



Transition Year Newsletter

Tarbert Comp January 2019

E Portfolios by *Conor Hogan*

A core part of Transition Year is the TY e-Portfolio, which is essentially a record of everything you do in Transition Year. Your e-Portfolio is set up in class a few weeks into your TY journey, and then you update it often yourself. Your e-Portfolio can include photos of your TY journey, as well as a description of your TY highlights (such as the trip to France, PE activities and more). Keeping your e-Portfolio updated is quite important as it is worth 30% of your final TY grade. Though it may seem like a lot of work, once complete, your e-Portfolio will be the subject of pride and nostalgia. The e-Portfolio is one of the most rewarding parts of the Transition Year Programme and offers a great opportunity for you to show off your creative skills. Overall, the e-Portfolio is a great feature of TY!

First Aid by *Danielle McKenna*

In term 1, John Duignan came to us to do a basic first aid course for which we got a cert. He took each T.Y group at separate times in the library. He showed us how to bandage different body parts, how to use the defibrillator and how to do the heimlich manoeuvre. This was really helpful because we may have to do it some time in the future.

Surfing by *Danielle McKenna*

In term 1, the 3 groups in T.Y went surfing to Ballybunion and Banna Beach. Everyone got 2 surfing lessons. We left at lunch and went there by bus. The instructors at both Banna and Ballybunion were really nice and really helpful. This was a really good way to start term 1 of T.Y because it helped us all get to know each other a bit more.



On the 20th of November 2018 the TY students went for a road safety talk in the INEC in Killarney. This was organised by An Garda Síochána. We listened to many speakers who explained the dangers of the road and how to be safe. We also saw demonstrations.



Welcome to our TY newsletter for 2018-19 where some of our TY students will tell you more about what they've been doing for the past few months. It's been a busy first term for our 64 TY students with many activities, projects and trips. These have included work experience, surfing, e-portfolios, the road safety show, enterprise, the food fair, gaisce activities, first aid, Irish dancing, the BT Young Scientist, ECDL, subject sampling and of course the trips to France and Northern Ireland. Still to come we have the return visit of our French students for a week, the trip to Kilfinane, the Gaisce walk, drumming workshops, the foundation football course, work experience again and lots more. Be active, be involved, as you will get out of TY what you put into it.

Our BT Young Scientist Experience

By *Ciara O'Donoghue*

At the beginning of the year, all the TYs were given a chance to enter a project into the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the hopes of reaching the finals in Dublin. I am in TY3 and I entered a project with Ellen Godfrey. I was delighted and surprised when I found out that our project had got through, along with another project from our class. Our project title was Our Plastic Problem. Our project is based on plastic pollution on the coasts of the Shannon Estuary and on coasts around Ireland. We wanted to find out how bad the issue of plastic pollution was. We also wanted to help find a solution to it by raising awareness about biodegradable plastics. The other project which qualified for the finals was done by Eamon O Connor, Oisín Prendiville Browne and Ciarán Mulvihill who are all in TY3 also. Their project title was an investigation into the economic advantages of employing a plastic reformer to reform plastic waste into sustainable farm products. They were testing the suitability of a machine called a plastic reformer to reform waste farm plastic into sustainable fencing posts on farms. There was a lot of work in the projects throughout the months leading up to the exhibition but Mr. Nash helped us a lot and we got them done eventually. On January 9th, we all took the train from Limerick to Dublin and headed to the RDS. The exhibition was on for 4 days and we were staying in the Ballsbridge Hotel. We set up our projects once we arrived and were surprised to be interviewed by RTÉ Radio. The opening ceremony was on Wednesday, where the president gave a speech, and then the judging began. I was nervous for the judging and some of their questions were tricky but we got through it. We were judged a total of 3 times throughout the week. The exhibition was interesting and not what I expected. There was lots of celebrities and TV cameras around. On Thursday, the rest of the TYs visited us and we were glad to see them. We didn't win any awards but we were honoured to have gotten through. On Saturday, my family came to visit the exhibition which was nice and I got to see more of the exhibitions with them. Overall, I really enjoyed the week. It was a unique experience and a great opportunity. I was honoured that our project had got through and our project had a good reception at the exhibition. Thanks to Mr Nash for all the help with the project and for a great week in Dublin.



Work Experience - By *Leah Flahive*

In early November I did my work experience in Nano Nagle Listowel for a week. It was nerve wrecking going into a building where you did not know anyone. The first day I was greeted by the Principal Gabriel and was brought into the assembly to meet the other staff. I felt I was at home with the warm welcome I got from them. I was brought up to one of the senior classes for the day where I helped them with reading, maths and physical education. Every day I was put into a different classroom so I could get the feel of what it would be like to work with all age groups, but I preferred the older classes as I got to do more with them. I enjoyed the week there and it will be something I will remember. I have experienced things that I would have never done before. I chose to go to Nano Nagle because I want to be nurse and it helped me learn how to deal with children of various medical conditions and to have more patience. Work Experience is a great opportunity as it shows you how people interact in the work force, how you must be responsible and get along with people. Other students went to solicitors, construction sites, primary schools and leisure centres. Work experience is very valuable and you should make the most of it. We will have 2 more weeks of work experience in April.

