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TY TIMES

The Davitt College Official Transition Year Newspaper



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Drive Time

On 4th March, a brave crew of Transition Year students set off at the crack of dawn for Galway, heading straight into the driver's seat at Pallas Early Learning Driving School. With zero experience but plenty of nerves (and even more confidence), they tackled real cars, a tricky theory test, and the challenge of navigating a busy day on the road to becoming safer, more aware drivers.

From the smooth operators to the stalling specialists, everyone walked away with stories to tell and a fresh respect for what it takes to be behind the wheel. Find out who aced it, who failed miserably, and who just came for the cheeseburgers in our full inside report.

Read the full story on page 7!

SOCIAL INNOVATION TALK

BY MIKHAIL GLADYSHEV

This talk highlighted social issues in today's world, such as racism, sexism, and environmental concerns. It painted a picture of how these issues affect individuals as well as wider society. The format of the talk began with a general explanation of each issue. We were then separated into groups of five and asked to choose one social issue. Afterwards, we came back together as a class to vote on one issue that we would all discuss and recreate using Lego.

The basic overview of each issue was very insightful, and many "surface-level" problems were revealed to have deeper roots than expected. The speaker went into real depth regarding the mental and societal effects of each topic.

Once we returned to our groups, we were asked to depict a scene involving the chosen issue using Lego provided by the speaker. For example, our class chose racism, and we had to construct a scene that conveyed this issue. There was a wide range of scenes created, featuring buses, water fountains, racial boundaries, and dividing walls. The purpose of the exercise was to build a scene and then explain what was happening. The speaker then challenged us with questions such as: How would you resolve this conflict? What would you do if you were in government? What kind of laws could be implemented? And what is the moral solution to the problem? Once we had a clear answer, we were tasked with rebuilding the scene to show the issue resolved.

This talk really challenged our creative thinking and helped raise awareness of social issues in both our society today and throughout history.



TY STAY FIT, FUN, AND FOCUSED!



Our students have been making the most of local facilities to stay active and energised. From striking poses in yoga and making waves at Lough Lannagh Leisure Centre, to sharpening focus and skill at the Castlebar Snooker Centre, it's been a term full of movement, mindfulness, and good craic. Here's to staying fit - body and mind!



From Shops to Showbiz: A TY Day Out

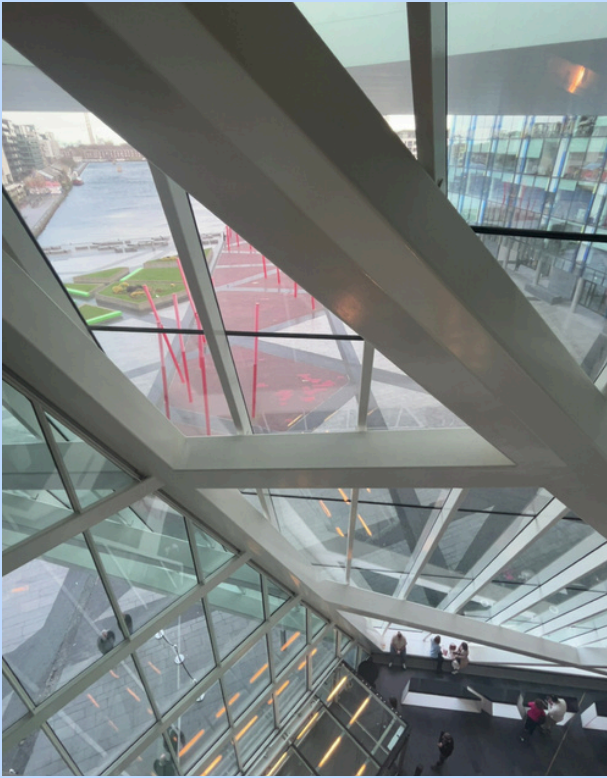
BY SEÁN MORAN

On 26th of February, we set off from Davitt College bright and early at 8 a.m. for an exciting trip to Dublin. Everyone was buzzing with chatter and laughter, eager for the day ahead. There's something special about school trips – maybe it's the break from routine or the chance to hang out with friends – but the mood was definitely upbeat. We were headed to two places: Liffey Valley Shopping Centre and the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, where we would be watching a modern musical performance of Romeo and Juliet called '*& Juliet*'. The journey itself, filled with anticipation, took a few hours – but with excitement building, time passed quickly.



Our first stop was Liffey Valley Shopping Centre, which we reached around 11 a.m. As we pulled into the car park, everyone piled off the buses and got ready to shop. Liffey Valley is one of Dublin's most popular shopping centres, with a huge variety of stores and food outlets. We were given an hour and a half to explore.

Groups scattered in all directions – some headed straight for their favourite fashion brands, others to tech shops or the food court. There was something for everyone. It was a great chance to stretch our legs, enjoy a bit of shopping, have some craic, and take in the lively atmosphere.



