



As another exciting school year comes to a close, we are delighted to look back on everything we have experienced through the past term. This has once again been a period of growth, creativity and unforgettable memories. This newsletter celebrates the energy and enthusiasm experienced and reflects the confidence and resilience we have developed along the way. We hope you enjoy reading about the highlights of this term and wish everyone a safe relaxing and fun summer break.

Breast Cancer Talk



On the 21st of April, Breast Cancer Ireland came into the school to talk to the TY's about Breast Cancer. This is such a serious but extremely important topic. A lovely lady from Breast Cancer Ireland came in to talk to us all. She taught us statistics on breast cancer, that every 1 in 7 women get it at least once in their life. This is a terrifying statistic but that is why this was so important. She taught us how to do a breast check, and to do it regularly. We were also taught what the cancer can feel like and look like, knowing all the symptoms. We were taught to always keep pushing when something is wrong, as if you catch breast cancer early it can be taken care of easily. She also told us a story of her friend who used to work with her, who suffered from breast cancer. Sadly she passed away in January but she was such an amazing person. This workshop was definitely our most important one.

Microsoft Dream Space Graduation

The Microsoft Dream Space Ambassadors Graduated in Microsoft on the 11th of May and it was a spectacular day! The Microsoft Dream Space Ambassadors have represented our school throughout the year by educating others on computer science and AI! At the Graduation, we celebrated our work throughout the year. This year our Dream Space Ambassadors completed multiple trainings in coding microbits, using python to programme, cybersecurity and much more! We then put these skills to use when we visited the Mount Sackville primary school to teach 6th class about coding microbits. We also held teach meets with teachers in our school to explain the uses of AI and Apple classroom. We introduced our second years to what being a Dream Space Ambassador is like and gave them a taster for computer science! It has been an event filled year for us and we have enjoyed every second!



Our graduation included workshops and activities in using Minecraft to code, a gaming session in their gaming room, presenting our fabulous Dream Space poster, getting a tour of the building and lastly, the graduation ceremony. Each school was called up one by one and we were awarded our certificates. It truly was a wonderful day and we all had so much fun. The graduation in Microsoft was also important to us because we were the only all-girls school in Microsoft and we wanted to represent and promote women working in STEM!

We couldn't have done any of this without our teachers helping us along the way so we want to give a huge thanks to Ms Jennings, Mr McDonald and Ms Dalton who made all of this possible. It was an incredible experience!

Transition Year Newsletter

Movie Magic



From Tuesday 28th of April to Tuesday 5th of May we took part in The Movie Magic workshop. This was an excellent program that takes place every year, learning about the world of film and recording media. Each TY class got a whole day to do this workshop. We worked with two fantastic ladies who have a long history in the film world, from documentaries to even an Oscar winning movie. We started off the workshop with learning about camera angles. It was so interesting seeing how different angles can make and change a scene. Then we watched other students work from other schools to get inspiration. The highlight of the day was planning our film. We got split into groups with our friends and started to plan. We could do anything from a short film, documentary, music video, interview, and more! We had so much creative freedom, besides it having to be less than 4 minutes. Once we finished planning, we gave our idea to the ladies then got to work. Students filmed all over the school even including teachers and first years in their film. From murder mystery to comedy to superhero, so many genres were used.

On Friday the 8th of May, the whole year had a screening day where for the last two classes we had a viewing party to watch all the short films we created. We had a whole pizza party, getting pizza's and drinks from Apache Pizza. Watching everyone's movie was a great experience and absolutely hilarious. After we got to put in a vote for Best Actor, Best Teacher appearance, and Best Film. On our graduation day, the winners were announced. Overall this workshop was amazing and maybe even one of the highlights of TY for some.

AI workshop:

On the 13th of May, we had an AI workshop. Three workers from a company that works with AI on a daily basis came to talk to us. We learned about the importance of a fixed mindset versus a growth mindset. How having a fixed mindset makes learning and adapting so much more difficult, whereas a growth mindset opens you to new opportunities. We learned about the future of generative AI and how we can use it.



