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TY TIMES

The Davitt College Official Transition Year Newspaper



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La Dolce Vita: TYs Take on Italy!

The wait was finally over at the beginning of May as our Transition Year class swapped the Irish rain for the Italian sunshine on the highly anticipated 2026 TY Tour. It was a whirlwind few days of culture, history, and unforgettable memories as the group explored some of Europe's most iconic destinations. From navigating the historic, winding canals of Venice to taking in the breathtaking lakeside views and ancient Roman history in beautiful Sirmione, the trip was a massive success. Packed with funny stories, stunning photos, and insights into what made this journey so special, our full travel diaries and exclusive student reflections continue inside.



BEHIND THE GATES AT KILDANGAN STUD

By Clodagh Keane & Katie Irwin

Clodagh

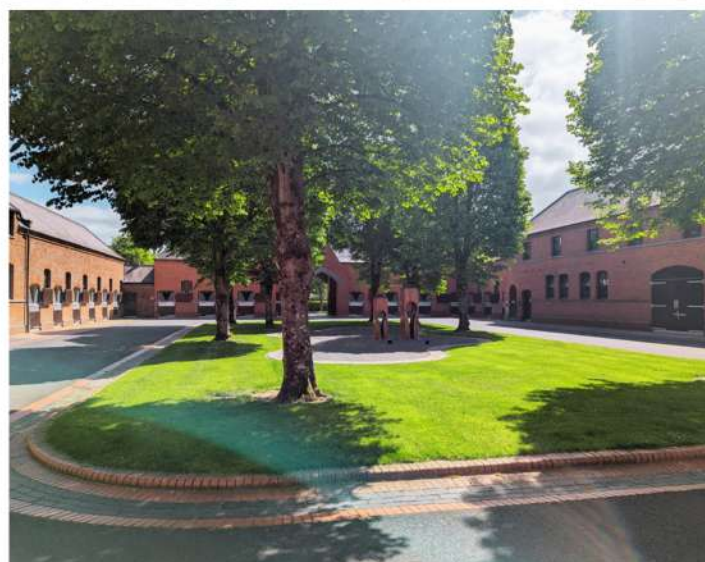
Our visit to Kildangan Stud offered a fascinating insight into the operations of a world-class racing and breeding facility, as we explored the different yards and learned about their distinct roles.

We began our tour in the Foaling Yard, where we observed the specialised stables designed for mares and their newborns. The main unit features six individual stables equipped with glass viewing panels, ensuring the foals can be effortlessly monitored during those critical early hours. We also learned about the vital importance of colostrum—the essential first milk the foals must consume immediately after birth. Moving outside, we were treated to a special preview of the next generation: a lively six-month-old filly named Boater26, named after her mother, Boater.

From there, we transitioned to the Stallion Yard, home to some of the most successful and valuable thoroughbreds in Ireland. Here, we were introduced to three premier stallions. First up was Night of Thunder, a highly successful 2011-born sire commanding an impressive breeding fee of €200,000 per cover. Next, we met Blue Point, also born in 2011, who commands a fee of €100,000. Finally, we were introduced to Space Blues; born in 2016, he is one of the younger stallions on the roster, with a covering fee of €15,000. Whether you were already a racing enthusiast or completely new to the equine world, it was an incredibly rewarding and eye-opening day out.

Katie

Forty-nine students traveled to Kildangan Stud for a comprehensive tour. We were shown the main stables first and learned about the fascinating history of the stud and the old estate house. Afterward, we visited the foaling yard, where we were given insights into the care of foals and broodmares, and we even got to see a mare and her foal up close. Lastly, we went to the stallion yard, where the staff showed us a few of their top breeding stallions—including one remarkable horse that generated €24 million for the stud in a single year. To top off the day, I even got to be interviewed for a promotional video a cameraman was filming on-site.



Driven to Think: TYs Attend AXA Road Safety Roadshow

BY BRUNO SENZEL, ETHAN WEPA & DANIEL KUZMICZ

On Wednesday, 15th April, Transition Year students from Davitt College had the privilege of joining twenty schools from across County Mayo at the AXA Road Safety Roadshow, hosted in the TF Royal Theatre.

Arriving at 10:30 am ahead of an 11:00 am start, our year group gathered to learn about a critical issue: the vital importance of road safety. The presentation highlighted a sobering reality—that young people remain statistically far more vulnerable to road traffic collisions than more experienced drivers.

The roadshow opened with an introduction to the stark statistics surrounding Irish road safety, before focusing on the narrative of a single, tragic collision. Through a dramatic reconstruction, we followed the story of a young, newly qualified driver named Shaun, played by an actor. The unfolding emergency was told from the unique perspectives of those who deal with the aftermath firsthand: the emergency call handlers, the Gardaí, fire fighters, paramedics, and intensive care hospital staff. Each professional shared their role in the story, offering a raw, behind-the-scenes look at how they handle these devastating situations.

The emotional core of the morning came from guest speakers whose lives have been permanently altered by road accidents. Their deeply moving, personal testimonies left a powerful impression on the audience, offering a stark reminder of the human cost of a split-second mistake.

The presentation concluded with a dramatic, live demonstration on stage. A real vehicle was brought into the theatre with "Shaun" trapped inside. As the audience watched the action projected live onto the big screen, the fire service worked meticulously to cut away the roof and remove the doors to free his trapped legs, while paramedics stabilised him under intense pressure.

