



TY TIMES

The Davitt College Official Transition Year Newspaper



Davitt College TY Try Triathlons

A spirited group of Transition Year students from Davitt College showcased the true essence of community spirit as they volunteered at a local triathlon, which took an unexpected turn into a biathlon due to a shortage of bicycles! Eager to contribute to their community, the students offered their assistance at the triathlon, ready to lend a hand wherever needed. However, when the organisers faced an unexpected shortfall of bicycles for that particular segment of the event, the resourceful students quickly devised a solution, transforming the triathlon into a biathlon. TY students were issued with professional high-visibility vests to carry out their expert work. Read more on page 4.

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Special News Report: Davitt Closed

BY NATHAN CHAMBERS

On the 18th of January, an unexpected event cast a frosty veil over our school community. The once bustling corridors fell silent as the announcement of a school closure echoed through the halls. What caused this abrupt disruption? It was the icy grip of winter, transforming roads into treacherous pathways. However, beyond the immediate inconvenience, the closure had far-reaching consequences, notably postponing the eagerly anticipated Open Night. The safety of students, staff, and parents commuting to and from the school was paramount. Icy roads significantly increase the likelihood of accidents and injuries, posing a threat to anyone venturing out in such conditions. By opting to close the school, administrators demonstrated a proactive approach to safeguarding the well-being of the school community. This decision reflected a commitment to prioritising safety above all else, even if it meant disrupting the normal rhythm of academic activities.

Moreover, the logistics of rescheduling Open Night added another layer of complexity. Open Night, a highly anticipated event that provides an opportunity for parents and prospective students to visit the school, required meticulous planning and coordination. The postponement meant recalibrating schedules, rearranging presentations, and communicating the changes effectively to all stakeholders involved. Despite the logistical hurdles, the school administration worked diligently to adapt to the situation and ensure a smooth transition. The closure of school on the 18th of January due to icy roads and the subsequent postponement of Open Night underscored the delicate balance between safety considerations, logistical challenges, and community engagement. While prioritising the safety of students and staff was paramount, it also necessitated navigating the complexities of rescheduling academic activities and events. Despite the disruptions caused by Mother Nature, the resilience and adaptability of the school community shone through as they worked together to overcome obstacles and ensure the well-being of all involved. As the icy grip of winter eventually loosened its hold, the school emerged stronger and more united, ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead.





SENIOR TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

by Áine Fitzgerald and Lucy O'Brien

Lucy and myself (Áine) were kindly asked by Valarie from Ballyheane Foroige to go to Ballyheane Community Center on Tuesday the 5th of December. As we arrived an elderly man said “keep coming if you're good looking” and we thought this was hilarious! We were warmly welcomed and sat down at a table where the group started to say a few prayers and go through some issues in the community.

Shortly after we taught them some new skills on their Doro phones. When we were asked to help with phones we assumed it was the smart phones that Treasa was on about but boy were we wrong! The Senior folks whipped out Nokia blocks and Doro phones so myself and Lucy had to figure out how to use them while teaching, but it all worked out in the end.

After approximately 40 minutes the group very kindly gave Lucy and I a lovely cup of tea and a scone. During this break it gave us time to talk to each of the members about anything and everything.

After our break we played bingo and sadly didn't win! But practice makes perfect! We then finished our afternoon learning with how to play 25 and Lucy won!! We then said our goodbyes and left with a few bob in our back pocket!!



Davitt College TY Try Triathlons

BY STEPHEN STAUNTON & BYRON CLEARY

On Tuesday, the 19th of March, volunteers from Davitt College Transition Year walked to Lough Lannagh Leisure Complex to help manage a children's triathlon, comprising of National Schools from around the colourful county of Mayo. Due to logistical constraints it had to be reduced to a biathlon (there were more children than there were bikes!). Undeterred by the change in plans, we sprung into action, guiding participants along the altered course with enthusiasm and precision. With clear directions and encouraging words, we ensured that every child found their way on the correct path, fostering a sense of camaraderie and support throughout the event.

We were given our high visibility vests and took our places for a photo. Groups of twos and threes were assigned to different areas to make sure no children got lost. The group of Byron, Balasz, and Stephen were given the incredibly important task of keeping the children to the left-hand side of the path at a nearby hill. This was apparently a very busy junction as there were three waves of schools coming to take part in the triathlon, our station was easily the most efficient as you would expect.

