



TY TIMES

OCT. 2024
ISSUE NO.13

The Davitt College Official Transition Year Newsletter



Junior Cert Results Day

BY MATTHEW WALSH

Transition Year students across Ireland, including those at Davitt College, have recently received their Junior Cycle results. It was a day filled with joy and relief for many, though perhaps also some disappointment and regret for others. It marked the moment to reflect on the outcome of the hard work students had put in over the past three years.

Each student experienced a busy and challenging journey through 3rd Year. The first significant exams during this year were the 10-week assessments, which provided a useful indication of how well students had settled into the academic demands of 3rd Year. However, an even greater challenge awaited them in the form of the Mock Examinations.

(continued on page 2)

Other great reads in this issue:

**UNCOVERING THE
TRUTH** 10

**SHANNON RIVER
ADVENTURE** 11

**CRACKING THE
CASE** 16

TY SPORTS NEWS 18

MUSICAL DIARY 24

JUNIOR CERT RESULTS

BY MATTHEW WALSH

For the students, this was their first experience of what a state examination is like, and more specifically, what the Junior Cycle entails. This shared experience fostered a sense of togetherness within the year group, as they all sat the same exams, in the same room. Finally, in June, the Junior Cycle exams began. Over 10 days, each student at Davitt College gave their best effort, and before anyone knew it, the 2024 Junior Cycle exams were complete. Relieved, the students could finally relax while awaiting their results in October.

