



TY TIMES

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The Davitt College official Transition Year newsletter



Junior Cert Results

BY CERY'S O'MALLEY & SOPHIE EARLEY

On Wednesday 18th October 2023 we finally received our Junior Cycle exam results after five long months of waiting. The anticipation had been building throughout the entire day and we were extremely nervous as 3pm edged closer and closer. For the few weeks previous, we were nervous and excited for the day to finally arrive. We were told we had to wait until 3pm before we would get our results because specific teachers had to collect them from the Garda station ...
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Exploring Achill Island

BY LEAH GALLAGHER



Trips with our TY class can be unforgettable experiences, full of learning opportunities and bonding with classmates. One such trip that left a lasting impression on me was our journey to Achill Island, located off the rugged west coast of Ireland. From incredible landscapes to new experiences, this excursion was an adventure that I will cherish forever.

Achill Island is the largest of Ireland's islands and is known for its natural beauty, diverse landscapes, and vibrant history. As we arrived on the island, we were welcomed by the breath-taking views of the Atlantic Ocean stretching as far as the eye could see. The island's rugged coastline, dramatic cliffs, and pristine beaches instantly captivated our group.

Achill Island is home to some beautiful pristine beaches, and we made the most of them. We spent our morning paddle-boarding in the bay and swimming in the crystal-clear waters. We also tried our hand at surfing, an exhilarating experience that left us all with a sense of accomplishment.

Back on land we enjoyed an afternoon that kicked off with an archery session that demanded precision and focus. Archery, an ancient skill, challenged participants to hone their concentration and patience.

Under the guidance of experienced instructors, they learned the art of wielding a bow and arrow. As they aimed for the bullseye, they quickly realised the importance of teamwork and communication in mastering this skill. Laughter and friendly competition filled the air, as they cheered each other on to hit the target.

Wall climbing was the next adventure on the itinerary. Achill Island offered a range of climbing opportunities, from beginner-friendly walls to more advanced challenges. Participants conquered their fears as they scaled the cliffs, relying on trust and encouragement from their colleagues below. The feeling of accomplishment at the summit was undeniable, strengthening their belief in their ability to overcome obstacles together.

The heart of the team-building experience was the series of interactive exercises that emphasised trust, collaboration, and effective communication. Participants were divided into smaller teams, each facing unique challenges that tested their problem-solving skills. From navigating obstacle courses to building structures with limited resources, these exercises encouraged out-of-the-box thinking and highlighted the power of working together. But soon our trip came to an end, and we boarded the bus, and set off home.





PLOUGHING THROUGH THE RAIN

by Emily Prendergast

At 6am on Tuesday the 19th of September, the TY class of 2024 were gathered in Lidl car park awaiting their bus. After 40 minutes of fighting for a place under Antonio Koren's umbrella the first bus arrived. Everyone flooded towards the door however, it was only going to be able to take half of us to Laois. So, after much decision-making as to who was going on which bus, bus number 1 set off.

As we were driving along, our driver noticed that his demister was broken and had to pull over every few minutes to wipe the windscreen. As this was happening on bus 1, passengers of bus 2 were still in Lidl car park. They eventually set off, just as bus 1 were told we would be stopping to switch buses.

Bus 2 was on the road! Bus 1 was outside a Spar in Charlestown.

Whatever hopes we had of getting back on the road soon were crushed when we heard our driver ordering a fry-up. We then realised that we might as well make the most of our time stranded, so we played the Mamma Mia soundtrack and started dancing. By the time our bus actually arrived, we didn't even want to leave. Regardless we got on and set off once more!

The journey was certainly memorable. Music blaring, searching for misplaced phones, and figuring out which stands we were going to go to first. We arrived at 12:00pm and began crossing the fields. When we finally reached check-in, we were met with thousands of people guessing how many packets of O'Donnell's crisps were inside a tractor, taking pictures with influencers and lining up for hours for cookies.

We grabbed our maps and joined the herd. Off to get Aldi hats, jerseys and some with the goal of petting a sheep. We went to demonstrations, bought jerseys, held firearms, met influencers and some of us even did interviews on the radio.

All in all it's a day we would do over 10 times.



Student Enterprise PROGRAMME

Could you be Ireland's Next Great Entrepreneur?