Our efforts did not go unnoticed, with event organisers and participants alike expressing gratitude for their invaluable assistance in the form of tea, coffee and sandwiches!. Through our selfless actions, we not only demonstrated our commitment to community service but also exemplified the importance of adaptability and teamwork in overcoming unexpected challenges.

As the biathlon drew to a close, we stood proud, knowing that we had made a meaningful difference in the success of the event and the enjoyment of all involved. One prominent organiser was rumoured to have said that 'their actions serve as a shining example of the positive impact that young individuals can have when they come together to support their community'.





RESILIENCE WORKSHOP

by Claire Gillardy, Marcin Pazola and Leah Gallagher

"By endurance, we conquer" – Ernest Shackleton

The resilience and motivation workshop was hosted by Stephen Kiernan on the 30th of November for all transition year students. The workshop was based on true stories from his book 'Brilliant Mondays'.

This talk encourages reflection on personal resilience and teaches valuable lessons taken from real-life experiences, making it a meaningful lesson for all students to remind them to keep persevering through tough times. Stephen taught us how to set goals for our future and to make those dreams a reality by setting a vision, planning how to get there as well as how to stay resilient and optimistic throughout the process.

Through the vehicle of storytelling, Stephen gives powerful examples that compel the students to believe in themselves and their ability to grow and succeed if they just try. This workshop always follows the same structure as the book - with Stephen highlighting each of the four main principles he found his interviewees had in common: vision, planning & strategy, resilience, continuous improvement.

He gave us all handouts near the end of the talk, which included helpful and useful information about how to plan your visions and stay resilient throughout our continuous improvement.

The stories he told us painted a picture of ordinary, real people who perform extraordinary acts to save their own lives or others. These people were the amazing Debbie Deegan; a Dublin lady who refurbished an abandoned orphanage all the way in Russia, Nando Parrado; who survived on cannibalism for 2 months after a plane crash in the Andes mountains, Gerry Duffy who competed in 10 Ironman competitions in 10 days and ran 32 marathons around Ireland in 32 days, and his cousin who competed alongside him as a cyclist with zero training beforehand.

Overall this workshop gave us a new outlook on life and motivation to follow our dreams for the future and how to stay strong minded and optimistic throughout our journeys in life.

FORENSIC SCIENCE

by Charlotte Langan, Ryan Kilbane, & Wiktoria Gruszka



The JFK assassination is one of the biggest mysteries of our time. The missing links and the unexplained occurrences make us wonder, what really happened that day?

The JFK case: on November 22, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was tragically assassinated in Dallas, Texas. While riding in a motorcade, he was shot and the investigation later revealed that there were three bullets fired. One of those bullets, often referred to as the “magic bullet,” caused multiple injuries to both President Kennedy and Texas Governor John Connally.

The Warren Commission, which investigated the case, concluded that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the shooting. However, there have been many conspiracy theories surrounding the case. It's a significant event that continues to capture the attention of people around the world. With loads of activities scattered around the room, we had plenty to keep us busy. With our pens, paper, and stimulated minds, we searched for the answers to the many questions hidden within the different sections around the room.





There were a couple of things that caught my eye, a VR headset that played out the recording of JFK's assassination, a box of diverse types of bullets, including a pistol and a revolver, (which were very popular with the students!) a magnifier that we used to examine our fingertips and other random stuff nearby (a lone orange peel). There was also a picture that had been allegedly photo shopped, which we could recreate together, with a rifle and the newspaper! During the explanation of the workshop, we were asked a couple questions, including which animal has fingerprints similar to humans, which ended up me being a proud owner of a toy koala! In the centre of the room there was a board game that we could play together to find out the timeline of events for other people involved, like Lee Harvey Oswald and Jack Ruby, which left us with some unanswered questions.

