving Sensor" I was part of this group alongside my teammates Niamh O' Carroll and Kayla Hannon. This project was based around the problem of phone use while driving and the number of road incidents caused by this. Both groups had three rounds of judging one on Wednesday and two on Thursday. Our fellow students from TY1 and TY2 came to the exhibition on Thursday to view all the projects and give us some support and it was great to see them. On Friday there was the award ceremony. Our group "Life saving sensor" won a rosette for our display. Both of our projects were liked by the general public as we had a lot of people interested in them. Overall it was an excellent experience but we would not have gotten there only for our science teacher Mr. Nash who put in so many hours in and outside of school and we would like to thank him for that. I would highly recommend everyone to enter the competition, it's hard work but it was a once in a lifetime opportunity and we enjoyed it greatly.



MEETING A HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR

BY ANTIONETTE MURPHY

In Transition Year history we study the holocaust. This year our Transition Year group were given the opportunity of watching a documentary made by Tomi Reichental, a Slovakian holocaust survivor. Tomi and his family were taken to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1944 when he was just 9 years old. He stayed in the camp until 1945 when the camp was liberated by the British. We were given the opportunity to watch his documentary "Condemned to Remember", ask him questions and also meet the man himself. On Tuesday the 5th of December our TY1 and TY2 class groups took a bus to Listowel cinema where the documentary was being screened. The documentary was about modern day genocide in such countries as Bosnia Herzegovina. The documentary also showed footage of Tomi meeting with a young girl whose ancestors were responsible for killing his family. It was amazing to hear what life was like and how to survive in the concentration camp for example his mother told him to wait at the end of the queue when the soup was being distributed because the most nutritious part of the soup was at the bottom of the pot. He maintained that this was one of the reasons why he survived life in the concentration camp. Overall the meeting with Tomi gave our TY group a bigger insight into the holocaust and was a memorable experience.



Students step up for Social Justice - *By Jer Long, TY1*

This past year the TY students decided to take on a new 'passion project' all under the guidance of our RE teachers, who first propositioned the ideas for this year's TY's social justice projects. Each class, TY1 and TY2 decided to undertake a project. TY1 decided to hold an anti-racism awareness day. For this, TY1 partnered with Show Racism The Red Card. On the day itself, the students of TY1 held a bake sale to raise funds for the cause, decorated the school with anti-racism posters decorated by all years, and even filmed a clip in which students of the school got together to show our strong feelings against racism. To cap off the day, a soccer tournament was held for the second years as the students felt racism often has strong ties with sport. TY2 students collected shoeboxes filled with toys and food as a Christmas gift for underprivileged children, a worldwide agenda spearheaded by Team Hope. The TY2's went from class to class collecting shoeboxes and did lots to advertise the campaign. They were also involved in the Vincent de Paul food collection before Christmas and in the running of a Christmas jumper day before Christmas to raise money for that charity. Overall the social justice projects were a success and proved that projects like these are needed and valued within our society.



My Trip to Brussels with the Meet your MEP Programme

By Paul O'Donnell

I first heard about the 'Meet your MEP Programme' when our year head sent us an email with the subject 'competition'. I opened up the email and read all about the competition available to us. The reward was an all-expenses paid trip to Brussels, where you get to meet your local MEP's, get trips around the European Parliament and free time at the Christmas markets in Belgium. To enter this once in a lifetime opportunity, all that had to be done was to write one A4 page titled 'Why the EU is Important to Me'. Little did I think at the time, with the vast amount of students that would come to enter, that I would be one of 40 TY students chosen in the whole of the south of Ireland to get to experience such a trip. I got an email back saying that I had been successful in my application and after exchanging details and receiving the agenda, all I could do was wait for the day to come with, in honesty, some nerves but a lot of excitement. On Thursday the 7th of December, after a very early morning start, I arrived in Dublin airport. When everyone showed up we headed straight to our gate, with luckily no difficulties. As we waited for our plane to begin boarding, we all got a chance to talk and made bonds that would last the entire trip. We arrived in Brussels at 9:20, Belgian time. We then went to our hotel, Thon Hotel EU, and after just dropping off our bags we headed straight for the European Parliament. Following a procedural security check, we met MEP Sean Kelly. He gave us a brief introduction, before we had lunch in the European Parliament. Then we got a quick tour of the place, before we were put into a presentation room and finally got a chance to put all our questions to him. MEP Brian Hayes, then came in to greet us and we got a little while to ask him questions. Next, we went to the lobby which has an assortment of all the flags in the EU and took photos with him by county and then by school. Next on the agenda was to visit the Parliamentarium which is the visitors' centre of the European Parliament. To end the long, but enjoyable day we went for a dinner hosted by Sean Kelly, before going back to our hotel. On Friday the 9th, after an exquisite breakfast at the hotel, we visited the European House of History. The House of European History is a museum in Brussels, Belgium that focuses on the history of Europe since 1789. Then we went to the European Commission where we again underwent a security check. We were given a quick tour by the tour guide before entering a cabinet meeting room. Commissioner Hogan then entered and again we were given the opportunity for a question and answer session. After lunch, we walked into the city of Brussels and were given free time of 4 hours to do whatever we wanted. Of course, this gave us a great chance to see the infamous Christmas markets as well as doing some shopping and sight-seeing. Sean Kelly hosted another dinner for us again that night. On Saturday the 9th at 9:00 am we left the hotel and headed for the city of Ghent, where we had some free time. In this beautiful, historic city, there was loads to do but the main attraction was again the beautiful Christmas markets. We then got a coach to Bruges where we went ice skating. In Brussels and Ghent there were enormous Ferris Wheels which gave a spectacular view of the massive cities. Back in Brussels, after yet another dinner hosted by Sean Kelly, we said goodbye, and all thanked him for being so gracious and generous all of the time. Overall, it was a completely amazing experience and opened up my eyes to what life is like as such jobs and the ways in which you can get there. It was educational, while remaining fun at the same time. It was certainly a once in a lifetime opportunity.



