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TY TIMES

The Davitt College Official Transition Year Newsletter



BARCELONA BOUND

BY CIARA DONOHUE

In the early hours of Monday morning, on the 15th of April, 133 students and teachers set off for Dublin Airport to catch a flight to Barcelona Girona Airport. After dealing with many sick travellers and traffic on the motorway, we all arrived, buzzing with excitement to finally experience the hot weather and the memories that were going to be made.

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NUI Galway Taster Days: A Sneak Peek into University Life

BY KATE O'DONNELL

On Wednesday, the 10th of April, TY students from Davitt College got a taste of what the future could hold as we visited NUIG's campus as part of their taster day initiative. We were accompanied by the brilliant careers department from our school. The students were in awe of the sheer size of the campus. It made Davitt College look small in comparison, which is saying something. Students were surprised by the beauty of the campus as well; greenery and refined architecture are not what comes to mind when one thinks about their education.

On the day we attended, the Arts, Business, Law, and Computer Science departments gave exhilarating talks to entice prospective students. These lectures took place from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Twenty-seven different lectures were held throughout the day; this gave students a wide range to choose from, and everyone found something to interest them. The staff were extremely friendly and answered all questions to the best of their ability. Guided campus tours were offered, in both English and as Gaeilge, which helped to allow students to envision university life. Davitt College was offered its own private tour hosted by the student ambassadors. It was a great, informative day out for all involved, and hopefully, one day in the not-too-distant future, we shall see the Davitt College students of TY gracing the halls of NUIG.



MY TIME IN IRELAND

by CARLOTA SANZ APARICIO

My year in Ireland on exchange has been incredible! Transition Year has been amazing – or as you would say here, it has been the best craic ever! Apart from regular classes, we engage in various exciting activities like work experience and outdoor adventures. School life in Ireland differs significantly from Spain. Here, there's more freedom and responsibility, including the opportunity to explore various subjects. Additionally, there's a strong focus on practical skills and teamwork, which is fantastic. All in all, Transition Year in Ireland has been an absolute blast! The memories and friendships created here will always hold a special place in my heart.





TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN

by Lewis Stirzaker

A rare opportunity presented itself to the students at Davitt College: the ability to do work experience at the Technological University of Dublin and see what the average university student's life was like, and what the university offered. The only hurdle we had to overcome to visit the university was simply filling out a form sent to us by Mrs. Morley.

Each day of this 4-day adventure was an aspiring architect's or engineer's dream, consisting of many amazing and creative activities. Some examples included drawing and designing different buildings, studying several types of architecture, and more. All the lecturers and teachers were incredibly nice and open to questions about the topics.

The campus of the university is quite vast, with many buildings being centuries old and some more modern. All of them were absolutely breathtaking, including the main Linen Hall where we did most of our activities. Overall, the entire experience was fantastic and incredibly insightful for aspiring architects or engineers. I would strongly recommend this to the students of future Transition Year programmes.



HAIRDRESSING WORKSHOP

BY SAOIRSE MAHON

On the 9th of April, Ms Ann O Reilly facilitated a hairdressing workshop for the TYs. The hair dressing workshop explored the different types of hair, how to care for hair properly and ways to style your hair. This hairdressing workshop encourages creativity, allowing students to experiment with different styles. This boosts people's confidence as they see their ideas come to life. They also can lead to career opportunities, such as a hairdresser/barber, beautician, or salon manager.



These workshops create an inclusive environment, engaging students who might not excel in other subjects. They can also inspire community service initiatives, such as offering free haircuts to those in need. We began with a mannequin head, which we would later be styling. We switched between theory and practical work while doing the workshop, which kept us engaged and focused. During the theory we learned about the different types of hair and what makes them different from each other. Next, we learned about the ways our hair can get damaged and how to tell if it is damaged. We learned that heat used on hair damages it the most, and ways to prevent your hair from heat damage which includes heat protectant and using less heat on your hair.



During the theory, we took breaks to begin our practical work. This included attempting different types of hairstyles on the mannequin heads we were given. We learned how to do a Celtic plait and then moved on to more difficult types of plaits as we progressed.

Overall, this workshop was enjoyable and educational, as I felt I learned a lot about how to style and care for my hair.

MY EXPERIENCE IN TY

by MAR DEUDERO

Transition Year has been an incredible experience, full of fun and new discoveries. Unlike the regular school years focused on academics, TY allowed us to explore different activities and learn in unconventional ways.

One of the best parts of TY were the trips and events we went on and took part in. We went on field trips and attended workshops that taught us lots of different lessons. I especially loved outdoor activities like the Achill trip, Shannon River and the musical we saw in Dublin, 'Sister Act'.

A big highlight of the year was participating in the school musical, Mamma Mia. We spent weeks rehearsing, learning songs, and practising our dances. Being part of the musical was a fantastic experience. It was amazing to see how our hard work came together in the end, creating a wonderful show that we were all proud of.