BOOMING BUSINESS

by Cian Nolan, Nathan Chambers, Owen Kelly & Marc Garanto

On the 12th of October, a crucial business talk took place with Pearce Flannery, the renowned entrepreneur and industry expert. This business workshop was in conjunction with the Student Enterprise Programme, ran by the Local Enterprise Office (LEO). The meeting was held in the Davitt College Canteen, where students gathered to discuss strategic initiatives and collaborative opportunities. Mr. Flannery delivered a captivating presentation, sharing his insights on market trends, innovation, and the evolving business landscape, in addition to achieving company profits, and identifying opportunities in a highly competitive market. The dialogue was marked by a spirit of innovation and a commitment to driving positive change within the industry. The event concluded with a renewed sense of enthusiasm and a clear roadmap for future endeavours, underlining the importance of such high-level discussions in shaping the development of our student enterprises.



“Success in business is not about the destination; it’s about the journey, the challenges, and the unwavering determination to keep moving forward” - the words of student Marc Garanto from Davitt College.

The TY Musical Diaries

BY ELLA GARVEY, CIARA LOFTUS, PETR SAMKO, MAR DEUDERO AND
ALISHA GIBBONS

The Auditions - Alisha Gibbons

The audition process was an experience in itself. All students at the end of 3rd year were asked to sing for their audition for the musical. Then, at the start of TY there was a call back list to show who had made it for further auditions. A lot of people re-auditioned for singing auditions as they weren't happy that they didn't make call-backs. We also had acting auditions which were held by Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Mac Donnacha, Mrs Kennedy and Ms Kearns. We were all taken out in groups of about 6 or 7 and we were asked to act out the script from Mamma Mia. Our choreographer, Ms. Cora Duffy, held dance auditions for dance captains (expert dancers who encourage other dancers and teach various moves to other students). Overall, the audition process was very different from what I thought it would have been, but it was a very enjoyable experience.



The TY Musical Diaries

BY ELLA GARVEY, CIARA LOFTUS, PETR SAMKO, MAR DEUDERO AND
ALISHA GIBBONS

Dancing - Mar Deudero

Every Monday, all TY students go to An Sportlann, to practice the musical dances. At first, we had to go through a selection of casting for 'dance captains', where the dance instructor, Cora, made us dance in a line and choose which ones had potential. Then, once she had selected them, we started learning all the dances. Some days were quite active for everyone, but others were more focused on the main characters' dances, which was more tiresome for them. But, overall, you can see the hard work that everyone puts into the dances, and the great result it has.



Supporting Role - Ella Garvey

I got a part in the musical as one of Sophie's best friends/bridesmaid. Sophie, one of the lead roles, is played by Lucy O'Brien. I thought auditioning for the part would take a lot of time, I was very worried too as I was in Italy during the auditions. The day after I came home, I went into school and auditioned - I was told the same day that I had got the part. I was so happy. We got our scripts, and I started learning my lines. I thought learning lines would be hard but overall, it wasn't too bad. Over the past week I learned that I had a solo part of a song that has been written into the show by the directors. So far, the musical practice has been great, and I've learned a lot of new skills.

The TY Musical Diaries

BY ELLA GARVEY, CIARA LOFTUS, PETR SAMKO, MAR DEUDERO AND
ALISHA GIBBONS

Lead Role - Petr Samko

When I heard about the musical, I was a bit sceptical at first. I was told that everyone in third year has to do an audition so I went ahead and gave it my all. I was stressing from the day I did my audition to the day I found out that I got my part, I wasn't expecting to get a lead role at all! I landed the role of Bill Austin, a man who is one of the potential fathers of a girl called Sophie Sheridan. Bill is a wild adventurous character and, as he calls himself, a "lone wolf". He is one of the comic relief characters which I'm very happy with because I find myself a fairly funny person.

So far, the whole experience has been amazing, from the rehearsals to the singing practices, it's the most fun I've had in a long time, and I do recommend joining the musical if you decide to go into Transition Year. Bill Austin is in three songs all together which I am very happy about. The rest of the cast is also amazing because I'm pretty close to a lot of them, which makes the acting and singing a lot easier and makes me more comfortable seeing as we are all friends, and we are only getting closer day by day as the musical goes on. Don't forget to book your tickets when they become available, opening night is November 22nd!



Surfing in ~~USA~~ MAYO

BY ADAM FAHEY

On the 9th and 10th of October, the TY cohort travelled to Achill in 2 different groups, one group on the Monday and one group on the Tuesday. When we got to the venue, we completed a LOT of activities, including, but not limited to, games, surfing and rock climbing. We first went on a problem-free bus ride courtesy of Corduff travel. Once arriving at Achill, we were greeted with glorious weather on Monday but a heavy fog on the Tuesday morning. We were quickly put into groups and split up where half attempted teambuilding games, rock climbing and archery while the other group started surfing and paddleboarding by the ocean. I was in the group playing team games. We were met by a burning fire that finally warmed up our freezing bodies!