Before we knew it, it was time to regroup and hop back on the bus for the next leg of our journey: into the city centre. The Bord Gáis Energy Theatre, located in Dublin's Grand Canal Dock area, is a well-known venue – and we were all looking forward to seeing *& Juliet*, a hugely popular musical that's gained a lot of attention in recent years. The journey from Liffey Valley to the theatre didn't take long, and soon enough, we had scanned our tickets and entered the building.

The excitement inside the Bord Gáis was building. For some of us, it was our first time there; for others, a familiar setting. *& Juliet* is a modern reimagining of Shakespeare's classic love story – but with a twist: what if Juliet had chosen a different path? The show featured upbeat pop music, vibrant costumes, slick choreography, and a storyline that was both emotional and empowering. The performance kept us hooked from start to finish, with plenty of laughs, surprises, and heartfelt moments. It was clear that a lot of thought, effort and creativity had gone into every detail.

After the performance, the atmosphere was electric. From what I heard, most people found it thoroughly enjoyable and thought it was very well put together. It was the kind of show you won't easily forget.

As the sun began to set and the day wound down, we headed back west to Mayo. Along the way, we made a much-appreciated stop at Supermac's. After a day of shopping and a full-on musical, everyone was more than ready for some good food. The break gave us a chance to relax and chat more about the day.

By the time we returned to Castlebar, it was already dark. The bus was noticeably quieter – most were worn out.

Looking back, the trip was a brilliant experience. From the buzz of the shopping centre to the hustle and bustle of the Bord Gáis, every part of the day brought something different. It wasn't just a break from school – it was a chance to try something new and create memories.

Overall, the trip was a definite success. Whether it was the shopping, the show, or just spending time together, everyone seemed to take something positive from the day. Hopefully, there'll be more school outings like this in the future.

DRIVE TIME

BY CONOR FLEMING & JOSHUA GIBBONS

In early March, the TY students went on an excursion to the southeast of Galway for driving practice with Pallas Early Learning Driving School. The bus left at 7:10 a.m., and we had a 1.5-hour journey ahead of us.

When we arrived at Pallas, we were given a brief presentation on the dangers of driving and how to stay safe behind the wheel. After the talk, we had the chance to drive the vehicles. I (Conor) drove an Opel Corsa and, if I do say so myself, I was class at driving – didn't stall once!

Next, we split into small groups to take a theory test. I didn't do too well and, unfortunately, failed.

Afterwards, we tried on "drunk goggles" – special glasses that simulate the effects of alcohol on your vision and coordination. While wearing them, we had to do tasks like walking around obstacles and putting shapes into a box. It was surprisingly difficult and a real eye-opener about the dangers of drink-driving.

To wrap up the day, we stopped off at Supermac's in Tuam to relax for a bit. We had about ten minutes to chill out. I had a cheeseburger, and Joshua had a pizza. It was yummy.

Pallas Early Learning Driving School, located near Loughrea in County Galway, is a great place for young drivers to get hands-on experience and learn about road safety in a safe, controlled environment.

Here's a picture of the best driver (obviously, it's me!):



PALLAS DRIVING SCHOOL





HAIR TODAY, SKILLS TOMORROW: TYS TRY HAIRDRESSING

By Radoslaw Zlotek

On Monday 31st March and Tuesday 1st April, Ann from Routine Hair visited Davitt College to teach Transition Year students the ropes of hairdressing – and who knew it would be so challenging, yet so much fun?

The workshop took place in the school library, where all of TY got hands-on experience practising different braiding techniques on mannequin heads. They tested their plaiting skills with styles such as the Celtic Braid, Fishtail, French Braid, and the Crown Upstyle. As well as learning how to style hair, students also picked up essential tips on proper hair care, including how to use conditioner correctly, the healthiest drying methods, and how to build a suitable haircare routine.

The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. A few shared their thoughts:

- Joshua Gibbons: “It was a fun and challenging experience; I really enjoyed it.”
- Ava Duffy: “It was funny to see all the boys struggling – some of the girls too!”
- Conor Fleming: “I really liked it; it was something new and unexpectedly fun.”

The TY hairdressing workshop was a great way to learn new skills, step outside comfort zones, and have a laugh along the way.

HAIRDRESSING



CURL POWER: TYS GET HANDS-ON WITH HAIR

By Clodagh Timlin & Aoife McKeown

We had a hairdressing workshop in our library on 31st March and 1st April. We were each given a head mannequin and a brush. The first part focused on hair health—how to maintain it, which shampoos suit different hair types, and how to protect your hair from heat. It was interesting to learn about thin and thick hair, and which products to use in different situations, such as heat protection or styling. We also learned about high-quality products that benefit your hair in the long term. Some videos showed us how excessive heat—like from curling—can burn hair completely.

The second part of the workshop involved learning how to plait. We practised French plaits, Dutch braids, and even a simple updo suitable for special occasions. Our instructor was very helpful and patient with everyone's pace, explaining each step clearly with visual demos. It was surprisingly easy once we got the hang of it!