Work experience was also an important part of TY. I completed work experience in a lot of places, like Easons, Cafe M or Tesco. Each one gave me a glimpse into the professional world and helped me think about my future career.

Comparing TY to school in Spain, there are some big differences. In Spain, the focus is mostly on exams and grades, all being theoretical. There's less room for exploring different subjects or experiencing things in real life. While this is good for your academics, it can also feel boring.

Overall, Transition Year has been a fantastic experience that helped me grow in many ways. I met a lot of different people and made very good friends, which helped me to go through this experience. The mix of activities and the opportunity to discover new interests made it a year to remember. I am grateful for the friends and lessons from TY, and I feel more prepared for the future because of it.





TY ROUNDERS BLITZ

Blake Joyce

It was just another average day for TY in Davitt College. The sun was shining, and the birds were chirping, and with the good weather, the school decided to organise a rounders competition for Transition Year. The games commenced, and each class competed against each other until the final. By the end, only two teams were standing: the determined class of 4D and the confident 4A team.

The friendly competition soon turned spirited, with banter flowing between the teams. However, amidst the back and forth, it eventually came down to a draw between the two teams, with only one more home run needed to win. As Class 4D took to the field, the odds seemed against them, until a certain Blake Joyce made an incredible catch, turning the tide in their favour.

With determination, the same student stepped up to bat, ready to secure victory for his team. Despite doubts from the opposing team, he proved himself by hitting the ball far and wide, racing around the bases with lightning speed. In a thrilling moment, he made a courageous dive to home base, just beating the ball and securing the win for 4D.

The crowd erupted in celebration as 4D savoured their victory, enjoying their well-deserved victory ice cream. Meanwhile, the losing 4A team graciously accepted defeat, acknowledging the skill and determination of their opponents. As a member of 4D, I would like to clarify that there were no accusations of cheating; rather, it was a fair and exciting match that showcased the spirit of sportsmanship.

In the end, the game was a testament to the resilience and teamwork of Class 4D, showing that words could not deter their determination to succeed.

Footnote: The game-changing catch would be the subject of controversy as one of Mr. Joyce's teammates, who preferred to remain anonymous and was not named Mr. Cawley, confessed that Mr. Joyce had in fact fumbled the catch, dropped the ball and then claimed to have caught the ball.



MY EXCHANGE YEAR AS A DAVITT COLLEGE STUDENT

by MARC GARANTO

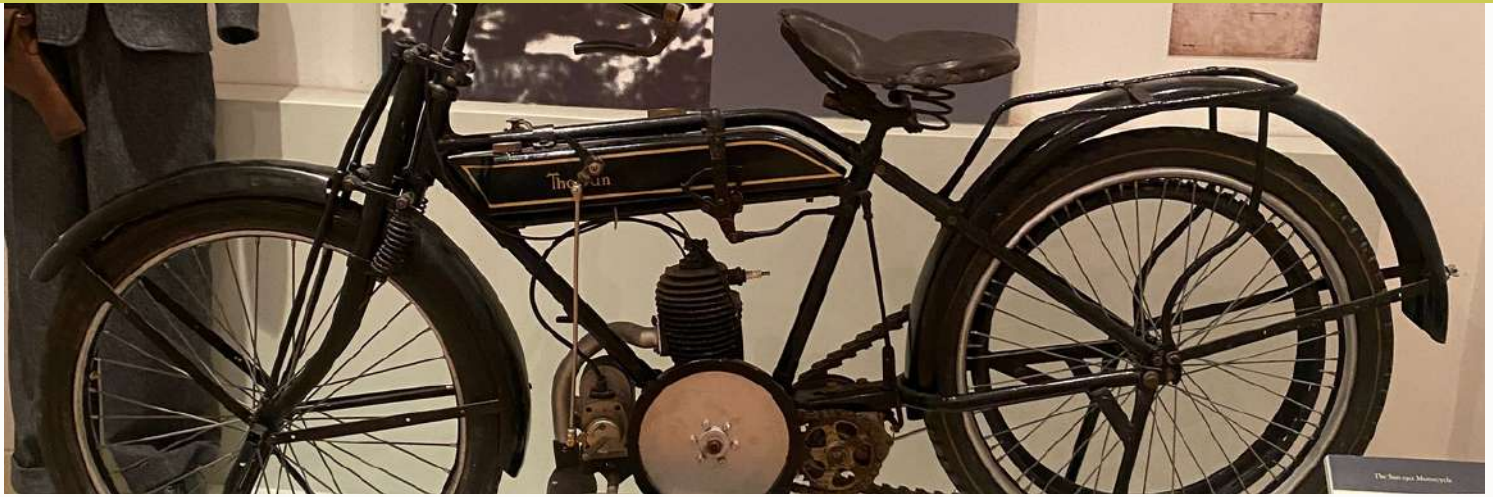
The first Monday of school was the strangest. First of all, everything was done in English. The second reason was that I'm really shy about making friends and talking to people in a foreign language. The first week, to be honest, was a little hard for me, as I had no friends and didn't know anyone at all. The second week was much better. I started to meet people in my class. I still remember the first person to talk to me: Cian Nolan and then Stephen Staunton. Then I met Byron Cleary and many others.