The story of JFK's assassination is so widely discussed in the media that there are hundreds of theories to consider. Let's dive in. The "Lone Gunman" theory (that's the official story): pointing the finger at Lee Harvey Oswald as the sole shooter from a building in Dallas. But hold on - there are wilder theories – think multiple shooters or organisations like the CIA or even the Mafia involved! Some think The CIA wanted to terminate JFK due to disputes over pulling soldiers out of Vietnam during the war which meant less money made from the war. Others think the Texas oil men wanted JFK out due to a meeting where he discussed changes to oil depletion allowances. Did you know in 1963 JFK's brain vanished! Makes you think "What are they hiding and why"? The full story is still unknown, making JFK's death one of history's biggest mysteries.



OPEN NIGHT 2024

by Byron Cleary & Gabby Kilcourse

Byron

In January of this year, Davitt College opened its doors to 6th class students to come and receive a school tour. There were many Transition Year students involved in this night. For the first time ever, our Transition Year students hosted their own room showing off some of the many activities we do and complete throughout the year. Activities such as the musical "Mama!", the First Aid Course, Big Brother Big Sister, Peer 4 Peer, and the Forensic Science workshop were all hosted by the TY students.

There were students in other departments to explain the subjects such as the English, Mathematics, Science and Art. Myself and Owen Kelly hosted the English Department where we explained all the events hosted by the English Department such as Debate Clubs and Reading Clubs. We explained parts of the curriculum and played some games with them, such as Headbands and a game that helped to explain the plot of The Merchant of Venice, a play by William Shakespeare. The 24th of January was an evening to remember for next year's first year students.



Gabby

Davitt College did what they do best and put on a show for the youngsters looking into where to spend their next six years. The newest addition to our event was a TY room, exhibiting just how jam-packed the life of a Davitt College TY becomes. Greeting you at the door was myself and Claire Gillardy, where we created an immediate warm atmosphere. As you walk around the room, several other Transition Years stood at their displays telling anyone interested about what had gone on in TY so far in the year. This included, but was not limited to, our Achill trip (with live reenactments from Caelen Walsh), the forensics workshop (Katie McGrath) and at the heart of it all, our infamous musical MAMA! (overseen by lead actresses Lucy O'Brien, Emily AP and male lead Blake Joyce). With costumes donned, music lifting the room and the genuine love for the experience of the musical seeping out of every cast member present, it gave the families something to remember as they walked out of our beloved Davitt College that evening.

BRILLIANT MONDAYS

by Shambhavi Sinha

"However difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do and succeed at" - Stephen Hawking

On a Thursday in November, TY students were introduced to 'Brilliant Mondays', a book written by Stephen Kiernan. Stephen had interviewed sixty ordinary people that became extraordinary through their hard work and dedication. Coincidentally, they all mentioned four words they had in common. Vision, strategy, resilience, and continuous improvement.

Stephen's motto for the talk, "Learn how ordinary people achieve extraordinary things," was simple yet effective and immediately caught our attention. He shared his insights about how a vision can be life changing if we are willing to change our lives for it. After introducing himself, Stephen began to speak about his first interviewee, Debbie Deagan. He spoke about her vision to give children she had met in Russia a better lifestyle. He showed us pictures of her care centre that she now owns in Dublin. The pictures not only made the theory seem more believable, but it brought it more to life. He concluded with how her will led to her vision that has helped her achieve many goals in her life.

He then moved onto his second word, 'Strategy'. A story including a selfless, brave man that survived a plane crash in Nando Parade, near Chile. He walked 800 km along the risky trails of the Andes mountains. His vision was to go home to his dad even if it meant surviving through cannibalism for three months. After losing his mom and sister in the crash he remained determined to make it out of the life-threatening situation alive to reach home. This specific strategy evaluated the honest fact that a strategy can be as straightforward as just, "Walking until there is no breath left to breathe." His story was truly inspirational, and it showed us that the word strategy, not only is a word, but a key to success.

The third story was based on 'Resilience'. It was about a person called Simon who had lost a leg in a car crash. As he fought through a lot of pain and struggle in his everyday life, he began to set a regular challenge for himself, where he had to move his leg one degree each day. After working devotedly for a long time his resilience helped him prove his success to the world when he pursued a career in sports.

The fourth and last story was based on 'Continuous Improvement'. This story revolved around a man called Jerry Duffy who was once a chain smoker but because of his motivation for constant, continuous improvement had become a man who ran several Ironman marathons not only in the country but outside of it too. His journey was almost mythical and aspired us to believe in ourselves continuously even when giving up seems like the more obvious solution.