We really enjoyed the workshop and agreed that it was—and will be—very useful!





A TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE

By Anastasija Urbanaviciute and Nicola Janda

On 11th March 2025, TY students and teachers from Davitt College set off bright and early on a bus bound for ATU Sligo, for an information-filled day alongside students from other schools around Ireland. The journey took just under two hours, and upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed into the building for an introductory speech from one of the lecturers.

He gave us a warm greeting and an overview of student life at ATU, outlining how the college operates and what students can expect. After the talk, we moved to the main lobby, where we were divided into groups based on the subjects we had chosen to explore. We were then led to various classrooms for taster sessions.

Subjects ranged from practical courses like Engineering to more theory-based areas such as Business and Finance. Each class lasted an hour, with lecturers providing demonstrations and explanations of how the material applies to real-world industries and careers.

After the first session, we returned to the main hall to be sorted into our second chosen subject, which also lasted an hour. Once the second class was completed, we headed to the college's large canteen for lunch. It offered a spacious seating area, fresh food for purchase, and even a small shop. It was just one of several canteens on campus, providing students with places to relax, whether in groups or on their own.

Following lunch, we were taken on a short campus tour lasting around 30 minutes, which gave us a look at different parts of the college, including various classroom buildings and the well-known sports field.

At the end of the tour, we boarded the bus for the return journey to Castlebar. The visit provided a valuable insight into college life and highlighted the kind of practical, engaging experiences students can expect at a close-knit campus like ATU Sligo.

ATU SLIGO



FEEL THE BEAT: TYS TAKE ON AFRICAN DRUMMING

BY MAYA FAHEY AND KAMILA ZILINSKAITE

On 26th March, Davitt College hosted an energetic and engaging drumming workshop that struck a chord with TY students. The session aimed to introduce students to the vibrant traditions of African drumming while giving them the chance to develop their musical skills in a fun, hands-on way.

Led by the charismatic Anthony McNamee, the workshop was anything but ordinary. Anthony's lively teaching style kept everyone engaged – referring to us as 'Brothers, Sisters and Homies' added plenty of laughs and made the atmosphere relaxed and welcoming.



We kicked things off with a warm-up using body percussion – clapping our hands, clicking our fingers, and getting into the groove. Then we learned how to hold the drums correctly and the different ways to play them. One creative activity involved making soundscapes of natural elements like wind, rain, and thunder using only percussion.

As the session progressed, Anthony introduced a variety of other instruments, including tambourines, maracas, woodblocks, and agogo bells. We were encouraged to try them out and blend their sounds with the drumming to create layered, energetic rhythms.

To wrap up, everyone got a chance to play their own individual rhythm and then team up with the person beside them to create a rhythm together. It was a fantastic way to end the session – with the whole room pulsing to the beat of our own music.

The workshop was a hit among the TY students, who thoroughly enjoyed the mix of culture, creativity, and craic. A great time was had by all!





GOAL IN ACTION: JOHN O'SHEA'S VISIT LEAVES LASTING IMPACT

BY SEÁN MORAN

John O'Shea, founder of the charity GOAL, visited Davitt College and delivered an inspiring talk about his life and work – from his time in Ireland to his experiences in Africa helping the less fortunate, and even the occasions he was imprisoned for standing up for what he believed in. He spoke about his travels to war zones, disaster areas, and poverty-stricken communities, where he witnessed the harsh realities people face every day. What made his talk so impactful was the way he connected his stories to real emotions – loss, hope, and the importance of compassion.



how it started small, and how it grew into a global humanitarian organisation. John emphasised the importance of helping others, standing up for what's right, and using our voices to make a difference.

Many students were deeply moved by his stories, especially when he spoke about – and showed pictures of – the children he met who had so little but still managed to smile and stay hopeful. His words encouraged us to appreciate what we have and reflect on how we can help those in need.



DAMIEN DEMPSEY INSPIRES DAVITT COLLEGE TY STUDENTS WITH MUSIC AND STORYTELLING

Talented Irish musician Damien Dempsey met with a group of Davitt College TY students and their teachers, Mr Paul Ryan, Ms Veronica Morley, and Ms Anne Patten, for a special discussion and Q&A session about his music before his performance at the TF Royal. This was a great experience for all involved, and the school looks forward to collaborating with Damien again on a new project exploring community connection, the catharsis of music, and the power of live performance and storytelling.





TY STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON WITH LIFE-SAVING FIRST AID

by Aaron Cafferkey

In January, all TY students took part in a First Aid workshop led by Claire O'Malley, held in the school library. Claire taught us simple but vital life-saving skills, giving us the knowledge and confidence to respond in emergency situations.

We learned how to tie a sling for an injured or bleeding arm, how to perform CPR, and how to use a defibrillator correctly on adults, children, and babies. Before the workshop, I wouldn't have known where to begin with CPR or using a defibrillator — but now, I feel far more prepared.