The weeks went by until all the TY students began preparations for the musical, 'Mamma Mia'. During this month, I started to meet more and more people and began some really good friendships. The musical helped me a lot to get to know people and make more friends. After the musical in November, the school started to organise more workshops and trips, which I really enjoyed, both with friends and teachers. I was impressed by how well everything was organised.

After the Christmas holidays, everything went so fast – the months, weeks, days, hours and every second. With a snap of the fingers, one day it was January and the next day it was May. Among the activities after the Christmas holidays was the TY tour to Barcelona, which I sadly couldn't go on as I usually live there!

Looking back on it all, I had a wonderful exchange year at Davitt College here in Ireland.





IRISH DEFENCE FORCES

By Emily Prendergast

During the week of the 26th of February, myself and two others, Noah Costello and Damian Borowski, from Davitt college were given the opportunity to take part in a work experience block with the Irish Defence Forces in the Renmore Barracks, Galway. There were a lot of people who filled out an application so to have actually gotten the chance to take part was amazing. As a person who has an interest in joining the defence forces through engineering or ordnance, it was a great chance to gain some insight into the various possible career paths.

There were pupils from other schools in the barracks when we arrived from Mayo and Galway, and we were greeted by Lieutenant Colin Campbell. During our time in the Barracks, we were guided by Campbell as well as other Privates and Corporals who were a great help when it came to all of our questions about career paths, life in the defence forces and probably the most popular topic, the weapons.

Monday the 26th

We were given a tour of the barracks, shown how to use the radio equipment and how to stop people intercepting messages through radio. On the tour we were told about The Square in the centre of the barracks. While walking around we all took note of how the road markings directed cars around a Square in the centre of the yard and were all confused as to why nobody could cross it. We were later told that after a war or battle when the unit assembled to call a roll and count the dead, a hollow square was formed. Today, The Square represents this and with that, a unit's dead. It is treated as hollowed ground and the area is and must be respected by all. At the end of each day, we also did foot drills. This is the march, or parade, that is done every morning and afternoon in the barracks.

Tuesday the 27th

On Tuesday, we got a tour of the Barracks Museum from the Sergeant Major, it was a very unique experience as the museum is not open to the public. There is a large collection of uniforms used in the past and of old weapons. We also did orienteering around the barracks. This involved going to several different points around the barracks and trying to get back to the base in the shortest time.

Wednesday the 28th

On Wednesday, we put what we had learned from orienteering to good use and went orienteering around the Oranmore Firing Range. The day was cold and wet but nobody even cared. At the end of the day, we could all agree that it was brilliant and the people who said otherwise had discovered that they wouldn't last very long in the Defence Forces. When we returned to the barracks, we were shown some of the weapons that are in the armoury as well as some of the equipment that is used. We were shown how the weapons are operated, transported, what they all do and what is brought in a soldier's pack.

Thursday the 29th

On Thursday, we did a practice fitness test. This involved a 2.5 km run, how many push ups you could do in one minute and how many sit ups you could do in one minute. After that we were taught observational skills. We were given an area to look at from a certain point and told to identify several objects that were scattered around. This is something that a soldier must be very good at to complete a sniper course. Throughout the week, we learned about the importance of walking in an orderly manner as well as practicing our marching. On Thursday we put everything we had been taught together and completed everything in one go.

Friday the 1st

On Friday, we were told about all of the different ways to be a part of the defence forces, this was our opportunity to ask the soldiers any questions we may have had about how to get involved or what it actually entails. We also did some Kim's Games. A Kim's Game is a game or exercise in which a certain number of objects must be memorised and then listed. We were given a room to walk around and told to take in any information we thought was necessary, after our time was up, we were asked a series of questions about the room and its surroundings.

Overall, it was an unforgettable experience, and I am delighted that I was given the opportunity to take part. I have always had an interest in joining the defence forces as an engineer but was never sure if it would prove to be something I would enjoy. From the taster that I got from this experience, I am a lot more confident that it is something I would love. If this opportunity is to arise for any upcoming TYs who have an interest like I do, I would encourage them to take part. I am so grateful that it was available to me.



TYs Win at SciFest

By Rachel Heneghan, Katie Heaney and Iwona Palka

Winning the Business Excellence award at SciFest in ATU (Atlantic Technological University) Galway was an absolute thrill for us. It was a moment of pure joy and validation for all the hard work and dedication we had put into our business Davitt Compost.

From the very beginning, we knew that participating in SciFest was an opportunity we could not miss. The event brought together aspiring entrepreneurs, industry experts and judges who were looking for innovative ideas and passion for excellence. We were determined to display our business concept and demonstrate why it deserves recognition.

Preparing for the competition was no easy task. We spent countless hours refining our business plan, conducting market research, and practicing our presentation. We wanted to make sure that every aspect of our project was well thought out and aligned with the principles of business excellence.

