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TY TIMES

The Davitt College Official Transition Year Newspaper



All the Waiting Over: Results Day at Last!

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The excitement and nerves of Junior Cert Results Day marked a milestone moment for our students – the closing of one chapter and the beginning of another. After years of hard work, long nights, and determination, it was a joy to see the smiles, relief, and celebrations that filled the school halls.

As our new Transition Year group steps forward, they do so with confidence, curiosity, and a renewed sense of possibility. From musical rehearsals to sports victories, workshops, and trips, this year promises to be one of growth, laughter, and unforgettable experiences.

To everyone who opened that envelope – well done. The results were only one part of your journey, but the memories and lessons will last far longer.

RESULTS DAY AT LAST!

BY KACPER MILEWSKI & BRUNO SENZEL

Before we were handed our Junior Cert results, the tension in the air was almost electric – the weight of three years of hard work and learning all leading up to this single moment. As the first few names were called, the pressure built steadily, with everyone silently counting down the seconds until it was their turn.

When our names were finally called, hearts skipped a beat. It hit us that whatever had been done was done – there was no changing the outcome now – and strangely, that thought brought a sense of calm.

As we shook hands with the principal and took our envelopes, pride quickly replaced nerves. No matter what the results showed, we'd completed the Junior Cycle – a milestone worth celebrating.



When the final names were called, we all waited for the words we'd been anticipating: "You can now open your results." In an instant, envelopes were torn open – frantically yet carefully – to avoid damaging the precious sheet inside. The room filled with laughter, relief, and shouts of joy as students compared results and celebrated together.

Soon everyone was off taking photos, swapping envelopes, and proudly showing teachers their grades. Meanwhile, the first, second, and third years in nearby classrooms got a glimpse of what lies ahead – their own Junior Cert moment still to come.













OPEN NIGHT AT DAVITT COLLEGE

by Kayla Gibbons

Davitt College held its annual Open Night to welcome sixth-class pupils and their parents to the school, giving them a chance to explore classrooms, meet teachers, and see what student life is like. TY students played a major part in the evening, helping out across departments and performing scenes from this year's school musical.

Everyone began arriving at the school around 5.00 p.m. to get ready for the first group of potential students coming through the doors. A large group of TY students – myself included – gathered in Mr Gallagher's room to perform two scenes from this year's musical, *Rock of Ages*.

The first group arrived at about 5.30 p.m., and we performed Act 1, Scene 3 for them. Throughout the evening, we alternated between two different scenes, giving each group a short preview of the show. The aim was to showcase the musical and, hopefully, encourage some of the visiting sixth-class students to join Davitt College next year.

Meanwhile, the library was buzzing with Transition Year students showing off the wide range of activities we take part in throughout the year. One student from last year's Transition Year class said that they "had an interesting time explaining things and chatting to parents and sixth-classers about the TY curriculum."

There was a huge amount of effort and planning put into making the Open Night a success, and in my opinion, it really paid off. The atmosphere was lively, welcoming, and full of excitement for what's to come.

A SNEAK PREVIEW OF ROCK OF AGES

by Isabelle McHugh

On 15th October, Davitt College performed a short scene from our upcoming musical production. I was lucky enough to take part, playing Regina in the musical. My scene included Conor McDonagh (Franz), Kayla Gibbons (Hilda), and Ava Cunningham (Mayor). We performed Act 1, Scene 3.

In this scene, Hilda and Franz – the two German characters – try to persuade the Mayor to tear down The Bourbon Room to make space for their new model of the Sunset Strip. My character, Regina, strongly opposes the plan, which creates plenty of tension between the characters.

My experience performing at the Open Night was really positive. It gave all of us in the cast a taste of what it will be like to perform in front of an audience and helped everyone grow more confident on stage.

There were a few funny moments too – for example, Myles (who plays Lonny in the other scene that was performed) kept forgetting to say the word “out” in his dialogue. Mr Gallagher and the cast made sure he didn’t live that one down!

Overall, I think performing a scene from the musical on Open Night was a brilliant idea. It gave parents and future students a preview of what’s to come and received loads of positive feedback. Hopefully, it’ll become a long-standing Davitt College tradition.



Stay Safe Stay Sober

BY ARTUR NARCISO, ABIGAIL LANE, & REBEKA VENCLOVAITE



The Stay Safe, Stay Sober programme is an important initiative that Davitt College takes part in each year. It encourages TY students to make positive choices around alcohol and to think carefully about the decisions they make on nights out. This year's session focused in particular on the upcoming Junior Certificate results celebrations and Halloween, both common times for young people to feel pressure to drink or experiment.

During the talk, we were warned about the dangers of substance use and given practical advice on how to stay safe and look out for friends when socialising. Local Garda Mick Toland delivered an inspiring and engaging speech about the effects of alcohol on young people, drawing on real-life experiences to show how one bad decision can have long-lasting consequences.