Ultimately, the roadshow was as informative as it was emotionally striking. It provided our year group with invaluable lessons on driver responsibility, the far-reaching consequences of a crash, and how we can all make better, safer choices on the roads.



FROM MUSIC CLASS TO THE BIG STAGE

By Rhiannon Brosnan & Brady Girling-Moore

Rhiannon

On the 1st of May, a group of Davitt College's TY and Fifth Year students took part in 'The Rocky Road' sing-song event with Damien Dempsey, which was brilliantly organised by Ms. Veronica Morley and Mr. Paul Ryan. We started preparing back in March, spending hours every week learning the setlist. It was hard work, but we had great craic as a group. Alongside singing, Clodagh, Róisín, Conn, and I played our instruments for The Fields of Athenry, while Myles had the incredible opportunity to sing alongside Damien himself! On the day of the concert, the nerves were definitely kicking in. Ms. Morley was so good to us, bringing in some very necessary cups of tea and treats from Cafe Rua to calm the pre-show jitters.

The musicians arrived bright and early for the soundcheck, where we got to hear the other groups, who sounded amazing. By the time we finished, the audience was already filling the seats. The concert was nothing short of spectacular. Backstage, the excitement built, and when we finally walked out, we got a massive cheer from the crowd. We all played incredibly well, and after the show, we even got to chat one-on-one with Damien and take a few photos. It was an unforgettable experience.

Brady

On Stage with a Legend: My Night with Damien Dempsey

"The absolute highlight of the year was 'The Rocky Road' sing-song event, hosted by the famous Irish singer Damien Dempsey. He performed so many classic tracks, including The Rocky Road to Dublin, Apple of My Eye, and, most importantly, The Fields of Athenry.

Five Davitt College students were chosen to perform on stage with 'Damo' for that final iconic song—and I was incredibly lucky to be one of them, singing right next to him and playing my guitar. It was an unreal experience for all of us. We had practiced non-stop with our music teacher, and the moment the soundcheck was done, we knew we were ready. The whole set was absolutely insane and went perfectly!

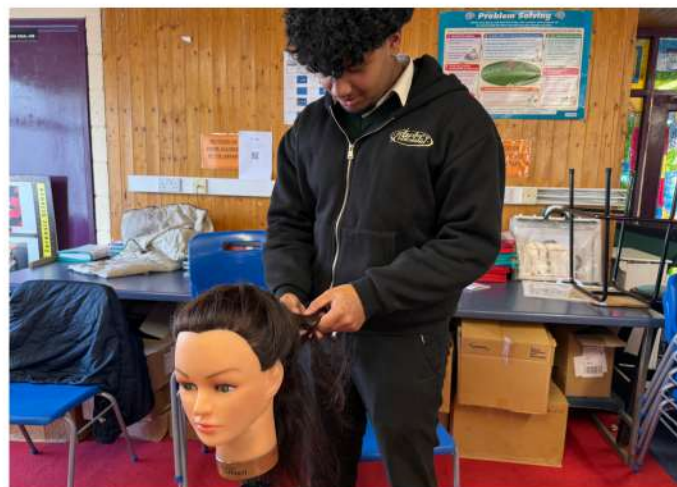


STYLE, HEALTH, AND BRAIDS: INSIDE THE TY HAIRDRESSING MODULE

BY MARY KWA

During our time in TY, we did a hairdressing module, and it was a brilliant experience. At the start, we didn't really know what we were doing and thought it would be easy enough, but we quickly realized it is a lot harder than it looks!

We started with the basics, like sectioning hair and using the styling tools properly. We also learned how to do different types of braids on various hair textures, which was really interesting since some hair types are much easier to work with than others. Beyond styling, we learned about hair health—specifically what keeps it healthy and what causes damage, like excessive heat or poor maintenance. Working on different mannequins gave us great, realistic practice to try out styles properly. Overall, it was a fantastic TY experience, and we learned a lot about professional hair care



POSTCARDS FROM ITALY: THE TY TOUR SNAPSHOT

POSTCARD

My absolute favourite moment of the tour was visiting Sirmione. The boat trip around the peninsula was incredible, soaking up the gorgeous sunny weather with music playing. It was just as much fun exploring the old town afterwards and trying the amazing gelato from the local shops!

From: Ava Kenny

My favourite part of the tour was the boat ride. It was so much fun playing music, singing along with my friends, and taking in the gorgeous Italian scenery!