Stephen compelled us to believe in ourselves, to not only envision our dreams but to make them come true through planning strategies, disciplined resilience and continuous will to improve and achieve. His mindset about Mondays being brilliant seemed strange in the beginning of the talk but after the two hours it made sense to put effort in something you believe in and are always willing to learn more about, each Monday of every week.



Pallas Driving School

BY KATE O'DONNELL

On the 4th, 5th and 6th of March all TY students visited Pallas Driving School in Tynagh Co. Galway. We left at half eight in the morning, and when we arrived, we were split into two groups. The first group started with the theory side of driving, while the second group started with the physical side of driving. I was in the latter group. It was four to a car plus the instructor. I went with Saoirse Mahon, Alannah Keavney and Caitlin Loftus. I was the last one in our car to drive. We all got about 20 to 30 minutes each of driving time. I decided to go last so that I could observe the others. I was quite nervous so watching what they did helped to calm my nerves.

Our instructor was extremely nice and friendly. We had some good chats while we were with him. He had a great taste in music and is a Swiftie, a man after my own heart. It was an extremely weird sensation to actually drive a car myself. It was not at all what I expected it to be. It went very well, besides getting chased by the other cars. When we finished driving, we had a break for a few minutes and then we went inside to practice for our theory tests. Only two people in our group had already passed their theory tests. To start we watched RSA videos, which lasted approximately 20-30 mins. Then we were split up and we did practice theory tests. My group passed with 36/40. Next, we all got to try on drunk goggles and see if we could walk in a straight line around some obstacles that were put in our way. It was a lot more difficult than I expected. Lastly, we went outside, and we were shown how to pop the bonnet and check the oil and water levels. On the way home we stopped in Supermac's for some grub. We arrived back at school around the normal time. It was a great experience and will be super beneficial to each and every one of us going forward.



FIGURING OUT FIRST AID

by Gabby Kilcourse & Amy O'Malley

Gabby

On a series of cold January mornings, our TYs gathered in the library for first aid training, conducted by Davitt College mother (of Amy O'Malley in TY) Claire O'Malley. With the use of 'realistic' casualty mannequins, students were taught how to conduct CPR on a toddler, up to a geriatric patient. In addition to this TYs received an oration on dealing with shock wounds (using the human taco method), rolling someone into recovery position (crossing new boundaries for various friendships among classmates!), in addition to several other segments of basic first aid.

This course invoked interest to students that may not have thought that the paramedical profession was for them. The groups were all heavily engaged and watched the displays and slideshows provided by Claire, who was fun, chatty and made a day-long course feel like one class. Claire is an employee of Mayo General Hospital and has been conducting first aid courses for over 10 years. She works in HR, which benefitted the vital people-skills to engage teenagers. As far as a TY module goes, it is one we will remember and the beginning of a career for some, as they venture down the path of figuring out first aid.

Amy

In January the TYs participated in a First Aid course! In this course we learned many different and vital life-saving lessons.

We learned about cuts and wounds – we got to practice putting bandages on each other the correct way to efficiently stop as much bleeding and infections as possible.

We learned about strokes and the key word FAST (F-Face (Has their face drooped on one side) A-Arms (can they raise both arms) S-Speech (Is their speech slurred and can they speak correctly) T-Time (The quicker you act the better).

Bones – We learned about broken and dislocated bones (and unfortunately had to see picture examples of these). We also learned how to do a sling and support these types of injuries.

CPR – We learned how to correctly do CPR and practiced on adult and child manikins. We did this to the song "Stayin' Alive" which helped us do it at the correct pace.

Choking – We learned how to help someone from choking. We practiced the techniques we learned on baby and adult manikins.