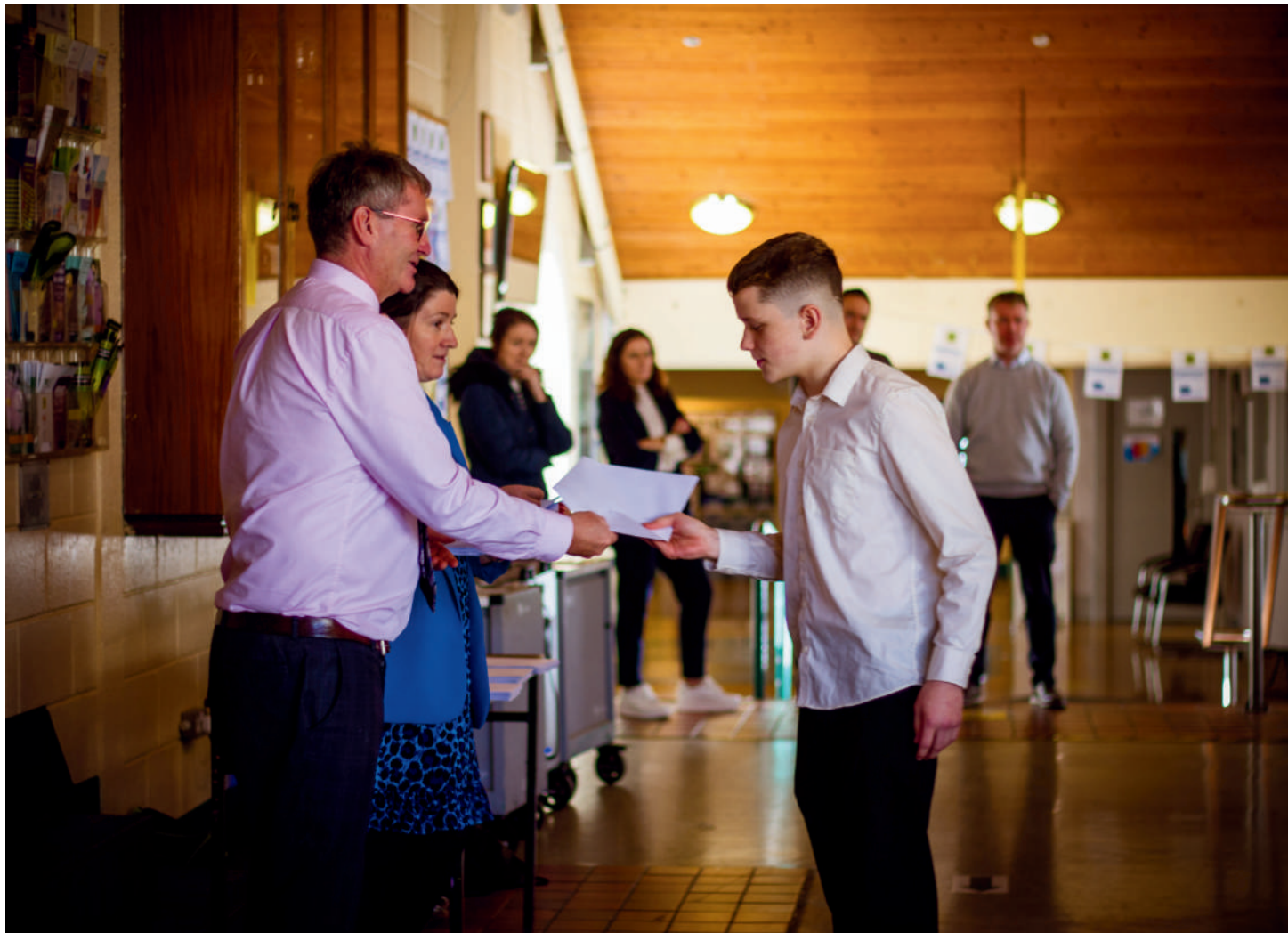


On the 9th of October, the long wait for the results came to an end. The Transition Year students of Davitt College gathered in the canteen, anxiously awaiting their results. One by one, each student was handed their results by our principal, Mr O'Reilly. With each name called, the anticipation grew. Once all the students had received their results, a great sense of community filled the school, as many students went around sharing their results with their teachers. It was a momentous day for all, one that will surely be a memorable part of Transition Year for the students of Davitt College.

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE RESULTS











TY VISIT ATU MAYO: EXPLORING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

BY REBECCA CORLEY

On Wednesday, 18th October, Transition Year students from Davitt College had the opportunity to visit Atlantic Technological University (ATU) Mayo to explore various career pathways. This visit was an enriching experience, offering us insights into the diverse programmes the university offers and what life as a student entails.

Upon arrival, we were welcomed by university representatives who provided an overview of the wide range of courses available, from Construction and Engineering to Early Childhood Education, Business, and more. It was fascinating to learn about the many fields we could potentially pursue after finishing school.

Following the introductory presentation, we took part in a guided tour of the campus. We visited modern labs, lecture halls, and collaborative study spaces, all designed to foster an engaging learning environment. The facilities truly showcased the university's commitment to providing a well-rounded education.

One of the most valuable aspects of our visit was the opportunity to speak with professionals working in various career fields. They shared their experiences, discussing both the rewards and challenges of their professions. Hearing firsthand accounts from those in the industry gave us a clearer understanding of what to expect and what skills are essential for our future careers.



Overall, the trip to ATU Mayo was both informative and inspiring. It encouraged us to think critically about our academic and career aspirations, reminding us of the importance of exploring our options as we prepare for the next chapter of our lives. We returned to Davitt College motivated and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

Stay Safe Stay Sober

BY AARON CAFFERKEY, CHLOE MAUGHAN & TREASA MUI

Aaron Cafferkey

The TYs had members of An Garda Síochána from the Castlebar Garda station visit to educate us on the importance of staying safe and sober. This talk was given ahead of results day, as the Gardaí wanted us to be aware of how our actions can affect others in the community and cause harm to ourselves. They emphasised the consequences of being caught with alcohol in our system and provided practical advice on how to avoid alcohol and resist peer pressure. Overall, the TYs found the talk informative and took many of the points raised into consideration.

Chloe Maughan & Treasa Mui

On the 18th of September, Garda Olive and her partner visited our school, Davitt College, to speak to us about the dangers of being under the influence of drugs and alcohol. They began by discussing how, during celebrations, it's illegal for teens to drink underage, especially in public.

Next, they advised that if we are to try alcohol, it should only be with a parent's consent. They stressed the importance of ensuring that, if we do go out drinking (when we are of legal age), our phones are fully charged and that we have a sober person with us to look after us. In case we're alone or get separated from our friends, they recommended having a trusted family member or contact on hand in case of an emergency.

The Gardaí handed out flyers and pop sockets. The flyers provided essential information about staying safe on a night out, and the pop sockets were printed with the message "SSSS," which stands for "Stay Safe, Stay Sober."

They also talked about drugs and how they can seriously affect both our body and mind, as well as our future. Most people who become addicts start in their teenage years, and they often regret it later due to the health, addiction, and financial problems it causes.

Lastly, they reminded us not to drink in public after receiving our exam results. The Gardaí emphasised that their role is not to get us in trouble, but to keep us safe and ensure we are okay.



UNCOVERING THE TRUTH: EXPLORING FORENSICS JFK

By Mark O'Donoghue

Forensic science is one of the most fascinating and popular research fields among young people today. In a recent study, it was described as “something out of a detective movie.” This is largely due to the fact that many modern films and TV shows, such as Dexter and CSI, prominently feature aspects of forensic science.

As a Transition Year (TY) group, we were fortunate to participate in a highly engaging seminar on forensic science and its role in the investigation of the JFK assassination. The workshop demonstrated why the official story provided by the government might not be entirely accurate, using forensic evidence and logical reasoning. It featured various props and even a VR headset video of the assassination, which helped us visualise and better understand the doubts and questions surrounding the event.

The workshop also encouraged us to ask our own questions about the assassination, one being: why did it take place in the first instance? While the presenter did not offer a definitive answer, she provided several theories, allowing us to form our own conclusions.