We were also shown how to preserve a severed finger and prevent it from deteriorating before getting to the hospital, as well as techniques for stopping heavy bleeding. Claire taught us how to recognise the signs of choking and how to clear a person's airway safely.

One especially valuable part of the session was learning how to carry out a quick ten-second inspection on an unconscious person — checking for bleeding, breathing, a pulse, and any fluid coming from the ears. We learned how critical those ten seconds are in deciding the correct action to take, whether it's putting someone into the recovery position or starting CPR.

Overall, the workshop was an excellent and highly beneficial experience for all TY students. The skills we learned could genuinely save lives, and everyone who took part left with more confidence and awareness.

Peer 4 Peer

BY AOIFE WALKIN & VICTORIA CONNOLLY

Peer 4 Peer is part of the Confirmation preparation programme, designed to help students navigate challenges, decisions, and concerns as they enter their teenage years. The aim was to develop skills to handle these challenges maturely. We guided students in exploring how the gifts of the Holy Spirit can support them as they grow.

During the four sessions, we discussed effective communication and how to interact positively with others. We also explored decision-making, such as choosing a secondary school or selecting a Confirmation name. Peer pressure, particularly regarding alcohol, was another key focus. We examined how individuals can be influenced by peers and the harmful effects of alcohol on the body.

In our final session, we talked about making good decisions regarding smoking and vaping, discussing their short- and long-term effects on health.

To prepare for the Peer 4 Peer programme, we met twice with Mary and Yvonne, along with students from St Joseph's and St Gerald's. We also dedicated an hour or two each week to prepare. When we visited the schools, we introduced ourselves to the teachers and students, getting to know them through ice-breaker activities. Each session lasted about an hour, and some groups had to walk to their assigned schools, while others took the bus.

Four groups from Davitt College were split to visit different schools:

- Group 1: Kate, Divine, and Clodagh went to Castlebar Primary School.
- Group 2: Aoife, Ronan, Ciara, and Mark also went to Castlebar Primary School.
- Group 3: Grace and Anna went to Errew.
- Group 4: Victoria, Matthew, and Niamh went to Ballyheane.

The Peer 4 Peer programme was a great opportunity to build communication and leadership skills while making a positive impact on younger students preparing for Confirmation.

TONY O'REILLY: A STORY OF GAMBLING ADDICTION

by Noah McNamara & Cameron King

On the 6th of March, all Transition Year students were taken out of class for the first two periods to meet Tony O'Reilly, a former gambler who shared his life story and the dangers of gambling.

Tony began by explaining the obvious risks of gambling and how to avoid it. He then delved into his personal journey, starting as a Post Office clerk managing the safe. His gambling addiction began in 1998 when he placed a bet on the World Cup match between the Netherlands and Argentina. What started as a small bet soon spiralled into a dangerous addiction.

Initially, Tony enjoyed a winning streak, which encouraged him to open an online betting account. He started with small bets, ranging from €1 to €20, but eventually, his bets grew larger as he chased the high of winning. As his addiction deepened, his losses mounted, and he began racking up debt, convinced that gambling was the only way to recover the money he had lost.

During this time, Tony got engaged to his wife and married in Cyprus. He paid €4,000

upfront and €10,000 in advance, despite not having the money. Fearing that he would be trapped in Cyprus and unable to pay, Tony stayed up all night gambling on his PaddyPower account, hoping to recover the money. In a last-ditch effort, he placed one final bet on a horse race and, fortunately, won. This victory allowed him to pay for his wedding and stay afloat a little longer, keeping his secret from his family.

However, Tony's gambling continued to spiral. Desperate to cover his mounting debt, he began stealing money from the post office where he worked. For a time, he was able to take hundreds of euros without anyone noticing. But eventually, the bank creditors were due to come in and check the bank balance, and Tony knew the inevitable consequences if they discovered the stolen funds.

When the creditors arrived, Tony was prepared to be caught. Miraculously, they didn't check the store's balance, giving him a temporary reprieve. On a second visit, Tony manipulated the records to hide the missing





money. A third visit was delayed due to a snowstorm, buying him more time. However, on the fourth visit, there was no escape. Realising he couldn't hide any longer, Tony fled to Belfast, continuing to gamble in secret.

Eventually, Tony decided to place one final bet before ending his life. Luckily, the Gardaí were called for a welfare check and arrested him before he could go through with his plan.

Tony served four years in prison, with one year suspended. During his time in prison, he reformed himself and began sharing his story in schools to warn others about the dangers of gambling. Unfortunately, his marriage didn't survive this period, but Tony has since moved on.

Tony O'Reilly's story is a powerful reminder of the destructive nature of gambling and the devastating impact it can have on one's life.



Girls Just Want To Have STEM!!