First up was a team game involving pictures which were a different perspective on the same scene and we had to describe the image to each other without showing it. Other games involved moving pieces of wood and building a square out of triangles and various other shapes. After this we were taught archery by an instructor. Many people got pretty good at it pretty fast. After this was rock climbing on two separate walls about 10 meters tall each, unfortunately I wasn't the best at this, but I still had a lot of fun anyways. After this there was a break for lunch before quickly getting changed into a wet suit and then getting ready to go surfing.



Before we could start surfing we had to take a bus journey (for about 20 minutes) with our instructors. I was set to go surfing first and I was somewhat worried about it but due to previous experience with water sports I knew it wouldn't be too bad and I ended up being right as the surfing was by far the highlight of the day (at least for me). The waves were huge due to the windy weather blasting our faces constantly and it was even hard to hear a word being said. But once we got on the water it didn't matter because of just how much fun it ended up being. The way the water hit your face as you walked out is a feeling that can't really be explained or replicated but the rush you get is absolutely incredible. This went on for about a half an hour - to me it felt like an hour or more either because I was enjoying it so much or perhaps the weather was affecting my senses!



Paddleboarding started soon after when we were back on the water following a short bus trip. One of our instructors pulled us along in the water due to the waves being big and the wind heavy. I had previous experience with paddleboarding, so I was not really nervous at all and was quite happy to be doing it as it was my first time back on a board in about six months. I was getting a lot colder by this time and was not super eager to get into the water despite many deciding to go for a swim and have fun which involved shaking the board to make those on boards fall off, which was difficult and thrilling in different ways.



Overall, the instructors were helpful, fun and generally great to have and the experience on the water is bound to be memorable even by the end of the year. Honestly I'd say surfing may be the most fun thing we've done so far this term. The service they have over in Achill is phenomenal and I think anyone that went on the trip would definitely recommend it to anyone interested. This is the last trip we'll be going on for a time until the musical is finished and I'm happy to temporarily end on a high note.

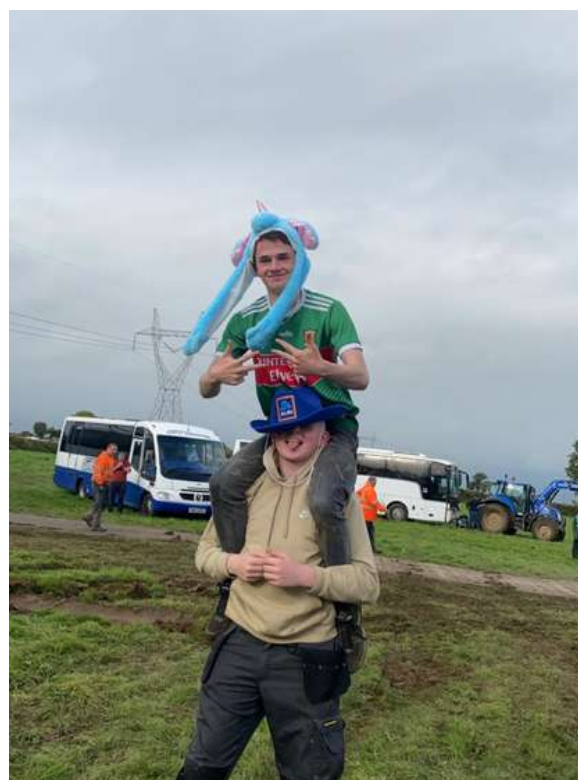


SALT & PEPPER PLOUGHING

by Samuel Buckton & Sebastian Brodecki

Seba, who plays Pepper in the upcoming TY Musical, and Sam, who takes on the role of Pepper's best friend, Salt, embarked with a host of Transition Year students to the Ploughing Championships in Laois recently. Read on for their crucial update.