In the end it was a fun and useful course which gave us life skills that we could always use in the future.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

by Kate O'Donnell

On Friday the 23rd of February myself, along with eight other TY students (Byron Cleary, Charlotte Langan, Claire Gillardy, Emily Almawsoei Prendergast, Laoise Walsh, Melinda Lengyel, Roksana Kowalczyk and Wiktorja Gruszka) assisted in a Service of Remembrance. It took place in St. Mary's Hall in ATU, Castlebar. The service started at 7pm sharp and we arrived promptly at 6pm. The women in charge of running this event were extremely friendly and welcoming to us. We had a quick run through of all the roles and responsibilities we were expected to maintain for the duration of the evening. As people began to arrive, we acted as ushers, showing the people to their seats. There was a big turnout and we had to lay out more seating to accommodate the crowd. Once everyone was seated the service began. Six out of the nine students from Davitt brought up candles during the service, along with six purple crocheted hearts by bereaved mothers, brought up hospital staff. It was a lovely service. The HSE Work Beats Choir and Aibhe on harp were both beautiful and brought the service together wonderfully. Woodies DIY had kindly donated flowers, of all kinds, for us to give out after the service. The Transition Year students took charge of this endeavour. With these flowers we also gave out prayer cards. The people who attended the service loved the flowers and most took one, some even two or more. After the service the kind ladies organising the service gave us a few sweet treats and a card signed by them all to thank us for our help with the evening. This was a huge compliment for the way we presented our school, proudly in our uniforms. It was a great experience for all involved.



SISTER ACT

by Sarah-Jo Chesham & Keira Redpath



On the 22nd of February we travelled to the Bord Gais Theatre to watch Sister Act, it was a blast! Bord Gais Energy Theatre is synonymous with spectacular performance art, outstanding architecture, and a commitment to excellence in live entertainment. The theatre really lived up to its name with the show it put on, the dazzling lights, a stage set for a divine comedy packed with soulful tunes that had us dancing away in our seats. Sister Act is the story of Delores (made famous by Whoopi Goldberg in the 1992 box office hit), a lounge singer who witnesses a murder and hides in a convent, bringing her own flavour of sass and spirit to the choir. The transformation of the nuns, the music that filled the theater, and the heart-warming journey made it a must-see. If you love a good laugh and catchy music, Sister Act is your ticket to a heavenly enjoyable time. Just before we went to the Theater, we stopped at Liffey Valley for a quick stop & shop, where we all spent too much money. Overall, it was a very entertaining day. I would highly recommend going to a musical in The Bord Gais.





FROM DUBLIN TO CALCUTTA: THE INSPIRING STORY BEHIND GOAL FOUNDER JOHN O'SHEA

By Cian Nolan

On Tuesday the 6th of February all Transition Year students got to meet John O'Shea, Dublin journalist and founder of the charity GOAL. His story inspired us all.

During his visit to Calcutta, India in 1977 he was moved by the number of children he saw living in terrible conditions during his trip. This encouraged John to do something to help these children and others like them. In the same year he and four of his friends set up GOAL with the aim of helping the poorest people in our world. Now Goal is an important charity for the livelihood of many communities in over 60 countries. They have responded in times of crisis by sending over hundreds of nurses, doctors, and engineers.

In 2012 after 35 years of being CEO of GOAL he stepped down. At the end of his career, he had helped raise over \$1 Billion and has changed the lives of countless disadvantaged people across the world.



Ballinrobe Musical Trip

BY CIARA LOFTUS

On the evening of the 13th of December, a number of Transition Year students got a bus to Ballinrobe Community School to watch their musical. What made it even more interesting was the fact that they were performing 'Mamma Mia' also. Their production was very good, the singing, dancing and acting were amazing. The best part of the show for us was singing along to all the songs, from 'Dancing Queen' to 'Slipping Through my Fingers', as we had only performed the same show a few weeks before. It was a lot of fun and brought us all together. After the musical was over, some of us went up to talk to some of the cast. It was really nice to see both of our schools bonding over it. We even got a mention in the Mayo News article reviewing the show, saying, 'The show was regularly assisted from the crowd by a jolly busload of Davitt College Students. Reliving the joy of their own recent run of the unmissable jukebox show, the Castlebar crew sang, clapped, swayed and Mexican waved their way through a show that left young and old smiling from ear - to - ear' and the article couldn't have captured the night better! Special shoutout to Byron Cleary and Gabby Kilcourse for organising the trip.