- Niamh Bennett

Our TY tour to Italy was unforgettable, and we packed so much into the four days! On day one, we explored Verona and saw the incredible Verona Arena—an ancient Roman amphitheatre that is still used for performances today. Day two took us to Venice by water taxi. Even though there was thunder and lightning, it didn't damp our spirits; we loved seeing the gondolas and all the little bridges connecting the streets. We spent our last full day at Gardaland theme park, having a brilliant time testing our nerves on the rollercoasters, even if a few were a bit too scary! Before heading home, we stopped in Sirmione for a boat trip across the lake. It was a brief visit, but the boat ride was definitely one of the main highlights of the whole experience - Clodagh Keane

POSTCARD

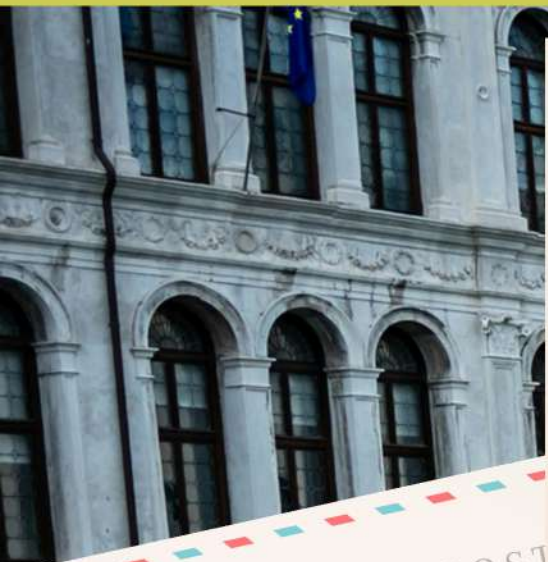


My favourite memory from Italy has to be at Gardaland on the fantastic log flume ride with Dawid, Damian, Luke, and Ryan O'Malley. After getting absolutely soaked the first time around, we decided the only logical thing to do was to go right back on it again! The weather was warm enough that we dried off quickly, and looking at the automated ride photos at the end was definitely the best part.

Grace Webb-Floyd

My personal favourite day of the tour was Venice. It was incredibly eventful and there was so much going on! Because of the thunder, lightning, and pouring rain, we all had to buy matching ponchos, but the scenery from the boat was still lovely. Later on, our food took so long to arrive that we accidentally ate another table's order by mistake! We also hit the local shops, and one chocolate shop was particularly memorable because the employees bombarded us with so many samples I felt a bit ill afterwards. To top it all off, Sophia was our designated map-reader and managed to lead us down dead-end alleyways and straight into the canals multiple times. It was an absolutely hilarious day - even with the stormy weather - Anna Lay





We did so many different activities while visiting Italy that it's hard to pick just one favourite. But looking back at the four days, the standout experience for me was definitely the speed boat ride on the Friday. It was my very first time on a boat, and I absolutely loved it - the rush of the speed, the music playing, and the incredible scenery made it the perfect way to end the trip. It's a memory that will stay with me forever

- Daniel Kuzmicz

POST CARD

My favourite memory from the tour has to be Venice, or just the brilliant craic we had in the hotel every evening. Venice was absolutely hilarious - all of us running around the streets in our bright, colourful ponchos, getting completely lost in the middle of a thunderstorm while Sophia got mad at us for laughing so much!

Anna Mangar

POST CARD

One of my absolute favourite moments from the Italy trip was definitely the boat ride on our last day. We got to blast our own music while cruising across the water and taking in the amazing views! It was such a fantastic experience and the perfect end to an unforgettable tour - Surnai Ni Cheallaigh

The TY tour to Italy was a week I'll never forget, with every day packed with fun and activities. My absolute favourite part was the boat trip on the lake on our final day. The ride offered beautiful views of the historic Scaliger Castle and Maria Callas's villa, but the best part was the atmosphere. We played music and the whole group sang along together - it was such a wholesome moment with great craic! Then, the driver hit the throttle, and the sheer speed of the boat flying across the water filled me with adrenaline. It was the perfect finale to an incredible trip - Ava Cunningham





My favourite part of the TY tour was the evenings, when Emma and I would get McDonald's and sit up on the hill to enjoy the scenic views. I also loved day one when we explored Verona; it was so cool to tour around the town and see the ancient Arena, even if the stone steps were quite large and a bit slippery! Overall, it was a fantastic bonding experience and I feel like I really grew closer to everyone in our year group - Sophia Birdthistle

POST CARD



My absolute favourite part of the tour was Gardaland. The weather was brilliant and the rides were incredible - I loved the water rides, and braving Oblivion was definitely a highlight! The food was great, and the whole atmosphere throughout the theme park was just electric - Ian McHugh

POSTCARD



It was my first time ever on a boat, and it was easily my favourite part of the entire trip. The combination of the music, speed, and energy made it the perfect end to the experience, and a memory that will stay with me forever.
Daniel Kuzmicz

My favourite part of the tour was definitely Venice. Even though it was pouring rain, it was so much fun! We got four hours of free time to explore the city, go shopping, and grab some food. So many hilarious memories were made that afternoon, and it was hands down the best day of the whole trip. Emma Bourke



My favourite moment from the trip was definitely Gardaland. All of the rides were absolutely amazing, and it was by far the most exhilarating day of the entire tour! Kacper Milewski

Gardaland was the ultimate standout memory for me. The weather was beautifully warm and sunny, and we had the freedom to spend the whole day tackling whatever rides we wanted. Even though the massive rollercoasters looked intimidating, they were just pure speed and so much fun. It was a brilliant, unforgettable day out.