Many students found the talk eye-opening and thought-provoking. It reminded us that staying sober isn't about missing out – it's about staying safe, responsible, and in control of our choices.

TYS GET A TASTE FOR COFFEE CRAFT

BY CONN FITZGERALD, SOPHIA BIRDTISTLE & GRACE WALSH

Conn

Earlier this term, our TY students took part in a barista course, and it was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved. We learned the fundamentals of making great coffee – from pulling the perfect espresso shot to steaming milk for lattes, cappuccinos, and flat whites. We even got the chance to try our hand at latte art!

As part of the course, the TYs made coffee for both students and teachers, which was brilliant experience – especially when things got busy! The three-hour session flew by, and everyone came away with new skills, plenty of confidence, and a real appreciation for the art of coffee-making.

Sophia

On October 9th, I took part in a barista training course which began at 9:00 a.m. and lasted until 12:10 p.m. Our instructor, Darren, taught us how to properly steam milk and pull a shot of espresso, as well as the key differences between various coffee drinks and recipes.

I found this an important life skill to learn, especially as one of my personal goals is to get a part-time job in the near future –

and I believe this course will really help me achieve that. Darren was an excellent instructor, always clear in showing us what we were doing right and where we could improve. On November 5th, I received my Certificate of Achievement, confirming that I had successfully completed a Beginner Barista Course with D'Barista Learning, covering all the basic and essential barista skills. I thoroughly enjoyed this course – it was well worth doing, and I'd highly recommend it to anyone who gets the chance!

Grace

The barista course was really interesting because we learned how to make different types of coffee and the steps involved in preparing each one. Our instructor showed us the various kinds of coffee drinks, how many espresso shots to use, and how much milk to add. We also learned how to froth milk properly – which was trickier than it looked!

Overall, the barista course was a fun and valuable experience, and everyone enjoyed learning a new skill.



SHANNON RIVER ADVENTURE

BY AOIFE WALSH

On Tuesday, 9th September, TY students from Davitt College visited the Shannon River Adventure Centre in Roosky, Co. Roscommon.

The day began with the TYs being split into three groups. Each group took part in either rock climbing, archery, or the team challenge. The climbing wall was large enough for four or five people to climb at once, while the archery range allowed two people to shoot at separate targets. The goal wasn't just to hit the bullseye, but also to hit the shoes placed at the top of the boards!

The team challenge was difficult, messy, but great fun. Each group was divided into two teams competing against each other. Students had to race through mud, dirt, and wet grass, jumping over obstacles – whichever team finished first with all members back won.



After lunch, most students changed into swimming gear and wetsuits for the water activities. These included pier jumping from the side of a bank, kayaking in a small inlet of the river, and the much-loved mud slide. Pier jumping and the mud slide were particular favourites, with almost everyone giving them a go.

Kayaking was great fun too – students could choose between single or double kayaks, meaning they could paddle alone or with a friend. The cordoned-off area was small, so there were plenty of near misses and a few harmless crashes!

By the time we got back on the buses, everyone was exhausted but happy. Overall, it was an amazing day filled with laughter, teamwork, and plenty of muddy memories.









CSI: JFK — A FORENSIC LOOK AT HISTORY'S MOST FAMOUS CASE

By Iosac Butler

As part of Transition Year, we took part in a forensic science workshop where we learned all about President John F. Kennedy and the mystery surrounding his death. There are loads of theories about what really happened — some people believe it was a lone gunman, while others think there was something bigger behind it, involving the Mafia or even a possible second shooter.

We examined the weapons linked to the assassination, including a rifle, handgun, and revolver. We also got to use special ink to take our fingerprints, and we viewed our eyes up close through a magnifying camera lens. At one point, we even got to wear tinfoil caps and handle replica weapons!

Overall, it was a fascinating workshop — we had great fun while learning about the investigation into JFK's tragic death.



WHO SHOT JFK? REVISITING THE EVIDENCE

by Eoghan Reddington

On November 22nd, 1963, President John F. Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas. Lee Harvey Oswald was identified as the shooter after shots were fired from the Texas School Book Depository. Investigators gathered evidence, including fingerprints from the rifle and the boxes used to build the sniper's nest.

The Warren Commission later concluded that Oswald acted alone, but the assassination gave rise to many conspiracy theories. It remains one of the most discussed and debated events in American history.

I thought this workshop was a fascinating and really enjoyable experience to have as part of our Transition Year programme, and I'll have great memories of it.





Mellon Educate

BY GRACE WEBB-FLOYD

On 16th September, a representative from the Mellon Educate Foundation visited Davitt College to give a talk about their Building Blitz programme in South Africa. The annual initiative encourages TY students to travel to Cape Town and take part in a week-long TY Blitz.