During the ploughing trip, let's just say unexpected events occurred. Our group had to show up for this trip at 6 am, which didn't make much sense as we had to wait an hour and a half for the buses. Yes, AN HOUR AND A HALF! They could've warned us as we were half asleep by the time the bus came. Then our bus broke down, which luckily enough allowed us to have a break from the girls screeching ABBA songs which made us never want to hear another ABBA song ever again. When the bus finally arrived at the petrol station the karaoke continued. After four hours of deafening music and singing we finally arrived at the championships. The deep thick mud and overpriced chips made us wonder if the four hours of non-stop singing was worth it. Thankfully, we discovered the brown bread baking competition, which entertained us for about an hour before we went off to buy an over-cooked burger sandwiched between two stale buns that set us back €10. On the bright side we had a great time listening to farmers arguing in accents we could barely understand. By the end of the day we were all drenched, mucky, tired and waiting in desperation to get back home to our warm beds in Co. Mayo, BUT we were yet again delayed as the bus driver had forgotten that you can't park a 20 tonne vehicle in the mud all day without it getting stuck, which caused us to strain our filthy wet bodies to push the bus out of the mud. At the end of it all I have to say besides the havoc, we had a fantastic time. The Ploughing Championships had its share of good laughs and some moments that will stick in our memories!



Stay Safe Stay Sober

BY STEPHEN STAUNTON & BYRON CLEARY

On Tuesday, 17th of October, the day before the release of the Junior Certificate examination results, Davitt College's Transition Year students were visited by Garda Mick Toland regarding the Stay Safe Stay Sober program. The program is made to encourage young people to be more cautious about consuming drugs and alcohol. We were told about the risks of narcotic consumption as well as measures to take in order to remain safe while under the influence. These measures include ensuring you remain hydrated as well as not consuming any food in order to reduce the risk of becoming sick.

We were each given a pamphlet which includes a large amount of information regarding the Stay Safe Stay Sober program as well as a pop-socket which says SSSS (Stay Safe Stay Sober). It is seen as important that you carry your phone on you at all times with emergency numbers attached as a lock screen. It is also recommended that you have your entire night planned in advance to reduce the risks of things going wrong.

We were given the talk on this date because many young teens are arrested by Gardaí on the night of Junior Certificate results.

Although it is not recommended to consume drugs and alcohol, it is encouraged to remain safe if you do end up under the influence.



An Garda Síochána

Ireland's National Police & Security Service



DRIVING RANGE

By Carlota Sanz and Ava King

Golf was one of our new activities that we participated in this year. We had three weeks of 'fores' and 'hole-in-ones' at the driving range. It was a ten-minute walk from the school, which meant that we didn't waste any time travelling and could spend the maximum allowed time at the range. We were put into groups of three and we golfed for about an hour each week.

At first, we struggled to hit the ball, but by the end of the three weeks, we were all able to hit it extremely far. We really enjoyed it and had a great three weeks. It was a sad day when they told us we had completed our short course at the driving range.



GREEN SCHOOLS

By Amy Mulchrone & Trinity O'Brien-Gleeson

Davitt College Goes Green to ensure the environment of our school is clean and to battle climate change within the school walls.

The new Green Schools committee gives students a chance to make a change and to inspire our classmates and other schools around Castlebar to go greener. Our teacher Mr. Murphy helped organise the TY students to go around to classes to elect representatives to speak on their behalf on the committee.

Students aim for a better and greener earth as Mr. Murphy and the TY Group begin their journey with one rubbish bag and a grabber tool in hand cleaning up the school grounds dedicated to fighting climate change.

While some students search high and low to catch any litter that comes their way, others are being more vocal by inspiring year groups to go green. Students also promote volunteer work that makes the school and the world a cleaner place to live.



JUNIOR CERTS CONTINUED

by Cerys O'Malley & Sophie Earley

We were called out to the canteen over the intercom shortly before 3pm. We gathered in the canteen, our palms sweaty, however some unfortunate students who had PE beforehand, were sent back from the canteen to change into our uniform. Yet again, another delay (sigh)!

At last the moment arrived. Our Principal, Mr O'Reilly spoke to us and wished us luck, which some of us may have needed. One by one we were called up to receive the white envelope we had been looking forward to (or dreading). Some students tore open their envelopes at the first chance they got, while others preferred to wait until they got home, which was understandable.

After that, there was pandemonium as we all rushed to show our 3rd Year teachers our results. It was so much fun and there was a sense of relief as we showed our teachers, and saw all our hard work in Third Year had paid off.

We celebrated in our own ways varying from dinner with family, partying or simply wandering around town with friends. Later in the week there would be other celebratory events such as the greatly anticipated disco in Julian's on Friday night!

We hope everyone was happy with their results and had a wonderful evening celebrating in some way or another!