From:

Victoria Denst
Gardaland

The absolute highlight of the tour for me was Gardaland, especially the massive rollercoasters. Going on Oblivion and the Blue Tornado left me completely dizzy! The scariest moment by far, though, was on 'The Raptor' when Ryan Reilly almost fainted on the ride! Aside from the theme park thrills, I also loved just winding down and playing football with everyone outside the hotel in the evenings - Olivier Krawczyk

Gardaland was the ultimate highlight, particularly the water ride where we got completely wiped out! We were busy trying to pose for the camera and weren't at all ready for the big drop. As we hit the bottom, a massive wave tipped over the front of the boat, drenching us all. Fortunately, I was safely tucked away in the back row, but my friends up front took the full force of it! Aisling Forkan

My favourite part of the Italy tour was simply winding down with my friends after our daily excursions. We'd head up the hill to these crates by the abandoned stables, where we'd sit, laugh, and demolish McDonald's like we'd been forcibly starving for decades! The Dubai Chocolate McFlurry was the undisputed highlight of the meal - to quote Sophia: 'I wish we'd bought this on the first night so we could have eaten it every single day!' Bonding over Maccies and sharing stories actually brought us closer to a student from another school who was on the same trip. We ended up making a brilliant new friend, and we're still in touch today - Lilianna Nowacka

My favourite part of Italy was Lake Garda. The rollercoaster was fun and the scenery was lovely. Shopping in Venice was also great. Grace Walsh

POSTCARD

When I think about our TY tour to Italy, it was really all the small things that made it so much fun. The absolute highlight of the trip was Thursday when we went to Gardaland. The weather was beautiful, and we had the freedom to just enjoy the park with our friends. A particular standout moment was when a massive group of us from Davitt College all braved the Oblivion ride together. Another part of the tour that really stays with me was simply hanging out in our rooms in the evenings. We had great laughs and made so many lifelong memories just being together - Katie Cusack

My favourite part of the trip was Gardaland, as the rollercoasters provided great thrills and excitement. The food did a great job of satisfying my hunger, and we topped off a brilliant day by playing football, making it the perfect end to the afternoon - Oisín Harte





The boat ride on the final day was definitely my favourite moment. The boat was flying, we had great tunes on, the fella driving it was very sound, and the weather was just immaculate! Conor McHale

My favourite part of the TY tour was definitely the trip to Venice!
Ryan O'Malley

One of my favourite parts of the TY trip was the day we went to Venice. The city was a sight to behold and the architecture was incredible - every building and structure looked like it had been so carefully crafted. Getting to ride on a gondola was probably my highlight of Venice; as they took us around the canals, it felt just like being in a movie scene. The only downside to the day was the massive thunderstorm that hit just as we were about to leave, but we headed back to the hotel and enjoyed the rest of our night together - Brian Mahlangu

POST CARD



My favourite memory from the TY trip to Lake Garda was definitely playing games at the hotel every single night. A massive group of us would come together to play games like cards and sardines, and we even got the other schools staying at the hotel to join in! Those nights were packed with so much fun and laughter, and they are memories I will never forget - Amy Scott

THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS

The funniest moment of the trip happened in Venice. Aoibhin Mullaney, Kayla Gibbons, Ava McDonagh, and I were enjoying a classic gondola ride, and just as we were returning to the dock, a seagull completely ruined the romance by making a direct hit right on Aoibhin! The splash zone was massive - it caught Ava and Kayla too. The best part was that every time they managed to clean a bit of it off, more seemed to appear out of nowhere somewhere else. It became an endless, hilarious cycle of them wiping it away and discovering more. Luckily, I was the only one who escaped completely unscathed without a single spot on my clothes! Anna Dobre

The boat trip on Lake Garda on the last day was my absolute highlight. Getting splashed by the water while the driver did crazy drifts, blasting out tunes, and having the best vibe with friends was unforgettable. I loved everything about the tour - it's a memory that will stay with me forever! Jennis Ann Sarish

POSTCARD

One of the best memories was hitting it off with a group of Italian students staying at the hotel. We couldn't understand a single word of each other's language, but we still managed to hang out, share a laugh, and make some great international friends!

Dawid Chatlas

My ultimate highlight of the WHOLE TY TRIP was when Carmel unironically used the phrase 'schutter bus.' Easily the funniest quote of the entire tour! Conor McDonagh



Post Card

THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS

The highlight of my TY trip was without a doubt Gardaland. The food there was really good and the rollercoasters were so exciting! Climbing up the track of Oblivion was absolutely nerve-wracking, but the second it dropped, it was just pure fun. I would highly recommend that anyone going on a future tour tries every single ride they can! Keelan Jennings



From conquering my very first rollercoaster to spending €15 on perfect gelato, Gardaland was an unforgettable day out. The best part wasn't the food or the thrills, though - it was sticking with a great group of friends. We went on almost every ride together, making sure even the quiet moments were full of laughs! Luke Lambert-Veale

POST CARD

POST CARD

It's impossible to pick just one favourite moment - it's a dead heat between Venice and Gardaland! Venice was stunning and so scenic, while Gardaland brought the ultimate adrenaline rush and fantastic sunny weather. Both days were brilliant fun with everyone.