Northern Ireland Trip 2018 by Gráinne Moriarty

On Monday the 26th of November 2018, fourteen of my classmates and I went to Northern Ireland with Mr. Trench and Ms. Lane for four days and had an amazing experience.

On Monday, we stopped off at Lough Key Forest and Adventure Park in county Roscommon. There, we did a series of challenging activities. Communication and teamwork were essential to perform well in the activities, so we had to communicate with each other which was essential to get us to interact with each other. These activities were really fun and we all had a great time doing them. It was a great start to a phenomenal week. We arrived at the hostel we were staying at in Derry later that evening. We relaxed for a while, watched a movie and got ourselves settled in. That night we went for a walk with Mr. Trench and Ms. Lane around Derry. We saw the famous city walls. We all enjoyed it and found it fascinating.

On Tuesday, we went to The Free Derry museum not far from our hostel and saw some murals. We learned about the harsh reality of what life was like for people living in Derry in the 60's/70's. It really opened my eyes to what really happened in these times and found it fascinating. We then set off for Antrim. We arrived at the Giant's Causeway after an hour drive on the bus. We got the full experience. We saw the famous basalt interlocking rocks and breathtaking views. We went for a walk and took pictures of the views. After a while we left again for Derry. On the way back to Derry we stopped off at a leisure centre and played games in a sports hall for an hour or two. We had a lot of fun here. We went bowling later that night in Derry not far from the hostel. We returned to the hostel and chilled out watching a movie and chatting.

On Wednesday, we went to Belfast. In Belfast we got a tour of Belfast city hall, The Titanic museum and we went shopping in the evening in Victoria Square shopping centre. The Titanic is an amazing museum. It definitely met my expectations. The images and stories were breathtaking. It was honestly spectacular. When we came back to the hostel in the evenings, we would all relax and talk to each other. We would watch movies in the common room and have a laugh. Wednesday evening was our last evening, so Mr. Trench took a few of us out for a tour of the famous Derry murals. This was definitely the highlight of the week for me. I thoroughly enjoyed looking at the murals and listening to the history behind them. I learned a lot about the history of Derry that night from Mr. Trench.

On Thursday, we stopped off at Griánan of Aileach, in county Donegal. This is a famous fort dating back to 1700BC. We then reached Drumcliffe County Sligo and saw the grave of the famous poet, W.B Yeats at St. Columbia's church. Our final stop was Knock, County Mayo. There we went into the Basilica and saw the most beautiful architecture there with the outstanding mosaics.

Overall, I can honestly say that the Northern Ireland trip was the best experience of my life. I learnt so much about my classmates and we all became closer throughout the week. We came home from the North with loads of stories and lots of new experiences with each other that we could talk about and tell our friends. The teachers Ms. Lane and Mr. Trench were also incredible and without them we wouldn't have had the opportunity. It's a trip I will never forget.



French Exchange Trip by Rosheen Culhane



On Sunday morning we all woke up bright and early and set off at 6:15 to head to Dublin. We arrived at the airport and had time to eat and shop before our flight to Nantes. When we arrived we still had another 2 hour bus journey before we got to St. Josephs College. When we got to the school we met our correspondents and went straight home with them. My family were lovely to me and I was greeted with a 3 course dinner when I went home with them!

On Monday morning we all went to Rennes by bus. There, we were split into groups and went on a guided tour through the city where we learnt about its history. Then it was time for shopping which was mostly spent trying to find our way around the shops and eating!

Tuesday, we were split into 2 groups and one group visited Bon Repos Abbey and got a guided tour of the Abbey where art exhibits are now held every year. The other group got to visit Le Lac Guerledan and went out to the lake to see a unique view of the surrounding areas and after a nice lunch in the school canteen the groups swapped. That evening we had a soiree in the local hall where we were served crepes and had a disco. It was a really enjoyable and a relaxing evening and everyone talked to each other and we bonded with our French students. My French student was really friendly and luckily we got along really well.

On Wednesday we went to the council of Côte d'Amour and then spent the rest of the day with our families. Mine took me shopping and even bought me a present to bring back home.

Thursday, we spent the morning at a steel factory that was near the school. We observed 2 classes in the school and I was surprised that I was able to understand most of what was said in the class. We went to the sports hall after where we played basketball and learnt some Judo moves and we wasted no time putting our new moves into practice!

On the last day we had hot chocolate and crepes in the school and said goodbye to our correspondents and families before we boarded the bus to the airport. I was sad to leave the family behind because they were so warm and welcoming to me and made me feel comfortable in their home. Our year really bonded throughout the week as we were all put in different situations that helped us bond and talk to people in our year. I really enjoyed the French trip and its one of the highlights of TY for me. In March the French students will return and stay with our families.