The trip includes working with children in literacy hubs, meeting students from local high schools, visiting Robben Island, and taking part in a range of community projects.

The talk was truly eye-opening, showing us how much of a difference young people can make by volunteering in less privileged parts of the world.

I'd highly recommend listening to the Mellon Educate talk and considering this amazing opportunity to help others while gaining a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Boxercise with Adrian Sheerin

BY ISABELLE MCHUGH

On 3rd September and 8th October, my base class 4A took part in boxercise sessions for PE with Adrian Sheerin.

In my opinion, it was a really positive and enjoyable experience. I'd never done boxercise before, but Adrian made it easy to learn the moves and get involved. I think most people in the class felt the same – even if you're not into boxing, boxercise is a great way to keep fit or improve your fitness for other sports. PE in TY is definitely what you make of it, and it's worth getting stuck in and trying activities you wouldn't normally get the chance to do in any other year.



Davitt College Girls' GAA Teams Continue Winning Ways

by Clodagh Keane & Ellen Joyce

The Junior Girls GAA team, captained by Aoife Gannon, kicked off their season in style with a win over Balla Secondary School. They kept that momentum going with another strong performance against Mount St. Michael's, Claremorris, before making it three wins in a row with an emphatic 6-17 to 1-04 victory over St Joseph's, Foxford.

Meanwhile, the Senior Girls team, led by Eabha Donnelly, opened their campaign with a hard-fought win over St Joseph's, Foxford, securing victory by five points. They continued their run of games with a close contest against Gortnor Abbey, narrowly losing out by a single point.

Both girls' teams have shown real skill, teamwork, and determination – a promising sign for the season ahead.



Strong Start for Davitt College Boys' GAA Teams

by Clodagh Keane & Ellen Joyce

The Junior Boys GAA team began their season with a fantastic win over Coláiste Pobail Acla in the first round of the Connacht Championship on September 22nd. The match also marked the debut of their brand-new jerseys, proudly sponsored by Fresh Today for the year ahead.

The Senior Boys team also faced Coláiste Pobail Acla in their opening game and came out on top with a narrow two-point victory. The final score was 1-15 to 2-10. The lads built on that momentum, securing a second win of the season against Coláiste Mhuire Tourmakeady.

It's been an impressive start for both squads, who will be looking to carry their winning form into the next rounds of the Connacht competition.

Drumming Workshop

BY AMY SCOTT

Davitt College was alive with the sound of music on September 11, 2025, as Transition Year students dove headfirst into a drumming workshop. The goal was to give these students a taste of percussion and the world of rhythm. This workshop was definitely a favourite!

The workshop kicked off with a quick history lesson on drumming. We talked about how drumming has been around for ages and how different cultures use it. Then, it was time to get our hands on some of the drums. We learnt how each part of the drum makes different sounds, whether it's a softer or louder beat.



But the best part? Definitely the drumming sessions. We learned some basic techniques and how to put together cool rhythms and beats. By the end of the day, we were all playing together, creating captivating rhythms. We learned how to work as a team and communicate better. The drumming workshop was a blast, giving us TY students a chance to get creative and feel the power of rhythm.





Surf's Up

BY LUKE LAMBERT-VEALE

On 23rd October, many students from Davitt College arrived to school early, ready – or perhaps not quite ready – for a day of surfing. Let's just say enthusiasm levels varied ... though Mr McGarry was most definitely excited.

After arriving at the adventure centre, students were divided into groups. Some got straight into their wetsuits and headed out surfing, while the rest set off on a scenic and historically rich coastal walk around Strandhill. Highlights included the oldest church in Sligo and, to everyone's amusement, a small local airport.

When it came time to swap activities, things took an interesting turn. As one group surfed, the rain began to pour – not that it made much difference, since they were already soaked. The walkers, however, faced a dilemma: they'd dried off ... only to find themselves trekking through the rain with little to no rain gear.

The surfing session itself was great fun, with students learning the basics – paddling, carrying their boards safely (without knocking anyone out!), and, of course, figuring out how to actually stand up on the board.

By the end of the day, everyone – surfers and walkers alike – ended up equally wet, cold, and laughing about it. A soggy success, you might say!







TY's Gone Coastal

BY RADA KUZNIATSOVA

On 23rd October 2025, our TY students swapped schoolbooks for surfboards on an unforgettable trip to Strandhill Beach, Co. Sligo. The day was packed with adventure as we took part in surfing lessons with Atlantic Surf School and a scenic guided beach walk.

After suiting up in wetsuits, our group hit the waves first. The instructors showed us how to balance, paddle, and stay safe in the tides before letting us try it ourselves. There were plenty of laughs, wipeouts, and a few proud moments when people actually managed to stand up on their boards!