From: Brady Girling-Moore
Gardaland, Italy



Post Card

THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS



My favourite memory from this year's TY trip to Italy was definitely the speedboat trip in Sirmione. We drove down to the port and boarded the boats a few groups at a time. Because it was our final day, we had all dressed up in our nice skirts and dresses. Once we got on board, we were handed the aux cable and got to play whatever music we wanted. We were out on the water for about forty minutes, and we even raced the other boat, which was so much fun! Afterwards, we got to walk around Sirmione for an hour, where we treated ourselves to fresh-squeezed lemonade and proper Italian gelato - Rhiannon Brosnan

My favourite memory of the entire tour was our third day at Gardaland. When we first arrived in Italy, it was raining with thunder and lightning in Venice and Verona, which was a bit disappointing. I was really hoping the bad weather wouldn't follow us to the theme park! Thankfully, day three brought brilliant sunshine and it was so hot. It was so much fun going on all the rollercoasters and looking at our mid-ride photos afterwards. The first thing we did was a drop tower ride that didn't look too bad, but the actual drop was terrifying! After that, we braved the scariest ride in the park, Oblivion. It looked intimidating at first, but it was actually brilliant. It was great craic seeing all the students and teachers tackling the big rides together. I really wish we could do another trip like Italy with our school year again and visit even more theme parks! Caoimhe Boyle

My favourite moment of the trip was Day 2 when we went to Venice. It had been a lifelong dream of mine to visit Venice and go on a gondola, and it was even better than I imagined - even though we were hit with lashing rain and thunderstorms! We didn't let the weather ruin our day; in fact, it somehow made it even better.

My absolute highlight, though, was the jewelry shop where Isabella, Surnai, and I spent ages hunting for the perfect earrings because there were just so many nice pieces. We completely lost track of time, totally annoying Grace and Laura who were waiting for us in the restaurant across the road to order! That dinner turned out to be so funny; everyone was bringing out the items they had bought around Venice and doing little 'hauls.' I won't say too much more, but we were all laughing our heads off at some of them. Half the tour ended up in the restaurant at once, which made for brilliant craic. An honourable mention has to go to the nights - just chilling in each other's rooms, ordering McDonald's, and going on little 'side quests.' Those are times with my friends I will never forget - Isabelle McHugh

My favourite part of the TY tour was definitely the boat trip on the morning of our flight. It was so much fun speeding through the water, listening to music, and all singing along together!

From: Isabelle Earls
A boat in Italy





POST CARD

My favourite moment from the TY holiday was definitely Gardaland. The weather was amazing, and it was brilliant being able to tackle all the big rides with my friends. My favourites were definitely the Raptor and Oblivion. Oblivion was easily the scariest because it holds you right over the vertical drop for a few seconds before letting you go! The second time we queued up for it was the absolute best, because we managed to fill the entire ride with our own group of friends. It was such a great day overall and my favorite part of the whole trip - Grace Butler

My favourite memory of the tour was the very last day when we went to Sirmione. We arrived at half nine, and while we were waiting to go on the boat trip, we wandered into the town to buy ice cream and look around the souvenir shops. After that, we walked back to the pier and climbed aboard. We connected our phones to the speaker and headed out onto Lake Garda. The scenery was absolutely beautiful, and singing out on the lake with all my friends was so much fun. It was definitely the ultimate highlight of my trip - Sarah Kennedy

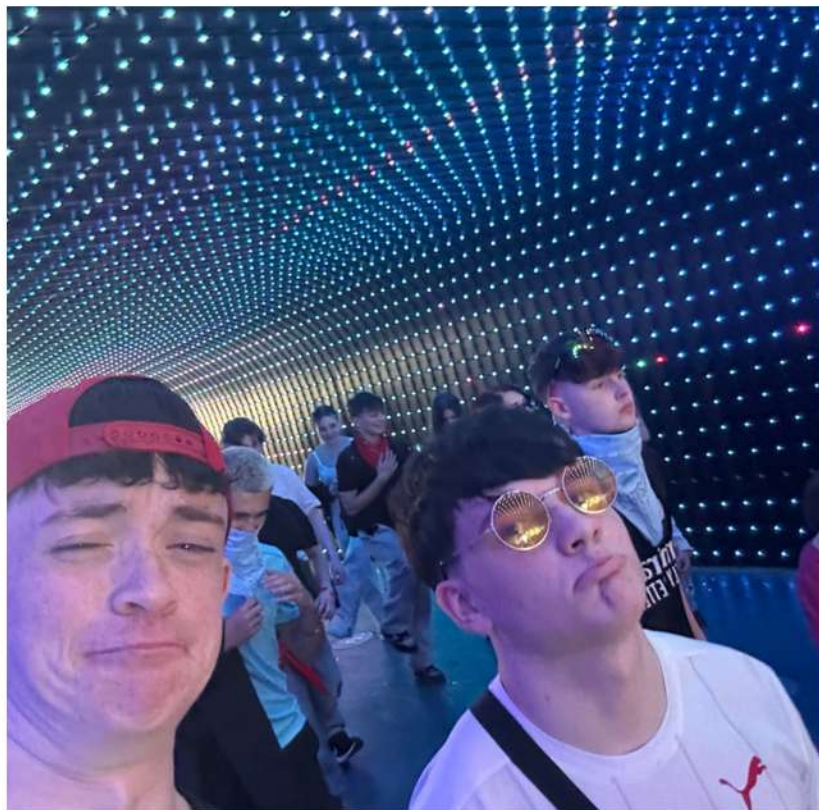
POSTCARD

My absolute favourite part of the Italy trip was visiting Sirmione. We arrived in style by speedboat and spent the afternoon shopping around the lovely town - though the lemonade I bought there was unbelievably sour! We also visited Verona, where we got to see the incredible Verona Arena and do some more shopping. Venice was another highlight, where we had about four hours to ourselves to just explore the streets and shop. Our base for the week was the Hotel Centro Turistico Gardesano, which was brilliant because we met so many new people staying there from places like Romania, France, and Naples, as well as other Irish school groups from Dublin, Galway, and Wicklow!