FAI School's 5-A-Side Diaries

BY OWEN KELLY, MARC GARANTO, & ALANNAH KEAVNEY

Alannah

Saoirse Mahon, Caitlin Loftus, Emma Cook, Ciara Birdthistle, Hollie Clarke, Eabha Donnelly, Rachel Heneghan, Katie Heaney, Owen Kelly, Marc Granto, Kyle Flynn, Gavin Mullaney, Helen Murrihy, Cerys O'Malley, and I (Alannah) took part in refereeing FAI 5 a-side tournaments on the 14th of March. We found ourselves taking charge of games, keeping score, and keeping times of each game. This tournament was organised by FAI Ireland and was held in Milebush over the course of four days. where we were briefed on what we were to do for the day by Nigel and Rafa. They split us into four groups to cover each of the pitches.

Marc & Owen

Marc and I (Owen), along with 10 other students, arrived in Milebush at 9:30, where we were briefed on what we were to do for the day by Nigel and Rafa. We were split up into 4 groups to cover each of the 4 pitches. The games were ten minutes straight with no offsides. We (Marc and Owen) were in the same group, along with Gavin Mullaney and Kyle Flynn. We rotated the roles of time keeping, refereeing and linesmen after every match. We all refereed at least 2 games and we all really enjoyed it, especially Marc, who was refereeing in his 3rd language!! Nigel and Rafa took over the refereeing once it got to the semifinal stage to avoid any potential bias. It was a wonderful experience, and it was made even better by the good weather.

Christmas Challenge Match

BY SARAH GRAVEN & CAITLIN LOFTUS



The U14 and U16 Gaelic girls played a challenge match just before the Christmas holidays. Sarah Graven and Caitlin Loftus coached the U16 team and Rachel Heneghan coached the U14 team. Katie Heaney refereed the game. Before the game we completed a warmup together, which proved to be lots of fun. The game itself was filled with excitement and skill. There were a lot of players so at the end of game we put everyone on to the field. It was a wonderful day in the school, even with the miserable conditions it was a momentous day for the parish, and they all had a ball.

Cross Country

BY EMMA MORAN-MUNNELLY, RACHEL HARNEY & EMMA COOK

In a heartwarming display of community spirit, students from Davitt College travelled to Sligo as stewards for the recent school cross-country event held in January 2024. Braving the brisk winter weather, these enthusiastic volunteers ensured the smooth running of the event, providing support and guidance to participants along the challenging course. Their dedication and teamwork added an extra layer of success to the event, fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among all involved. Davitt College continues to inspire through its commitment to both education and community involvement.

Yale Musicians

BY HANNAH HAUTTMANN



Thursday the 14th of March, students from the Choir and Traditional Music Group went by bus to Music West to be accompanied by Yale musicians and singers. The Yale students came across very friendly and bubbly. The students introduced themselves and mentioned something they loved about Ireland, which was really funny. For example, one girl remarked “she loved the bread in Ireland ” another stated “the misty mornings”

The Yale students started to express their talents to us by singing in a range of harmonies that was so beautiful to the ear. Some of the students also played instruments to add to the performance. Everyone was amazed with the talent including myself. It was like listening to an audio recording.

After their performances. the instrumental group and choir merged together. We broke separately into groups of instruments and vocal ranges followed by the Yale students as our instructors. We all played and sang together and it sounded great, and lots of fun too. To finish off the day the traditional Irish group played the tune “Out of the Ocean” to show the American Yale students our talents too. It was a great day and definitely one to remember.

DRUMMING WORKSHOP

BY BYRON CLEARY



On Thursday the 8th of February, we had a man called Anthony arrive to teach us basic African drumming. This was a very fun workshop to do, and I felt more connected with different cultures because of it. He called all the males "Homies" and all of the females "Sisters". We got the opportunity to learn a song that he showed us and then we were encouraged to come up with our own songs with ourselves leading. It was genuinely really fun, and we all found Anthony really funny. We enjoyed this a lot and so did Anthony. I think this gave us a great chance to learn a new skill and open our eyes to different music types that we haven't experienced before. Due to unforeseen circumstances, some students didn't get the chance to do this workshop, so lucky for us, we got to do it all over again!