BY OLIWIA LOSIAK & RUTHIE HARRIGAN

Day 1

The girls of Davitt College participated in a STEM workshop on Thursday, 20th March. This workshop offered them the opportunity to earn a STEM passport, granting them a level 6 qualification. It could also contribute an extra 50-60 points for the Leaving Cert. The aim of the workshop was to educate and inspire more girls to pursue STEM careers, helping to increase the number of women working in the STEM field in the future.

A lecturer from Mayo ATU visited the TY students to discuss women in STEM. He made the session engaging and fun. We began the day by learning about what STEM is and how it can shape our future.



During the day, the lecturer focused on computer science and coding. He introduced us to micro:bits and brought some along for us to experiment with. We programmed them to count with motion, play music using light sensitivity, and even play rock-paper-scissors. We also had the chance to join a video call with a woman working in STEM. She was friendly and shared insights about her major and her job. We played some icebreakers, and she got to know us and our goals. We're looking forward to more workshops, learning about STEM, and taking steps toward our future careers.

Day 2

Day 2 took place on Thursday, 3rd April. We started the day with the same lecturer, who outlined the schedule for the session. For this day, we would be coding in Python, the programming language used to create social media apps like TikTok and Snapchat. We spent the first part of the day experimenting with Python on the computers, following the lecturer's instructions to learn the basics of the program. Thankfully, each of us had our own laptop, allowing us to work independently.

Afterward, we had an extended break from 12:15 to around 1pm. When we returned, we had a video call with our mentors. During the call, we did some icebreakers and discussed AI and robots. We then created our own robot using Microsoft AI, designing it to look however we wanted. Afterward, we asked the AI questions using Copilot.

Following the mentor call, we stepped outside to enjoy a few minutes of fresh air as the weather was lovely. We then learned about the dangers of Deepfake technology, which uses AI to create fake videos or photos. Since these deepfakes can appear so realistic, they can be damaging to people's reputations and lives. To wrap up the day, we worked in groups of two or three to create a poster about one of the 17 global sustainable development goals. With only 20-30 minutes to complete this task, it was quite stressful, but we managed to pull it together.





Day 3

On Day 3, the TY girls of Davitt College took part in the final day of their STEM workshop at ATU. We began with a briefing from our lecturer, who explained the day's plan and how we would complete our final project. We were split into groups of four to five and tasked with developing a project based on a poster we all agreed on. From there, we identified a related problem, designed and programmed a solution, and created an app to support the programme.

After a few hours of focused work, we took a break before joining our final video call with our mentor. She encouraged us to think about our goals for the future and to write messages to our future selves. We also discussed what makes a good leader, the meaning of allyship, and how these values can benefit us both in school and in life beyond it.

Following the call, we returned to our projects and completed a written reflection explaining how we came up with our ideas and why we believe our solutions address real-world issues, either now or in the future.

The day concluded with each group turning their project into a presentation and sharing it with everyone. This was a highlight - it was great to see everyone's ideas and how well all the groups had worked together.

Finally, we submitted our completed group document. Apart from tweaking the conclusion, everything was ready to go.

At the end of the workshop, each of us will receive a STEM Passport - a fantastic addition to any CV.



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh

Atlantic
Technological
University

TY Support Junior Infants' Irish Reading at Gaelscoil Raifteirí

BY AVA DUFFY & TARA KELLY

The Transition Year students at Davitt College have been busy lending a helping hand – and an eager ear – to the junior infants at Gaelscoil Raifteirí, just across the street. Each Tuesday morning at 9.55, a small group of TYs gather in the canteen before making the short journey to the Gaelscoil, ready to dive into the world of reading as Gaeilge.

Their mission? To support the youngest pupils in learning to read in Irish – but they've gotten far more than they bargained for. Using short, colourful books provided by the school, TYs pair up with junior infants to practise phonics, pronunciation and vocabulary. And while some children are incredibly enthusiastic – with a few racing through six or seven books in one session – others are more interested in storytelling of a different kind...

One TY reported that her reading buddy was more than happy to dish out playground gossip instead of sounding out syllables. "Apparently," she whispered, "her friend only thinks they're friends... she's just pretending. Absolute scandal." Let's just say Peig has nothing on the drama in junior infants.

Over the past few weeks, both the children and the TYs have shown brilliant progress. The infants are gaining confidence in their reading, and TY students have improved their own Irish vocabulary and comprehension. It's been a two-way learning street – literally and figuratively.

The staff at Gaelscoil Raifteirí have been hugely welcoming and supportive, guiding TY students where needed and ensuring the sessions run smoothly. The partnership between the schools has created a positive and productive environment for everyone involved.

It's safe to say this reading project has been a hit. TYs have enjoyed stepping into a mentoring role, and the junior infants have loved the individual attention – and the chance to make a few new big friends from across the road. Between the books, the bonding, and the bits of gossip, it's been an experience none of the students will forget anytime soon.