Mary Kwa

My favourite moment from our TY tour was definitely the boat trip in Sirmione with my friend group. When we first arrived, the other groups headed out on the water, which gave us half an hour to explore the beautiful town. We had a look around the souvenir shops and grabbed some amazing gelato, which was lovely. Then it was our turn on the boat. I connected my phone to the music, and we had the absolute best time singing and chatting while enjoying the stunning scenery as we cruised around Lake Garda. It was an incredible experience and the definitive highlight of the trip for me!

Danielle Coady



POST CARD



My favourite memory for the TY trip was going on a gondola trip in Venice. When we went up to get a gondola first, we were told it would cost 160 euro thankfully, we were able to get it down to 100 euro. I enjoyed the gondola as we were able to learn the history of the canals in Venice, and the history of the different buildings and churches along the canals. At the end of the gondola trip as we were pulling back into the docks a seagull pooped on Ava, Kayla, and I. We all had a good laugh about it afterwards. Aoibhín Mullaney

THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS



My absolute favourite moment from the TY tour has to be the morning we spent in Sirmione. Although we were only there for about an hour and a half, it was amazing. We split into two groups - half went into the town first while the others did the boat trip, and then we swapped. Sirmione was the most gorgeous place I have ever been. I got a delicious lemon and pistachio gelato, and we just strolled around taking in the beautiful architecture.

Then we headed to the dock for the boat trip, which was unreal and something I will remember forever. Our boat was just all the girls, and the driver let us play our own music on the speaker, which made it completely unforgettable. We cruised around Lake Garda, taking in the breathtaking scenery while singing along to our favourite songs like Rein Me In and Valerie. I had the most amazing time with my favourite people and I'm so grateful for the experience. Ellen Joyce.

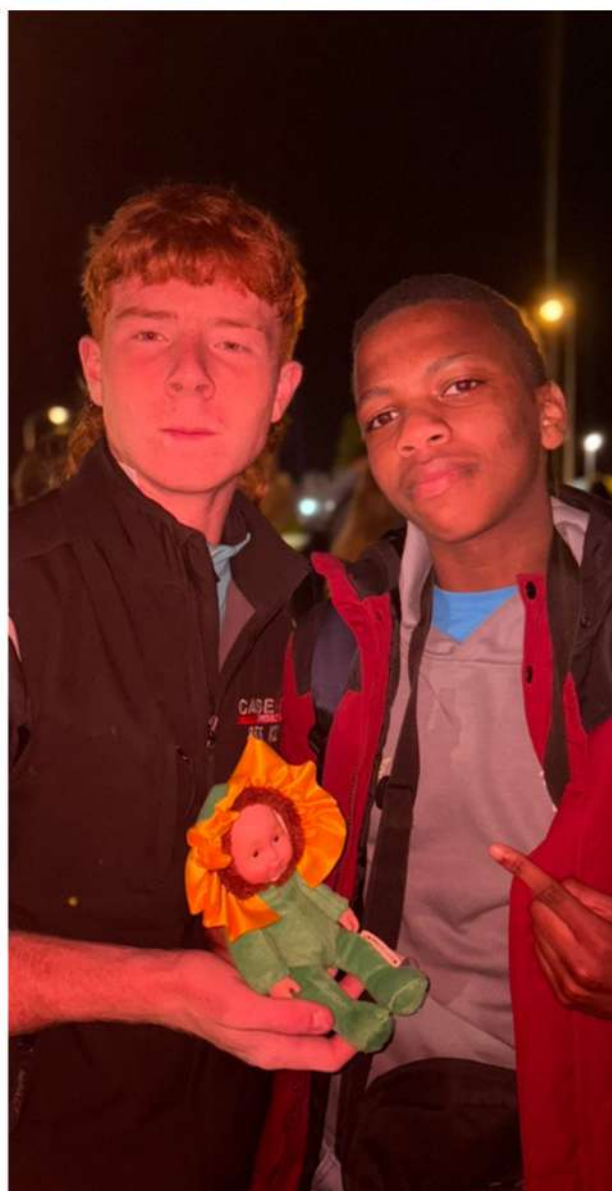


THIS SIDE FOR THE ADDRESS



My favourite memory from the TY school tour was definitely our visit to Gardaland. We had seven hours to explore the theme park by ourselves, and I spent every single one of them on the rides! They were so exhilarating, and we even repeated our favourites multiple times. The weather was also amazing, with clear blue skies all day. We squeezed in everything from the massive water rides to the scenic coasters, so I was kept busy the entire day. It was an amazing trip and a great memory to have made - Bruno Senzel