When the day of the event finally arrived, we were filled with a mix of excitement and nerves. When we were met with our first set of judges, we felt a surge of confidence in our business. We spoke passionately about our vision, highlighting the unique value proposition and the potential for growth and success.

The judges were impressed by our comprehensive understanding of the market, the practicality of our product, and the clarity with which we communicated our ideas. They recognised the hard work and dedication that had gone into our project, and it was an incredible feeling when they announced us as the winners of the business excellence award!

Receiving this award was not only a personal achievement but also a huge achievement for our school and all those involved, especially Ms. O'Connor, and Ms. Kelly. As they have put in so much effort to get us to this point.

In conclusion, winning the Business Excellence award at SciFest ATU Galway was a moment that we will always remember. It was a testament to our hard work, dedication, and innovative thinking. This recognition has inspired us to continue pursuing our entrepreneurial dreams and has given us the confidence to take on new challenges.



Kildangan Stud

BY CIAN NOLAN

Our tour of Kildangan Stud was an amazing experience. Located in the beautiful countryside of County Kildare, Ireland, Kildangan Stud is known for its top-quality horse breeding.

Arrival and First Impressions

When we arrived, we were amazed by the beauty and calm of the estate. The well-kept grounds, with big trees and wide fields, created a peaceful setting. Our guide greeted us warmly and gave us an overview of what we would see and a brief history of the stud.

The Tour Begins

We started by visiting the main stables. The stables at Kildangan are modern and designed to keep the horses safe and comfortable. Our guide explained the daily care routines for the mares and foals. It was interesting to learn about the special care each horse gets, including their diet and health checks.

Foaling Unit and Nursery

Next, we visited the foaling unit and nursery, where we saw mares with their young foals. This was a charming part of the tour, as we watched the foals playing in the fields. The guide explained how they carefully watch over the mares and foals to make sure they are healthy and safe. We also got to see how a foal can be fostered to another mare.



Stallion Parade

One of the best parts of our visit was the stallion parade. We met several of the stud's top stallions, including some of the most important sires in horse racing. Seeing these powerful horses up close was incredible. The guide told us about each stallion's racing career and their role in breeding. The horses, like Ghaieyyath and Sahaayeb, were truly impressive.

Historical Insights

Throughout the tour, our guide shared interesting stories about Kildangan Stud's history and its role in the Godolphin operation. Founded in 1986 by Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Kildangan has become a key part of his global racing and breeding empire. The stud's history of producing champions was clear in every part of the tour.

Our tour of Kildangan Stud was both fun and educational. It gave us a rare look at one of the best horse breeding facilities in the world. The mix of beautiful surroundings, excellent facilities, and the dedication of the staff made it a memorable experience.







STALLIONS IN KILDANGAN

by Amy Mulchrone

Our Transition Year journey kicked off early in the morning as we lined up eagerly for our buses. Despite the buses arriving ahead of us at 7:20 am, a series of challenges ensued. Our teachers, Ms. Britton and Mr. Munnelly, along with the rest of the Transition Year students, hurried to take attendance and note any absentees. Finally, at 7:40 am, we set off on our way to the radiant stables of Kildangan Stud.

The road trip to Kildangan was delightful as we chatted and bonded over our anticipation of seeing the horses. Along the journey, we encountered numerous horses, including a stallion in a trailer that seemed to be leading us to the stables—yet, it might have been the lack of fresh air and our overall excitement that made everything seem more enchanting.

After a stop at McDonald's to stretch our legs and use the facilities, we got back on the bus and continued our journey. Arriving at the entrance, we were thrilled by what awaited us. As we disembarked, the tall trees greeted us, and our tour began. Equipped with a cap and hat, we delved into the history and intricate details of the place, absorbing information about the riders, horses, stables, and the substantial investment required.

Any tiredness associated with our early start faded into insignificance when we encountered and interacted with a distinguished purebred mare and her charming foal. The foal relished our attention, and we strolled around the grounds, gaining insight into the horses' lives beyond the racetracks. Witnessing a celebrated racehorse, we learned about his illustrious past and promising future.

Filled with wonder, we returned to the bus after the experience. As we savored the evening breeze, thoughts of a potential return visit filled us with excitement. Before bidding farewell, we made a stop at Junction 14, concluding the day with a meal, contemplating how we could sleep for days in the future.



BARCELONA BOUND

by Ciara Donohue

In the early hours of Monday morning, on the 15th of April 2024, 133 students and teachers set off for Dublin Airport to catch a flight to Barcelona Girona Airport. After dealing with many sick travellers and traffic on the motorway, we all arrived, buzzing with excitement to finally experience the hot weather and the memories that were going to be made.

We took off, and I was sitting at the very back of the plane beside my two friends, Sarah Graven and Kate Needham. This gave me great encouragement, as I am not a particularly good flyer! We landed in Barcelona and stepped off the plane to the warmth of the heat blowing in at us. Once we had gathered everyone after passport control, and after losing (and finding!) a few people who were changing into T-shirts and shorts in the bathrooms, it was time to head off to our first activity of the week!