TY ON THE MOVE



Davitt College

6 March at 11:52 · 🌐

Congratulations to Hollie Clarke on receipt of her award for Gradaim Aitheantais Gaeilge do Scoláirí na Sraithe Sóisearaí 2023. Hollie is pictured with Professor Pól Ó Dochartaigh in a ceremony which was held on Friday 1st March 2024 in University of Galway. Congratulations Hollie



TY ON THE MOVE



TY ON THE MOVE





National Enterprise Awards

BY IWONA PALKA AND RACHEL HENEGHAN

Iwona

On the 7th of March, our County Finals for the Student Enterprise took place. As a group of three, Katie Heaney, Rachel Heneghan and myself, Iwona, worked very hard to achieve this award. We had many ideas, but we went with our best one, which we discussed with our peers and teachers.

Davitt Compost is our brand name. It is a rich organic compost which we set up to reduce waste and carbon footprint. We delivered nutrient rich compost that had limited the waste in our schools, homes and our local restaurant and cafe business. Our business is innovative as we repurpose our waste materials that have been used and turned into something brand new Davitt Compost.

We created a social media account to give people insights on the making of the product to promote our business.

The day of the County Finals we were all thrilled to be in this competition. We laid out our display with decorations we previously made from paper waste and organised our table. Everything was looking great, a few minutes later judges and students from different schools came over to us and asked what our Business Enterprise was. We were super excited as we loved our idea and were thrilled to be a part of something like this. The judges and the students were very friendly and lovely to talk to. We explained to them about our Business Enterprise and how we ended up with this idea. Later, came time for the Winners' announcement, we were nervous but happy to be participating even if we didn't win anything. Our name was called up for The Sustainability Award and we were enormously proud of ourselves as we won an award out of so many other students. It was wonderful meeting new people and representing our school. It has been a memorable day and I'm looking forward to future events like this one.

Rachel

In January we began work on our business plan. We got laptops from reception in school and got permission from Ms. O'Connor to use the storage room in the lab to carry out the research. We began placing the buckets which we sourced from local delis around the school in the canteen, staffroom, and Home Economic kitchens to gather tea bags, fruit/veg peelings. We sourced a compost bin that was in the school that was not in use and put it in the LCA garden. Each one of us would go around the school and collect the buckets to empty them into the compost bin and then clean them out and leave them back.

The week before the competition we made a poster to show our key points of our business and pictures of us making the compost. We also made a banner saying Davitt Compost out of old newspapers.

When we arrived at the competition venue, we set up our display table (we brought one of Ms. O'Conner's Flowerpots with us to make our stand look nice). The judges asked us questions such as, "What roles did you all play in the creation and production of the business?" and "Have you made many sales?" and "Who's your target market?".

We all did very well answering the questions. We used persuasive language techniques and used our business terms. We really helped promote our product by making it really clear that our product is sustainable because we're reducing the food waste in the school. Also given we had no cost on anything due to everything we sourced being waste. We think the judges found our ideas very interesting. When the judging ended, we gathered at the stage to be presented with the awards. Davitt Compost won the Most Sustainable Award. We are all really happy and so is Ms. Kelly and Ms. O'Conner as they put a lot of work into the business as well. It was a great day, and we are happy to walk away with an award.





Maidin Caife

BY AINE FITZGERALD

On Wednesday the 6th of March myself (Áine Fitzgerald), Ellen Shaw, Diarmuid Swift (5th year) and Eva Garayalde (5th year), were asked by Ms Kennedy to go to the Lucan Street MLSETB building to supply background music during a tea morning. It was really laid back and the man in charge gave us soft drinks and chocolate bars. We walked to Lucan Street with Ms Hynes and met the team at MLSETB and set up our instruments, had a chat with a few people attending and running the morning then started off with a beautiful jig called "The First Pint", which we learned last year for our grúpa cheoil. We continued with a planxty called Elenor Plunkett and from there we played tunes from jigs and reels to barndances and planxtys. A quick moving slipjig called "The Butterfly" into "Fig for a Kiss" was the crowds favourite ! All four of us really enjoyed our late morning early afternoon session and the people there were so grateful and took videos to rewatch with their families who wouldn't be exposed to Irish Trad !

Thanks to everyone in MLSETB for this wonderful opportunity and thank you to Ms Kennedy for allowing us to attend and Ms Hynes for taking us out and looking after us !



THANK YOU FOR READING