Italy was a fantastic school trip, jam-packed with activities and fun. But even with Verona and the speedboats, my personal favourite part of the tour was Gardaland. A theme park with some of the greatest rollercoasters in the world and an aquarium right outside - it was unbeatable! With the sun beating down on us and seven hours of freedom, it was the ideal day. At one point, while my friends and I were sitting on a bench, map in hand, wondering what ride to tackle next, five guys approached us carrying three huge plushies between them. They told us they were from Slovenia and asked if we would mind holding the prizes they had just won while they went on a water ride. Of course, we said yes! When they came back, we all took a photo together before they headed off. Every time we spotted them wandering around the park afterwards, we'd wave and say hello. The interaction was so spontaneous and funny that it quickly became one of my favourite moments of the entire trip - Abigail Lane



On the second day of the tour, we went to Venice, and it was by far the best day of the trip. The cobblestone streets and narrow alleyways were stunning, not to mention the iconic gondolas and masquerade masks. The shops were nothing short of fabulous - Dior, Chanel, YSL, the list goes on. My friend and I stumbled upon the beautiful Tiffany & Co. store. Naturally, we strolled in and were met with the most gorgeous jewellery. 'Can I help you?' one of the assistants asked. Being completely naïve, I answered, 'Yes, could I see some earrings that I could give to my mom for her birthday?' Straight away, she pulled out these stunning gold stud earrings. 'What is your budget?' she asked. Me being me, I said, 'I don't know, somewhere around €100 or €150?' - still completely unaware of how outrageously expensive the shop actually was. 'Oh, I'm afraid you won't find anything in here with that budget,' she replied, half-laughing. As a matter of interest, I asked, 'How much are those earrings?' '€2,500,' she stated. 'Oh, right, HA! Thank you for your help,' I responded. As soon as we left the shop, with my friend crying laughing and me feeling like a complete fool, she turned to me and said, 'Will we go to McDonald's?' I replied, 'Yes, because it's the only place we can afford!' Long story short, the next time I see a Tiffany & Co. store, I will definitely know what to expect!

Daisy Finnerty

I made so many unforgettable memories on the TY tour, made fantastic new friends, and just had the best time from start to finish. My favourite place to visit was Venice; despite the lashing rain and thunderstorms, my friends and I made the absolute most of the day, refusing to let the Italian weather ruin our fun! However, my single favourite memory has to be the speedboat trip on our very last day. At first, I thought it might be a bit boring, but the moment we stepped onto the boat, I ended up having the time of my life. The sun finally came out, the scenery around us on the lake was beautiful, and everyone was singing along at the top of their lungs to the songs the captain was blasting out. It was easily the best trip I've ever been on, and I wish I could do it all over again. Ben O'Brien

DAVITT COLLEGE SPORTS DAY



DAVITT COLLEGE SPORTS DAY





Bridging Cultures: Our Year as Exchange Students

Marta del Hoyo Guijarro

What I enjoyed most this year was all the new things I learned and the incredible variety of activities we did. Back in Spain, we aren't used to this practical style of education, so I never expected this way of learning. However, I appreciate every single moment of TY. I met truly wonderful people, felt completely helped and supported, and made lifelong friends.

I am so grateful to have come to Davitt College. This year helped me realise everything I am truly capable of achieving. It wasn't just about developing new skills; I also learned so much about myself. I know I will return to Spain as a new, better version of myself. If I could, I would come back and repeat this entire year all over again

Eric Lazaro

This year, I have learned so much about Ireland, its people, and of course, the language. When I first arrived, I couldn't understand a single word of what people were saying, and I didn't know anyone here—not even my host family! Over the months, I have loved improving my English and meeting so many new people.

School here is quite different from Spain, but I actually prefer it because the subjects are so interesting and the TY schedule allows for so much practical experience. Out of everything we did in TY, participating in the school musical was easily my absolute favourite highlight. I have done so many unforgettable things this year, made wonderful friends, and shared so many laughs with them. I would highly recommend this experience to anyone.

Eric Pérez Esqué

My exchange year in Ireland has been an unforgettable experience. Everything started when I arrived in Castlebar. My host family picked me up by car, and during the drive to the house, I was very nervous. However, when I arrived and saw the house, I felt really happy because it was very big, and my bedroom was spacious too. The next day, I met Eric, another exchange student who has since become one of my best friends.

On my first day at school, I was very nervous as well. During the first two classes I was on my own, but later on, I met Noyal. He introduced me to his entire group of friends, and I got along incredibly well with all of them. Noyal has also been my personal barber during the whole year. Hair is something very important to me, and before coming to Ireland, it was actually one of the things I was most worried about. It may sound silly, but it really matters to me, so I was very happy and relieved about that.

Throughout the year, we also did many different activities. We went ice skating, surfing, and even exploring by a river. However, without a doubt, the trip I enjoyed the most was when we went driving cars, because I had never experienced the feeling of being behind the wheel before, and I loved it very much.

Over the course of the year, I have met so many good people and I have made a lot of wonderful new Irish and Spanish friends. Without a doubt, this has been the best year of my life. We also put on a school musical, which was definitely one of the best parts of the whole year, and I had an amazing time participating in it.

Now that I only have two weeks left before going home, I am realising just how much I have enjoyed this year. If I could go back in time and someone asked me if I would choose to do this year all over again, my answer would definitely be yes.



CELEBRATING SUCCESS: THE TY AWARDS

The 2026 Transition Year Awards took place on the 25th of May in the school, marking the culmination of a truly remarkable and award-winning year for our students. We were absolutely privileged to welcome Mayo sports legend Cora Staunton as our guest of honour, who inspired the year group as they looked back on their incredible achievements.