Our first stop was to get food, as we were all so hungry after the long morning of travel. There was a massive shopping centre beside the RDC Stage Front Espanyol FC Stadium, where we would be heading for our guided tour. The shopping centre had an open rooftop with a wide variety of shops and places to eat. We ended up at McDonald's, as it is cheaper than Irish McDonald's and had much more choice on offer. After some retail therapy and food, we walked across to the stadium where we were given our guided tour. Was it as good as Camp Nou would have been? No, but I think we all really enjoyed it. All the tour guides were very welcoming, answered any questions we had, and allowed us to take lots of pictures and explore the dressing rooms and dugouts where the players sit during games. After nearly getting run over by the Spanish drivers, it was time to hop on the buses and head to our hotel, Santa Monica Playa in Salou, which was an hour and a half away from Barcelona.

We arrived and went straight to dinner, as the rooms weren't quite ready yet. Dinner was ... interesting, let's just say! But looking back now, what more could you expect from a family-friendly three-star hotel in the middle of a tourist town? Finally, it was time to check into our rooms! I was sharing with Eabha O'Donnell and Megan Rumley. Party in room 106, everyone! We unpacked and flopped onto the beds, ready for a good night's sleep. Onto Day 2!







GAUDÍ TIMES IN BARCELONA

by Sarah-Jo Chesham

On day 2 of Barcelona, we were all up and out early (despite our mutual feeling of being absolutely wrecked after day 1) we travelled 2 hours into Barcelona to enjoy a guided bus tour of some sights such as, Port Vell, Plaça Espana, Monjuïc, Poble Espanyol and the famous Sagrada Familia, an iconic basilica in Barcelona, designed by the famous architect Antoni Gaudí. It is a masterpiece of modernist architecture, known for its facades and towering spires. Construction began in 1882 and it's still not finished, but that's part of its charm – it's a work in progress that's been captivating visitors for over a century. We then got a bit of free time in Barcelona to have a look at some shops and get a bite to eat. We then travelled to the Caixa Science Museum, this cool museum in Barcelona where art meets science. It's all hands-on, so you can touch and play with the exhibits – makes learning stuff a lot more fun. The building's got this old-school vibe but with a modern twist. It's like stepping into a different world where every corner has something new that'll blow your mind. We then went back to our hotel and later on, walked down the Strip to the House Of Illusion where we seen a magic show brought to us by a golden buzzer act on Britains got talent, Matt Edwards. It was truly amazing, seeing the magic right in front of us. Even our own Mr Nevin was brought up on stage during a trick. The magic show was definitely a shared highlight of the tour. On our walk back to the hotel we enjoyed a cheeky midnight Macdonalds.

BRILLIANT BARCELONA!

by Mischa Ginnelly

Every year, Transition Year at Davitt College offers a plethora of activities that most students look forward to all year long. One of the most anticipated is always the trip abroad. We were all eagerly awaiting news of our destination, and when Barcelona was chosen, everybody was overjoyed.

The trip began on Monday, April 15th at 4:30 am, as the three buses left the Lidl car park. Every student on all three buses was full of excitement. For me and many others, it was our first time on an aircraft, which was exciting in itself. Our plane landed at Barcelona Airport around 1 pm, where we immediately jumped into a tour of the RCD Espanyol Stadium, seeing the players' locker rooms, press rooms, and even a spa!

After this, we made the bus trip to Salou to our hotel, Hotel Santa Monica Playa. Situated about a five-minute walk from the beach, we retired to our rooms, exhausted from the long day.

On day two, we set out on a guided bus tour of Barcelona, seeing sights such as the world-renowned Sagrada Familia. We had plenty of free time to explore the city and get food before going to the CosmoCaixa interactive science museum. We found the exhibitions incredibly interesting; we saw dinosaur skeletons, made frequency waves, melted ice, observed dunes, and even measured our brain waves! When we got back to Salou, we had free time before heading to the House of Illusion for a comedy and magic show. There were some impossible tricks, hilarious jokes, and a mysterious locked box left hanging above us, revealed to hold every audience's answer!





Day three brought us to new heights as we visited Montserrat and the benedictine monastery. The scenery was incredible, and the area was amazing. Shortly after, we headed to Tarragona to visit an ancient roman amphitheater. We also decided to explore a little closer to our home away from home and visited Salou beach. There was then an allotted period of free time in Salou where we could explore local shops such as the Ben and Jerrys shop, multiple restaurants, clothes shops and more!

Day four was spent at PortAventura, the third largest theme park in Europe. There were rollercoasters, free fall rides, spinning rides and so much more. The park is divided into sections, each named after a place such as China, The Far West, Mediterrania, and Polynesia. It is home to the Dragon Khan which was the only rollercoaster of its type when the park opened in 1995.

On April 19th, day five, we began to travel home. We caught our flights at about 2.30, arrived in Dublin, caught our bus and were home by 11pm. Safe to say that everyone had an amazing time, and most definitely slept in the next day!