GAA Coaching Course

by Callum Reilly

During October, all TY classes were taught how to teach GAA by some expert coaches.

First we were split into groups and learnt what the most important aspects of coaching are, such as making sure everything can see you and checking if everyone understands the skill being taught. Afterwards, in groups we taught our classmates some skills, such as balance and agility. It went very well and everyone learnt and practised some new skills.

We are all looking forward to the next time our GAA coaches return as we will be coaching the 1st years!



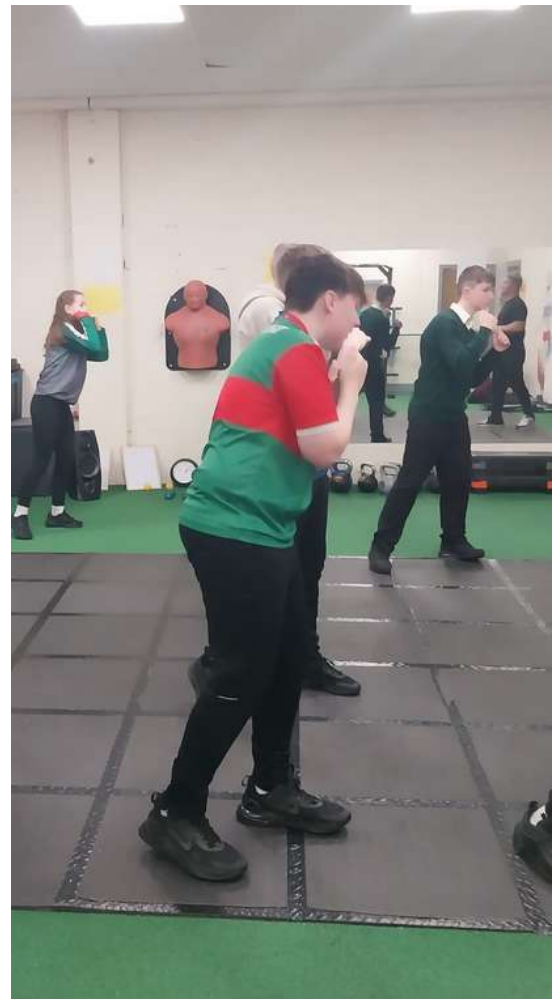


Davitt College Senior Management Team with the TY Mayoral Visit Coordination Committee welcome the Mayor of Höchststadt Mr Gerald Brehm



TYs Celebrate Mayo Social Inclusion Week

TY ON THE MOVE



Boxercise

TY ON THE MOVE



Castle Davitt Gym

TY ON THE MOVE



Wellbeing Week



Sarah Jane Kilcawley (pictured right) selected for the Mayo U16 Squad



U16 Girls GAA



Davitt College Girls Basketball



Davitt College Boys Volleyball

U16 GIRLS GAA IN ACTION



TY HOST U14 GAA BLITZ



TYS ROLL UP AND STRIKE

BY MISCHA GINNELLY

Davitt college students recently went bowling for their weekly PE lesson. The Davitt College TY programme is known throughout Castlebar for being one of the best, as was experienced when the TY students took to the Rollerbowl at Mayo Leisure Point.



The students walked up to the Leisure Point and had an hour long session where everybody enjoyed themselves and would be more than happy to go again.

“I knocked those pins clean down bro” said one enthusiastic student. Another claimed that the local bowling alley “did awesome” in facilitating the school and that they believe everyone would love to go back.



DC: Drive Carefully

BY ZARA CUNNINGHAM & GABBY KILCOURSE

RSA seminar comes to Davitt College amidst results night crash in Tipperary.

Road safety is a critical concern in today's world, as millions of people commute and travel on the roads daily. To address this issue, road safety talks have become a powerful tool in educating individuals about safe practices, responsible behaviour, and the importance of adhering to traffic regulations.

The RSA sent their expert safety instructor, Karen, to Davitt College to provide some sound advice before the October Mid-Term break. Karen's talk was an enlightening experience. Karen spoke on the key pillars of education, behavioural change, awareness, and compliance as Davitt College's Transition Year students learned that safer roads for all is the answer.

By fostering awareness and encouraging positive behavioral changes, these educational talks contribute to safer roads, fewer accidents, and ultimately save lives. Road safety is a shared responsibility, and road safety talks are a powerful tool in achieving this goal.



Údarás Um Shábháilteacht Ar Bhóithre
Road Safety Authority



*Óíche
Shamhna
shona daoibh
go léir*

THANK YOU FOR READING