Cluny Day

Following our annual special Cluny Day mass, the school grounds transformed into a vibrant arena of spirited competition and unbridled enthusiasm for Sports Day. As each year group was called to walk along the grit pitch, a kaleidoscope of colourful house banners adorned the grounds, their vibrant hues mirroring the infectious enthusiasm radiating from every corner. As the events commenced, a palpable sense of camaraderie filled the air, with cheers erupting for every participant, regardless of their standing. The collective energy was infectious, fostering an environment where fun and friendly rivalry intertwined seamlessly. Each year, the events are categorised into two different sections – track and field. Field offers a wide variety of events, such as high jump, discus, javelin, shotput, hockey skills, tennis, the three-legged race and so many more! There is a myriad of options when it comes to track events, for example the 75m sprint, 200m, 400m, 800m, hurdles, the walk and the relay team! With each event completed, students are awarded with points for participation and placement. The air vibrated with the thunderous applause as the accomplishments achieved by these classes were announced, creating a symphony of school spirit. Ultimately, Sports Day proved to be yet again, an unparalleled triumph, a day where the collective spirit of the school converged to create an unforgettable experience. The sheer vibrancy of the atmosphere, coupled with the unadulterated fun enjoyed by every single person present, solidified its status as an absolutely amazing day for all involved. It was an unequivocally spectacular day that left everyone with smiles and cherished memories.

Amber Flag Committe



Well done to our TY Amber Flag Committee, pictured above, on their achievements of all things Wellbeing this year!



Transition Year Newsletter

Gaisce Hike & Overnight Camping

The Gaisce hike was an unforgettable highlight of TY. It was an immaculate experience, etching itself into our memories. The weather was flawless and amidst the invigorating embrace of nature, we appreciated the greenery that surrounded us. Laughter echoed through the hills as we shared stories and inside jokes. The mutual encouragement and the simple joy of conquering the grounds together cultivated a profound sense of unity. TYs took part in rock climbing, kayaking, archery and simple games to pass time. Once the activities had finished for the night, marshmallows were roasted over the crackling campfire as our favourite songs played. A convivial atmosphere permeated the air, particularly when everyone got up to do the conga! The collective effort required to complete the hike on the second day fostered an incredible sense of camaraderie, a tangible bond that extended beyond the immediate group to encompass our entire year. It was a powerful reminder of what we could achieve when we worked together. Ultimately, the Gaisce hike served as a powerful crucible, united by the shared accomplishment and the indelible spirit of adventure.

Mock Interviews

The mock interviews were organised by the guidance department in our school and held from the 21st-23rd of April. It was an invaluable opportunity that gave us the chance to prepare for and attend a job interview. The TYs were given information about the job they were applying for (a sales assistant in Marks and Spencer) and they were given the requirements for the role. We prepared answers to possible questions, handed in copies of our CVs and wrote a cover letter to the recruitment manager for the role. The interviewers would look through these documents, conduct the mock interview with us and then give us verbal and written feedback afterward. This was an illuminating experience and is so beneficial for future job interviews. We are all so grateful we had this opportunity. So many people helped to organise and conduct the interviews: The guidance department organised everything, the mock interviewers were volunteers from parents in the school and the guidance ambassadors in our school helped to set everything up and made sure everything was running on time. It was a very worthwhile event and everyone found it so insightful and helpful.



Language Trips

The language trips will be from the 25th- 29th of May and there are two trips happening! The Spanish trip will be to Málaga in the south of Spain. The TYs will be staying in a village called Pedregalejo which is a traditional Spanish fishing village, and perfect for students trying to improve their Spanish. It is known for its' delicious seafood, stunning beaches and colourful houses. On the first day, the TYs will meet in the airport and travel to Malaga where they will meet their host families and settle in. At 5pm they will meet up to explore Pedregalejo (bottom photo)! The second day in Spain includes a full day trip to Ronda and Setenil! The third and fourth days include a city tour and an excursion to a water park in Mijas. There is also an excursion to El Caminito Del Ray and a Catamaran trip with a swim on the Wednesday and Thursday. On the last day, the students will meet in the morning and eat authentic Spanish churros, before heading home. Throughout the week, they will be attending language classes and conversing with their host families in Spanish. It will be an educational and exciting week, packed with loads of fun!

The French trip is to Antibes in France! Antibes (top photo) is a major town on the French Riviera, known for its sandy beaches, old town and Port Vauban (the largest yachting harbour in Europe). On the first day, the girls will be making tapenade and getting settled in with their host families. On the second and third days, there will be a day trip to Nice, a visit to the Massena Museum and a day trip to Monaco! There are language classes for the TYs during the week and, similar to the Spanish trip, the students will be staying with host families. There are also city tours of Antibes (and the Cap d'Antibes), Cannes, and Grasse (with a visit to the Fragonard Perfumery).