"I especially enjoyed the time I got to spend with my friends. I feel like I grew closer with them and made new friends," said one student.

"I really enjoyed the magic show and the Far West in PortAventura" said another.







PORTAVENTURA

by Leah Gallagher

We gathered in our hotel on day four of our trip to Spain. Through yawns and sleepy eyes we boarded our buses to PortAventura. It had been a long, exciting week and this day out was our last big hurrah before we flew home the next day. PortAventura in Salou, Spain, is a thrilling adventure park that beckons visitors into a world of excitement and wonder. As we explored the park, we were greeted by a kaleidoscope of experiences, from adrenaline-pumping rollercoasters to immersive themed lands. The park's attention to detail and immersive theming transports guests to far-off lands that leaves a lasting impression.

My friends and I eagerly lined up for the towering Shambhala rollercoaster, ready to experience the rush of wind and the exhilarating drop that awaits. After conquering the tallest coaster in Europe, we made our way to Dragon Khan, bracing ourselves for its legendary loops and twists. As 4:00 approached, a group of us split off to buy tickets and venture into Ferrari Land - a theme park located within the PortAventura World. It is dedicated to all things Ferrari, offering thrilling rides, attractions, and experiences inspired by the iconic Italian car manufacturer. From adrenaline-pumping roller coasters like Red Force, (Europe's fastest and tallest roller coaster), to simulators that let visitors feel the excitement of Formula 1 racing, Ferrari Land provides an immersive experience for car enthusiasts and thrill-seekers alike. Additionally, visitors can enjoy themed restaurants, shops, and shows that celebrate the Ferrari brand and its rich history in motorsports.

Our group queued for an hour for the red force, the star attraction at Ferrari Land. A roller coaster renowned for its incredible speed and height. At the top, riders experience a brief moment of weightlessness before plummeting back down at exhilarating speeds. The entire ride lasts around 30 seconds but delivers an unforgettable adrenaline rush.

With our bus leaving for the hotel at 6:00, time was ticking, and the queue wasn't moving. As 5:30 approached, we began to panic but we were determined to get on the ride, we jumped out of the queue and took off to get fast passes from the ticket office. We sprinted back into the fast pass queue and got seats on the ride almost instantly. We got the front seats on the ride, and it was unreal. We even had time to hit the shops on the way to the bus and pick up photos as souvenirs. As the sun began to set, we made our way back to the hotel, planning a to the beach and dinner out later that evening.

PortAventura and Ferrari Land truly is a haven for thrill-seekers like me, offering endless excitement and unforgettable memories, a perfect way to finish off our trip.





THE BEST IN BARCELONA

by Ellen Shaw

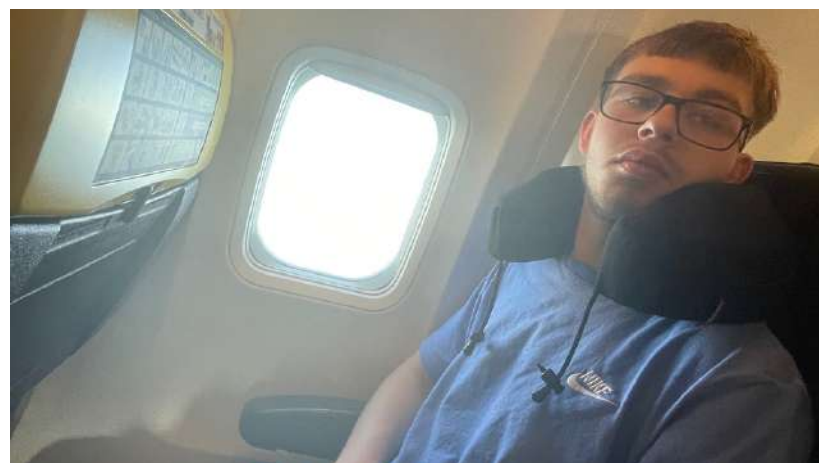
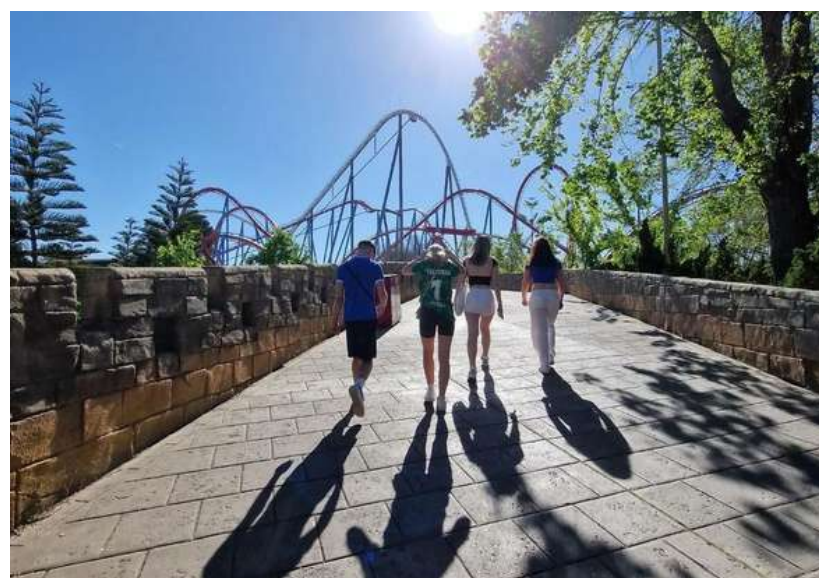
On the fourth day, TY 2024 went to the PortAventura Theme Park in Salou. It was around 22 degrees. The theme park is the biggest in Spain and has three different sections: a water park, a theme park, and 'Ferrari Land'.