Here is a glance at the major award winners who took home top honours:

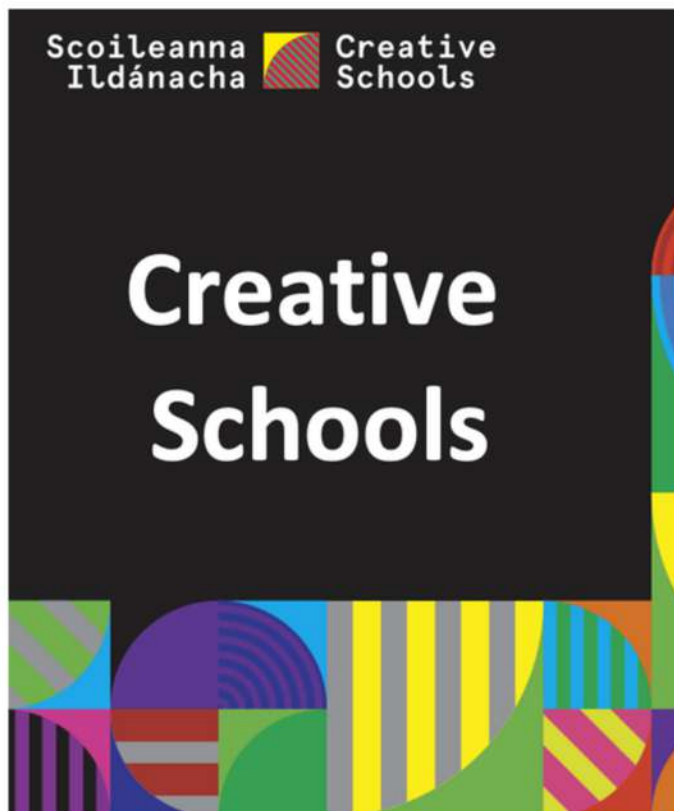
- Students of the Year: Grace Needham & Kacper Milewski
- Musical - Best Performance: Oisin Toland
- Musical - Most Committed: Jennis Ann Sarish











Our Creative Schools team has been busy transforming an empty space in the school into a cozy, welcoming reading corner! A massive thank you to Ms Morley and Mr Gallagher for their hard work in getting this wonderful project off the ground.



Huge congratulations to our students and teachers who have won a National Award as an Exemplary School in the AIB Future Sparks Competition!

Winning the Sustainability within our School category recognizes our community's creativity and commitment to a greener future. Brilliant work by everyone involved!

A YEAR OF ADVENTURE

By Keelan Jennings

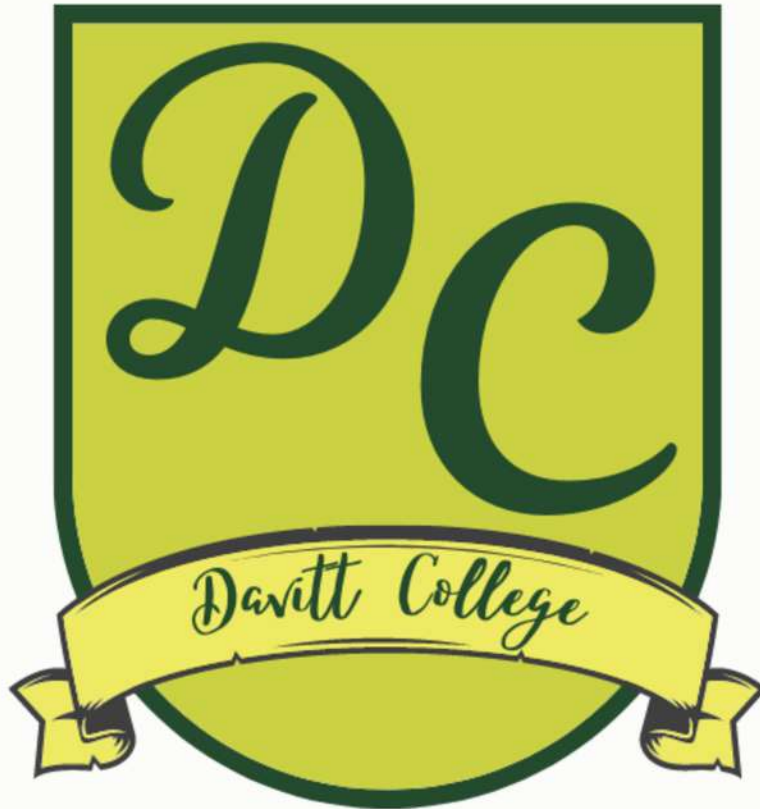
Transition year, a whirlwind year,
With memories held so dear.
To Dublin's streets, we took our flight,
Then Italy's charm, a dazzling sight.

Gardaland's thrills, a joyous spree,
A boat trip on the Italian sea.
From ancient ruins to modern art,
Transition year, a brand new start.

Adventures shared, friendships made,
In this unforgettable escapade.
A chapter closed, a story told,
Transition year, more precious than gold.

Happy
Summer!

THANK YOU FOR READING



TY TIMES

**Davitt College
Transition Year 2025-2026**

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With contributions from the Transition Year class of 2026

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Not all classrooms have walls