THE FRENCH EXCHANGE TRIP

BY ORLAÍTH MCSTUEENEY



On the 26th of November 2017, we woke up at the crack of dawn to get a bus from Tarbert to Dublin Airport. There we got a flight to Nantes and slept for another two hours on a bus to Mûr-de-Bretagne. With emotions running high, we were thrown straight into the deep end and were sent off in to the unknown with our French families! Monday morning, we took a bus to Rennes where we were divided into groups to go on a guided tour around the city. I had great fun with my group and it was probably one of my favourite activities. The tour was based on our five senses so we learnt about the history of the city in a very interesting and interactive way. After the tour, we had two hours to go shopping, but we ended up spending a good hour of that eating because of the size of the lunches our families had given us! The next morning, we had classes in Collège Saint Josef for two hours. I had English and History-Geography, and it was very interesting to see the differences between our school and theirs. After lunch, we visited EA Guingamp, a major football club in Brittany. After watching the players train, we waited until they eventually gave in and took a few pictures with us! The tour was very interesting and I really enjoyed it. Later on that evening, we had a Soirée Bretonne in the local hall. We tried some traditional foods, called galettes and crêpes and even had a mini disco afterwards! On Wednesday, we went to the Valley of the Saints. Here there were ninety-four statues of Celtic saints. We did a treasure hunt and a tour but got slightly distracted when we discovered mole holes all around the fields! However, we still had a great time and learnt a lot about Breton history that day. We had a free evening after our tour, so my correspondent took me bowling in a nearby town called Pontivy, where we met up with our friends. I really enjoyed that day as I got to know my correspondent a lot better. On Thursday morning, we visited a steel factory that was fifteen minutes away from the school. We got a quick tour and then came back to the school for lunch. However, we had two hours until the canteen opened, so we took a detour and made a trip to the supermarket where we stocked ourselves up on food. Let's just say we weren't that hungry for our lunch in the end! After our meal, we walked down to the sports complex where we learned judo and played basketball. That evening, my family prepared a special dinner for me for my last night at their house. We took a few photos and they even got me and my family a farewell present. On Friday, we were all so tired we were ready to go home to get in to our own beds, but not before being taught some Breton dancing by our correspondents. We ended up really enjoying it but it was no match for our Irish dancing back home! We said our goodbyes to our correspondents and were on our way home to Ireland. I loved every minute of the trip and it really improved both my French and my confidence. I can't wait to see my correspondent again when she and all the other French students return in March!



ECDL (European Computer Driving Licence) and E Portfolios

By John Kennelly

As part of TY, computers is a compulsory subject which we all study. In computers we are undertaking the ECDL course which contains numerous modules. To date we have done the word and power point modules. The word module was a very long course and difficult in parts but overall very doable. From completing the word module my class mates and I have gained a deeper insight into things word allows you to do which is very handy because not only do we use computers in computer class but we also use them in most of our other subjects. From having the word module completed I am now more confident in my computer skills. The power point module is a great one to have completed and is very useful in TY simply because teachers are always assigning projects which involve using power point presentations. In my opinion the ECDL course is of huge value and will stand to us in college and thereafter.



TY e-Portfolio - The TY e-Portfolio is very important because it is 30% of our final Transition Year grade. What is the TY e-portfolio? It is an online record of all the things you do and experience throughout the course of the TY year. For example when in France we did daily activities which were new experiences, we took pictures of them posted them on our e-Portfolio and wrote about them. A lot of images and writing are required but is a great thing to reflect back on. I would recommend to the upcoming TYs to make sure they update the portfolio every couple of weeks as that's how it works best. Overall I feel the e-portfolio will be a great memory of TY.



My TY Experience

By Mauna O'Neill

So far my TY experience has been great. It is one I will never forget. From doing TY I have made great friendships during the times we were out of the school grounds on trips. The French Exchange Trip for example was very beneficial because it pushed us out of our comfort zones and gave us confidence and I think it made us closer because we all had common ground and could talk to each other about our experiences.

We have done a lot of activities we wouldn't get the chance to do in other school years for example surfing, zumba, ECDL, First Aid and Enterprise to name just a few. We also got to go on work experience in October. This built my confidence and gave us all a taster of what it is like to be working in the real world. It helped me with speaking in public and dealing with the public also.

Overall my experience in TY has been wonderful and I am excited for the upcoming events planned for us for the rest of the year.