Our first move was to head straight to the back of the park because the queues wouldn't be majorly long there, and we went on the 'Dragon Khan' ride first, which was the long red one and only took us about 5 minutes to get on, before heading over to the 'Shambhala,' which took two hours. Some people had gotten the fast pass, which cost extra, unlike us, who were sadly too broke to get them (Sarah Jo, Kate, Keira, Gabby, Maria).

We were joined in the queue by Ethan and Declan, and Ethan, having never been on a roller coaster before, decided the biggest in the theme park would be a good one to start with. Gabby and I got on together and thought it was class, only to look at the picture at the end!

The next stop was, of course, food, because why go on roller coasters when there are mini pizza things and chips? It only set us back about a fiver, and we were off again to the next roller coasters.

Later in the day, at about 4pm, Ferrari Land opened, and most people headed over because of the tallest and fastest rollercoaster on the continent, standing at a height of 112 metres and capable of accelerating from 0 to 180 km/h. Everyone that had gone over had to pay about 20 euros to get into the separate park and then another 25 for a fast pass as the queue was so long. At that stage we decided that the walk was too long (we were just too lazy to walk to the other side of the park) and instead went on the high-speed roller coaster twice. All in all, it was a great day and, in my opinion, the best.





DAVITT COLLEGE PUBLIC SPEAKING

By Gabby Kilcourse

On a murky April afternoon, the DC library was brought to life with displays of passion and opinion upon the 34th annual Gold Medal public speaking contest. Hosted by Liam Egan, adjudicated by a student teacher and a trifecta of fifth years who were successful in last year's competition. With only eight transition years speaking, the pressure was on to deliver the best self-written speech.

Adam Fahey (4F) got the ball rolling with a cracking opener titled 'Stop Making Sense', detailing the life of a band by the name of Talking Heads. Adam had a notably vast array of knowledge of the topic and delivered an engaging, energetic speech.

To follow Adam was a variety of hard hitting subjects, from the world being doomed to the voices of our youth, to a seven-minute soliloquy about Conor McGregor, everyone left with a few bonus questions answered in their next pub quiz.



The final speaker was me. I walked up to the podium and spoke for 5 and a half minutes on 'How I use colour theory to change what people think of me'. The speech involved the explanation of colour theory and how it can be used to manipulate people without you even realising, and the psychology behind associations people make with colours in everyday life and how I learnt to use that to my advantage. Personally, I was quite comfortable delivering my speech, because nobody knows more about anything than what they know about themselves!

I stood down from the podium as the adjudicators took time to go through scores, deciphering the good speeches from the good speakers, and the person, maybe people, that had both. In the end they eventually came to an agreement.

Third Place, Mischa Ginnelly (4F) with a speech on The Future of AI.

Second Place, Paddy O'Brien (4A) with his piece titled 'The censorship of Western Culture In Chinese Media'.

First Place, Gabby Kilcourse (4B) and 'How I use colour theory to change what people think of me'.

It's safe to say I was amazed that I had won, when you are the final speaker it's easy to see if you took a similar or variable approach to everyone else and if it would impact one's chances of winning. At first I was sure my speech was going to be too shallow, possibly boring. But once I got up to the podium I realised how comfortable I was up there because I was the only one speaking about myself. In hindsight, that may just have been my point of advantage.

Congratulations to everyone that took part. To the eight speakers from TY, three fifth year competitors, the judging panel and to Liam Egan and his excellent coaching throughout the year.

RSA ROADSHOW

By Byron Cleary

The RSA roadshow was an event organized by the Road Safety Authority to raise awareness about road safety. It covered safe driving practices, road regulations, and stressed the importance of wearing seatbelts. The goal of this roadshow was to educate and involve the community in advocating for safer roads.

On the 11th of April, our entire school year went to the TF Royal Theatre to attend the RSA Roadshow. The event featured guest speakers like police officers, ambulance workers, and firefighters who shared their experiences dealing with road accidents. They recounted personal stories to convey the importance of road safety. The audience heard emotional accounts of loss due to accidents and first-hand accident experiences. The presentations included videos and photos to complement the speakers' messages.

Over 1000 students from various schools in Mayo attended the show. It was a highly informative event that effectively raised awareness about road safety for everyone involved.