It will be an unforgettable and extremely beneficial trip for everyone! Both of these trips will be packed with learning and experiencing new cultures! The TYs will have an amazing time!

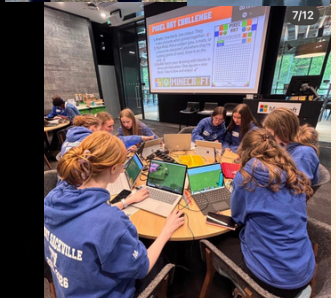
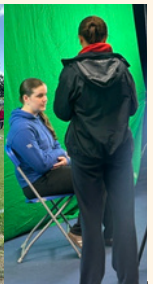




Microsoft Visit

On Tuesday, 21st of April, TYs who were interested in choosing Computer Science for the Leaving Certificate or were a Dream Space Ambassador were presented with the opportunity to visit Microsoft. We were told that the building has the capacity to fit two entire Croke Park Stadiums in it! A spokesperson called Emma gave an in depth tour of the building, informing the TYs about the plethora of facilities Microsoft has to offer! They have everything you can possibly think of! We were brought up to the roof, where we appreciated the glorious view of Leopardstown Racecourse. When our tour had concluded, TYs were put into multiple groups of three. They presented us with a challenge to complete in our groups, which was to get a marble to travel the farthest distance out of all of the groups. We had to use nothing but the materials they provided - a folder, four sheets of paper, two sheets of card, two pencils, two rubber bands, one single pipe cleaner, a ruler and two wooden popsicle sticks.

The twist was that the marble had to maintain contact with those materials and nothing but those materials the entire time. The twist was that the marble had to end on a singular sticky note and had to stay there. We had twenty minutes to generate an idea and set it up! Everyone participated with enthusiasm and did an outstanding job. After this, TYs got a chance to use the sphere-o balls. You could edit the colours they project, along with what emojis they display on a small screen inside of the glass exterior. They provided us with computers, where we were able to use the controllers displayed on the screen to control the sphere-o balls. By inputting functions, we were able to make our sphere-o balls travel in many different directions by altering the number of degrees when turning. When it was time to leave, we were given a lollipop and our very own Microsoft pen as a token of our trip to Microsoft! It is safe to say that TYs will not forget their trip to Microsoft!





TY Graduation took place on the 20th of May to celebrate all of our accomplishments throughout the year! Having our families there made this event even more special. There were lots of speeches from TY students during the ceremony, about the musical, trips abroad, Gaisce, work experience, students volunteering in South Africa and lots more. It helped us reflect on all that we have accomplished this year, and it made the speeches more meaningful, coming from the students themselves! All TYs then gathered on stage to perform a few songs from our musical, Annie!

After our performance, we had our very own Oscars! The winners were announced and given prizes. The class of the year, class Becker were awarded their prizes also. Without certain people this whole year would have been impossible. During the graduation lots of staff were thanked particularly Ms. McKenna, our TY coordinator who worked tirelessly the whole year to ensure we had the best experiences possible. A big thank you for Ms. Dowling, our TY Dean, who made the year run so smoothly and to our 5 class tutors, who encouraged us every week.

The atmosphere at our TY graduation was electric, a palpable blend of excitement for the many more memories we will create, along with a pang of sadness at the realisation that Transition Year has finally come to an end. A kaleidoscope of emotions were experienced by both students and parents, a mix of nostalgia and pride as our TY graduation ceremony unfolded. The graduation was full of bittersweet moments, which in my eyes made it all the more meaningful. As the slideshow flickered to life, so too did a cascade of core memories, each frame a testament to our shared journey. A profound silence descended, everyone taking in every photograph and video that reflects our splendiferous TY experience. It was a veritable compendium of our shared history, replete with quintessential moments that indelibly marked our Transition Year - our trip to Paris, Gaisce Hike, the myriads of workshops we took part in, in addition to the musical! The powerpoint truly conveyed what Transition Year was all about. It was a whirlwind of shared laughter, inside jokes, and memories that will never be forgotten. Each image onscreen was a vivid, cherished memory, reflecting the unique bond we'd forged and the immaculate experiences we had all so thoroughly enjoyed together. It projected an effervescent, treasured recollection, mirroring the singular camaraderie we had cultivated and the delightful experiences we had all partaken in. Our TY graduation will forever be embedded in our minds and in our hearts.