Road to Awareness

BY OISIN BUTLER

On 2nd April, the TYs of Davitt College and many other schools attended the TF Royal Theatre for a show and talk about road safety. The event featured several speakers who shared powerful stories. They told the story of a boy named Seán and a girl named Sinéad, and showed photos of injuries from car crashes. A father of a crash victim also shared her story and the effects of reckless driving.

We waited around two hours for the event to begin. When it started, the presenter gave us a short overview, followed by the Minister for Road Safety, who welcomed us before handing back to the narrator.

The first speaker was a young lad called Seán. He told us how he got a brand-new car and couldn't wait to take his girlfriend, Sinéad, out in it. A video showed him speeding before crashing into a tree—trapping himself, throwing Sinéad from the car, and tragically killing her.

Then came speakers from the Gardaí, firefighters and paramedics, each describing their roles in the rescue. The Gardaí arrived first and gave first aid. The firefighters assessed and extracted Seán. The paramedics rushed him to hospital.

After that, a nurse from Mayo University Hospital showed photos of crash injuries - facial lacerations, brain trauma, and a severe leg injury. A young woman who survived a crash also spoke. She was left with terrible scars and told she might never walk again, but she made a miraculous recovery. Finally, a man who had lost his daughter in a crash told his story. He spoke of the pain his family still feels 20 years on. He described telling his sons they'd never see their sister again. His message was clear: be safe on the road - the pain caused by reckless driving lasts forever.



AXA Road Safety Show Promotes Safer Roads for All TY Students in Castlebar

BY NIKOLOZI KHARAISSHVILI

An emotional and powerful road safety show took place at the TF Royal Hotel & Theatre in Castlebar, delivering a sobering message about the harsh realities of road traffic accidents to hundreds of young people. Organised with Mayo County Council, An Garda Síochána, emergency services and local schools, the event brought together Transition Year students from across the county. It aimed to raise awareness about the devastating consequences of reckless driving, speeding, distraction, and driving under the influence.

The presentation featured multimedia, live reenactments, and personal testimonials from first responders, crash survivors, and families who've lost loved ones. The show's intensity left many audience members visibly moved, with several students and teachers calling it "life-changing". Inspector Declan Casey of An Garda Síochána addressed students directly, stressing the importance of responsible choices: "Every time you get behind the wheel or into a car, you're making a decision that could change your life – or someone else's – forever. We don't want to scare you. We want you to be aware and make smart, safe decisions."

Mayo County Council's Road Safety Officer, Noel Gibbons – who helped coordinate the event – said, "We hope that by bringing these stories to life so vividly, we can influence young drivers' attitudes and behaviours before tragedy strikes. The goal is prevention – to save lives before lives are lost." The event ended with a moment of silence to honour road accident victims, followed by a call to action encouraging students to think twice about their choices.

With over 300 students in attendance, the Castlebar road safety show is already being hailed as one of Mayo's most impactful youth safety events this year.

Mayo.ie Western People Women's Mini Marathon



BY CIARA PHILBIN & KYLA MCDONAGH

This year's 10km Mini-Marathon will take place in Castlebar on Sunday, 4th May. The 2025 course will start and finish in the Mall. Runners, joggers, and walkers are all invited to take part.

The Mini-Marathon was hosted in Ballina for the past two years; however, it is set to return to Castlebar this May for its 16th event.

Last February, the launch of the Mini-Marathon was hosted in Davitt College. TY and 5th Year girls were invited to attend the launch. This year, the run is aimed at teenagers, encouraging them to participate by running, jogging, or walking the event. During the launch, various sportspeople and organisers spoke with us about what the event involves.

Making a training plan for this run/walk is important to prevent injury and be fully prepared for the course. It's also just as important to fuel properly by eating healthy foods in the weeks leading up to the event.

While the Mini-Marathon is mostly an individual challenge, training with other girls can help build strong friendships and offer the chance to meet new people. You can register for the race on the Women's Mini-Marathon website.

Registration costs just €10 for girls aged 12-17.