Davitt College Awarded 5th Green Flag



FAI School Programme

DAVITT COLLEGE MUSIC SHOWCASE

By Kate Maughan

On the evening of 15th May, Davitt College hosted its Music Showcase in the Linenhall. This event involved different groups of Junior and Senior students working together, such as the Rock Group, Traditional Irish Group, and the Chamber Choir, organised and supported by our music teacher Ms. Kennedy. At around 6:10 pm, students participating began to arrive at the Linenhall, providing a good opportunity for any last-minute rehearsals. The doors opened to the public at 6:30 pm. As guests started to arrive, the excitement began to build among both students teachers present.

At 7 pm, the showcase began with the Rock Group. They started the show with their opening song, 'Psycho Killer', and then moved on to their other songs. After hearing every song, the audience was amazed by their singing and playing. This filled the room with curiosity about what was going to happen when the next group came on.

When they finished, members of the Traditional Irish Group started to line up at the side of the stage, as it was their turn. When on stage, they played reels and jigs with several instruments such as harps and fiddles. It was a good opportunity for people to enjoy musicians playing traditional Irish music with Irish instruments.

Then the final act of the night was next: the Choir. After hearing the last two groups, it was our turn to get ready to go on stage. As soon as we got on stage, we started to sing our two songs: 'Cantelina' and 'Dúlamán'. After singing each song, the audience applauded us for our singing, and at the end of the show, everyone involved was invited to take a final bow.

The showcase ended at around 8:35 pm. After the show, we were congratulated by our fellow peers and teachers who came to see us. It was a night filled with enjoyment for everyone involved and everyone who came to see us.



DAVITT COLLEGE MUSIC SHOWCASE



DC Barber Shop

BY SAM BUCKTON

On May 2nd, 2024, the students of Davitt College in Castlebar turned a creative idea into a charitable success with their Pop-Up Barber Shop fundraiser. The event, aimed at supporting Mayo Mental Health, saw students and teachers coming together for haircuts and good times, all while contributing to an important cause.



The concept was simple yet innovative: transform part of our school into a temporary barber shop. Leading the charge was a talented group of student barbers from across all years: Mark Moore, Paw Mwee Htoo, Guilherme Barbosa Silva, and myself, Sam Buckton. We volunteered our time and skills, offering haircuts to our peers and teachers throughout the day.

The atmosphere on the day was electric. Students and teachers alike enjoyed their fresh haircuts, and the school spirit was tangible. By the end of the day, we had raised over €2000, far exceeding our initial expectations. These funds will be donated to Mayo Mental Health, helping them continue their crucial work in providing mental health services across the county.



As students of Davitt College, we are incredibly proud of what we achieved. This event has shown us the power of coming together for a cause, and we hope it inspires others to think creatively about how they can support their communities. We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who participated and donated, making our Pop-Up Barber Shop a memorable and meaningful success.

SHANNON

BY GAVIN MULLANEY

Bright and early Wednesday morning, the TY students of Davitt College departed at 8 a.m. to the picturesque village of Killaloe on the banks of the River Shannon. We were split into two groups upon arrival. Half of us started with land activities, and the remaining half started with the water activities. The first activity was the climbing wall. This caused quite a rivalry within our year, with everyone wanting to race their friends. A blindfold was even produced to increase the difficulty. After this, we moved onto an obstacle course. Everyone got down and dirty to secure a win for their team. My team was victorious. The last land activity before lunch was archery. Under the guidance of skilled instructors, we learned the basics of handling a bow and arrow, focusing on technique and precision. The thrill of drawing the bow, aiming carefully, and releasing the arrow to hit the target was exhilarating. As we competed in friendly matches, the sense of achievement grew with each bullseye. The combination of concentration, skill, and fun made archery an unforgettable experience that everyone in our group thoroughly enjoyed.

After lunch, we moved onto the aquatic part of the day. The mud slide at Shannon Adventure Centre was an absolute blast, adding a wild and messy twist to our adventure-filled day. Clad in old clothes and full of excitement, we hurled ourselves down the slippery, mud-covered slope, laughter echoing as we slid to the bottom. The sheer thrill of the rapid descent, coupled with the joy of getting completely covered in mud, made this activity a favourite among the Davitt College TY students. It was a carefree and exhilarating experience that perfectly captured the spirit of fun and adventure at the centre.





TY AWARDS

On the 27th of May, under the watchful gaze of celestial orbs, the illustrious Transition Year Class of 2024 gathered in the grand assembly hall for their annual gala of accolades. A tapestry of memories unfurled before their eyes, weaving together the threads of their journey from inception to culmination - a symphony of moments spanning from the vibrant melodies of the 2023 musical, *Mama!*, to the exotic escapades in the ancient streets of Barcelona, and a constellation of personal triumphs both within and beyond the hallowed halls of Davitt College.

Signing off the 2023/2024 Transition Year Times, the editors, Mr. Gallagher & Ms. Gallagher.



Happy Summer!

THANK YOU FOR READING