Once we dried off and had lunch, we set off on the beach walk, where our guide shared some fascinating local history – from an old cannon once used against pirates to ancient sand dunes filled with seashells from centuries past. The highlight was definitely climbing (and sliding down!) the giant sandhill.

Despite the rain – and sand getting absolutely everywhere – it was an amazing day full of fun, laughter, and great memories. Strandhill definitely gets a big thumbs-up from TY!





MUSICAL DIARY

BY LAURA FLYNN, BEN O'BRIEN, DAISY FINNERTY & MYLES GIRLING-MOORE

In the lead-up to our school's production of *Rock of Ages*, students have been documenting their experiences as they prepare for the big show. From first auditions to final rehearsals, our Musical Diary offers a behind-the-scenes look at the excitement, nerves, and unforgettable moments that come with bringing a musical to life.

Laura Flynn

Every Monday, Transition Year students head down to Mitchell's Sportlann for dance rehearsals, accompanied by teachers and professional dance instructors for a full day of choreography. The dance teacher decides who will feature in each routine, and everyone puts their best effort in. The sessions are lively and full of energy – a great way for students to show off talents they don't always get to display in class. Dancing is such a huge part of any musical that, while the rehearsals are serious, they're also great fun and completely worth the effort.

For the acting and singing side of the production, leads and understudies have regular rehearsals throughout the week. The musical directors, Mr Gallagher and Mr MacDonnacha, meet with students to go through songs, scenes, and costumes until every detail is perfected. Davitt College simply doesn't do bad musicals – it's about as likely as aliens landing in Castlebar! A great deal of time, energy, and funding goes into making sure this year's show lives up to the school's proud tradition.

Overall, the musical is a major part of Transition Year life, and there's a role for everyone – whether on stage acting, singing, and dancing, or behind the scenes helping with sponsorship, sets, and design. Mr Gallagher and Mr MacDonnacha know exactly how to bring it all together, and the musical gives every student the chance to get involved, contribute, and shine.

Daisy Finnerty

Everyone who starts secondary school has one thought in mind – “I can’t wait for TY!” Well, that’s certainly how I felt during my first three years in Davitt. Ever since first year, I’d wondered, “What will my TY musical be?”

A few weeks before the end of third year, our whole year group was told that our musical would be Rock of Ages. Not long after, everyone was invited to take part in a singing audition. The excitement was unreal! There were two rounds of auditions, and thankfully I was called back for the second round. Shortly afterwards, we were given a sample script to learn over the summer.

I was completely shocked when I first heard what the musical was – but after a bit of research, I realised just how great a show it would be. I spent the summer learning my lines and preparing for the next stage. When we returned to school, it was time for the acting auditions. Long story short, when the cast list was announced, I was over the moon to find out I’d been given the main female role – Sherrie! I think everyone who got a part was perfectly cast.

So far, rehearsals are going really well, and everyone is having a brilliant time. It can be challenging at times – especially learning lines and songs – but it’s been such an enjoyable and rewarding experience. For anyone thinking about Transition Year and wondering whether to skip it or take part, I’d one hundred percent recommend TY!



Ben O'Brien

I was thrilled when I first found out what our school musical was going to be. I didn't have too many songs to learn – being a fan of rock music already, I knew quite a few of them from the start.

At first, auditions were nerve-racking. I really wanted a part but wasn't sure if I had the talent to earn a role. Thankfully, as rehearsals went on, my confidence grew with each one. Being part of the musical has pushed me to do things I never imagined I could do in front of an audience. It's also given me the chance to get to know people I might never have spoken to otherwise.

I'm so grateful for the friendships I've made with the cast and crew, and I'm feeling a mix of excitement and nerves as the performance approaches.

Myles Girling-Moore

We kicked off the musical with auditions, where we had to sing More Than Words by Extreme. Thankfully, I already knew the song, so I breezed through the audition! I even sang Livin' on a Prayer by Bon Jovi as a little extra!

When the parts were announced, I was thrilled to find out I'd been cast as Lonny – the exact role I'd hoped for. Rehearsals started almost straight away. We were handed our scripts, which were about 100 pages long 🤯, and with only two months until the first show, it was time to get down to work.

During mid-term, the stage was finally set up, and we got to rehearse on it for the first time. Stepping onto the stage was unreal – it gave us a real sense of what performing the musical would actually feel like.

It's now the beginning of November, and we're in full swing rehearsing on stage. The excitement is building, and I honestly can't wait for opening night – it's only about two weeks away! 👍



ROCK OF AGES REHEARSALS



ROCK OF AGES REHEARSALS



DAVITT COLLEGE

Presents

ROCK OF AGES

**19th : 20th : 21st
NOVEMBER 2025**



7.30pm - Davitt College Sports Hall

Children / OAPs €10 Adults €15 - Tickets available on Eventbrite