Mayo.ie
Western People
Women's
Mini Marathon

Castlebar
Sunday 4th May 2025
@ 12 Noon

REGISTER AT
westofirelandwomensminimarathon.com

T-SHIRT FOR
FIRST 1900
REGISTERED



Western People



Mayo Sports Partnership



TY IN THE COMMUNITY



TY students shine at Catholic Schools Week 2025



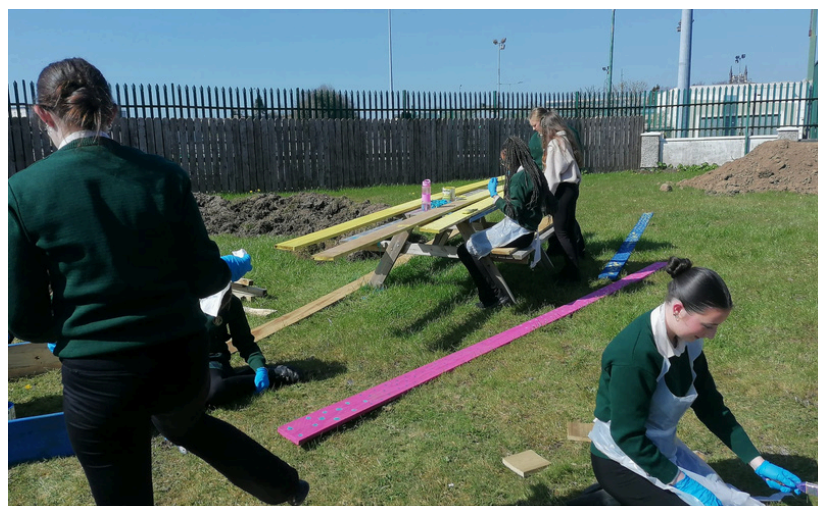
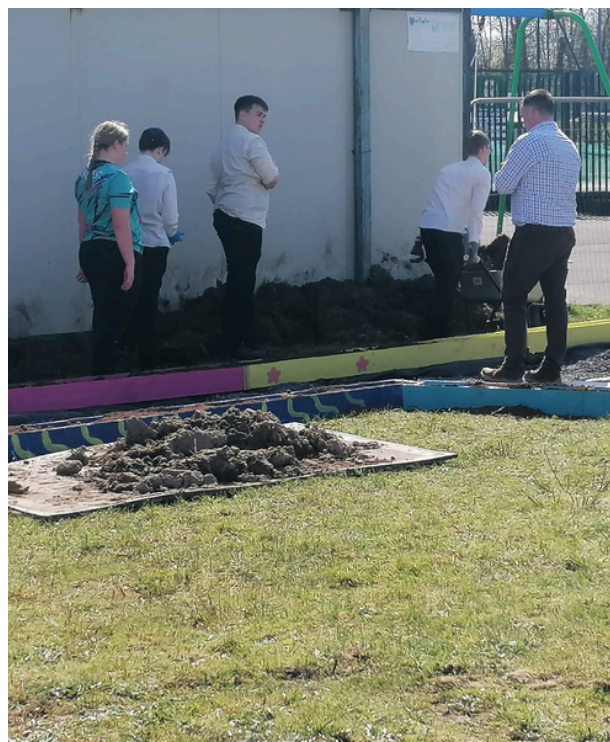
TY compete in Cross-Country



TY participate in Service of Remembrance

ST. BRID'S SENSORY GARDEN PROJECT

Led by Ms O'Connor, assisted by Mr Murphy, and Transition Year 4C



TY TAKE ON THE GREENWAY



FAI SCHOOLS PRIMARY 5S



Transition Year students from Davitt College were delighted to support the FAI Schools Primary 5s West and South Mayo Regional Qualifiers, an initiative that saw over 750 primary students take part. TYs assisted with the smooth running of the event, helping to create a fun and inclusive football experience. Well done to all involved!



GAA COACHING

Well done to TY students Ethan Clarke, Sarah Fox and Grace Coyne who have been busy GAA coaching in primary schools around Ballintubber, sharing their skills and inspiring younger players in their local community.



CUAN CHAITRIONA



Some of our Transition Year students had the pleasure of visiting Cuan Chaitríona Nursing Home. They entertained residents with traditional Irish music, presented handmade St Patrick's Day cards, and shared delicious buns baked in Home Economics. Pictured is our former student, Laura Foy, accepting the cards on behalf of the residents.



CUAN CHAITRIONA





DAVITT GIRLS JUNIOR GAA DIARY

by Grace Carroll

To reach the exciting Connacht final, the girls had to overcome four different schools. Our first match was against Balla, which ended in a hard-fought draw. We followed that with a convincing win over Claremorris, another strong performance against St Joseph's Foxford, and finally a victory against Abbey Boyle, securing our place in the final.

The final took place in Began on 26th February. We had a slow start, going six points down in the opening minutes, but the girls never gave up and kept pushing until the end. It took Davitt a while to settle into the game, but we began to close the gap with some well-earned points.

After half-time, the match tightened further. Ellen Joyce slotted over several frees, with additional scores from Clíodhna Dowling, Grace Carroll, and Beth Murrihy. When Beth was fouled in the box, Grace stepped up to bury the penalty, and Niamh Moran added another point to keep our momentum going.

St Cuans, however, continued to press and extended their lead with more goals. Davitt kept battling, but Cuans' strong defence made it difficult to break through. Despite a determined effort, the game ended with a three-goal defeat. A valiant team performance from start to finish.

Final score: Davitt College 3-7, St Cuans 6-7.

DAVITT COLLEGE SENIOR GIRLS GAA TEAM

CONGRATULATIONS



DAVITT GIRLS SENIOR GAA DIARY

by Cliodhna Dowling

Davitt College faced Coola Community School in the Connacht Final on Thursday, 27th February at Swinford Amenity Park, following a dominant 7-12 to 0-7 win over An Ceathrú Rua (Carraroe, Co. Galway) on 21st January.

At half-time, the sides were level – Coola on 1-6 and Davitt on 2-3. Davitt's goals came from Eimear O'Donnell and Ava Flynn, while points were added by Katie Heaney, Hannah Hauttmann, and Alannah Keaveney. Coola's scorers included Orlaith Scanlon, Gráinne Smith, Ciara Gilligan, Áine Moyston, and Leanne Galvin, who also scored their first-half goal.

The second half started with an early goal for Coola, but Davitt fought back. Points from the brilliant midfielder Hannah Hauttmann and top-class full forward Eimear O'Donnell kept us in contention. Eimear's second goal came in the 48th minute, putting us ahead 3-5 to 2-7.

It was an unlucky day for Helen Murrihy, who had both a goal and a point disallowed – decisions that left not only the team and supporters but even the umpire in disbelief.

Coola edged ahead by a point in the final six minutes, aided by a significant number of frees awarded by the referee. But a superb move saw Helen Murrihy find the back of the net just two minutes later. With Davitt in front, it looked like the game was ours, but a powerful save by Maeve Kelly from Leah Harte's shot fell kindly to Gráinne Smith, who levelled the match.

The winning point came from a free taken by Aoibhín Doherty – a controversial decision, as the foul appeared to result from two Coola players colliding with each other.

The final whistle blew shortly after, crowning Coola Community School the victors in a tight and dramatic encounter.

Final score: Coola 3-10, Davitt 4-6.

			1 Maeve Kelly	
2 Aine FitzGerald	3 Aoibheann O' Donnell	4 Katelyn Morahan		
5 Aoife Gannon	6 Eabha Donnelly	7 Alannah Keaveney		
8 Beth Roache	9 Hannah Hautmann			
10 Cliodhna Dowling	11 Eimear O' Donnell <i>Captain</i>	12 Ava Flynn		
13 Katie Heaney	14 Helen Murrihy	15 Saoirse Mahon		
17 Treasa Conway	24 Michalina Cichopek	Bainisteoirí: Aidan Brogan Meantóir: Sile Hughes Physio: Sinead Flynn		
18 Michaela Keaveney	25 Niamh Bennett			
19 Juliet Molloy				
20 Tara Coen				
21 Grace Carroll				
22 Hollie Clarke				
23 Ellen Joyce				



Cumann Peil Gael Connacht na mB

CONNACHT LGFA

LIDL SNR D CUP FINAL.

Thursday 27th February

11.00am Swinford Amenity Park, Co. Mayo.

Davitt College
Castlebar Co. Mayo

v

Coola Post Primary School
Co. Sligo

Referee: Turlough Bruen,
Roscommon.

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A Season to Remember: Senior Boys Reach Connacht Final

Our senior boys enjoyed one of their most successful seasons in years, reaching the Connacht Final for the first time since 2013. On the panel were a number of Transition Year students, including Ronan Loftus, Brian McDonnell, Joshua Gibbons, Keelan O'Neill, Ethan Clarke, Michael McTigue, and Padraig McKeown

The journey began in the Dome with a five-point win over St Pat's Lacken Cross in the Mayo Flanagan Cup on 12th September. Our first years also secured a win that day. A dominant 4-15 to 1-9 victory over St Brendan's Belmullet followed, and although we lost our third game in Foxford, we still topped the group.

In Connacht action, we fell to Swinford before bouncing back with a strong win over Achill. We then faced Roscommon Community College in the Dome before Christmas to prepare for the knockout stages. Both boys' and girls' teams trained during the holidays—testament to their dedication.

On 21st January, we beat Coláiste an Eachréidh in the quarter-final at the Centre of Excellence, then followed up with a fantastic 2-12 to 0-13 semi-final win over Lough Allen in Brickens on 5th February.

The Connacht Final was a proud moment for Davitt College, even though a brave performance ended in defeat to a powerful Swinford side.

Huge credit to Mr Seán Larkin, Mr Brian Murphy, and Mr Colm Garvey for leading the squad, with great support from TY students in various roles. Special thanks to Dillon Engineering Services for their generous sponsorship. Across 9 games, over 20 training sessions, and contributions from nearly 40 players, our senior boys showed real grit, pride, and progress.

DC VISIT CASTLEBAR TENNIS CLUB





An Easter Message

by Ruthie Harrigan

The Easter break has finally come,
No school bells, just pure fun.
The sun is out, a golden gleam,
Making memories, it would seem.

But in Ireland, we all know,
The weather's mood begin to show.
One moment bright, the next a haze,
Praying for sun's enduring days.

So let the joy of Easter bloom,
Chasing away all winter's gloom.
With chocolate eggs and skies so blue,
Hoping the Irish weather pulls through!



Happy Easter

THANK YOU FOR READING