As a TY student, I found this workshop incredibly interesting, and it taught the student body a great deal about forensic science and the career opportunities within the field. I hope that in future years this workshop will continue, inspiring more students to develop a passion for forensics.

SHANNON RIVER ADVENTURE

BY SAPPHIA HENEGHAN & NIKA JAMBRESIC

On the 10th of September 2024, Davitt College TY students embarked on an unforgettable trip to Roscommon's Shannon River Adventure. The atmosphere on the bus was electric, filled with excitement and anticipation from both the students and the teachers.

Upon arrival, we were warmly greeted by experienced instructors who briefed us on the day's activities. The first challenge was the famous mud slide, where laughter echoed as students hurtled down the slippery hill, splashing into the pool of water at the bottom. After cleaning up from the mud, we moved on to kayaking. Paired up for this activity, we quickly realised it was all about trust and communication. Some of us even organised mini races, which added a layer of friendly competition to the fun.



Cliff jumping was the final water activity of the day. Standing at the edge of the towering cliff, we all felt a mix of adrenaline and nerves. With encouragement from our friends, we took the plunge, leaping into the cool water below. This bonding experience, with splashes and laughter all around, created a sense of accomplishment and joy.

Shannon River Adventure was more than just a day of fun—it pushed us to step outside our comfort zones. The trip wasn't just about trying new activities; it was also about teamwork, communication, and building friendships. We left with new skills, lasting memories, and a stronger sense of unity.

SHANNON RIVER ADVENTURE



SHANNON RIVER ADVENTURE





BOXERCISE

by Ricardas Seskus

Boxercise is one of the activities we've been doing in TY as part of physical education and self-defence. We had to learn different skills, such as how to punch properly, move around quickly, defend ourselves, and keep fit. We mainly focused on two punches – the jab and the cross. We also practised different movements to help us become more agile and avoid getting hurt. On top of that, we learned about different exercises to help keep us healthy and fit.



Homeless Talk - Simon Community

BY JOSHUA GIBBONS

Davitt College Transition Year group was introduced to the issue of homelessness through a presentation by the Simon Community, a charity focused on raising awareness and educating others about homelessness and its various impacts on individuals and the communities around them. The charity highlighted the many reasons why someone might become homeless, such as rising living costs, high rates of anti-social behaviour in certain areas, and substance misuse. Drug or alcohol abuse, often triggered by these factors, can lead to job loss, which in turn can result in homelessness.

This was the key message the Simon Community aimed to convey to the students, raising awareness of the complex issues surrounding homelessness and encouraging greater understanding and compassion.



Business Talk

BY RICARDAS SESKUS

In TY, we attended a presentation on entrepreneurship that covered topics such as product development, stock management, and business customisation. The speaker offered valuable advice on effective marketing strategies to attract customers and make products stand out in a competitive market. They also emphasised the importance of setting appropriate pricing to reflect the value of a product and ensure steady sales. The talk ended with the speaker encouraging us to consider pursuing our own business ventures in the future.

CRACKING THE CASE: JFK

by Joseph Loftus

Recently, our TY students took part in a forensics workshop in the school library. A professional in forensic science and crime scene investigation gave us an engaging and interactive lecture on the basics of crime scene investigation, analytical thinking, and constructing timelines to make sense of data. The assassination of JFK was used as a case study, as it presents a wealth of evidence and ongoing mystery. We were taught how to consider potential motives of suspects and the involved parties.

Following the lecture, we were given work booklets and had the chance to engage with various stations set up around the room, each focusing on a specific aspect of forensic science. The first station I visited featured a deactivated Carcano rifle, the same model that Lee Harvey Oswald used in the assassination of JFK. We were allowed to handle and inspect the rifle to gain a better understanding of how it might have been used.

The next station displayed an incriminating photograph of Oswald posing with the Carcano rifle and Communist newsletters. Our task was to compare this photo with Oswald's mugshot to determine whether or not it was genuine. This station engaged our critical thinking and analysis skills, prompting us to examine facial features and question why Oswald would have taken such a photo before committing an assassination. Could the photograph have been forged?

Another station allowed us to analyse our own fingerprints using an ink pad, demonstrating how fingerprints can be used to identify potential criminals. This was my favourite part of the workshop as it made a complex topic accessible and enjoyable. We also learned about the fingerprints found at the scene of the shooting, none of which belonged to Oswald. Interestingly, prints were discovered that linked to a murderer with ties to LBJ, the Vice President at the time. Could there have been another shooter, or was this an inside job?





Further stations focused on the types of guns used in crimes, how they influence crime scenes, and the damage certain bullets cause. These activities also tied in with our booklets. One intriguing section demonstrated how residue from a fired bullet on someone's hand could be detected, potentially incriminating a suspect.

The final stations guided us through creating timelines to reconstruct events and how external factors could help establish motives. This section also briefly explored conspiracy theories and whether we believed any of them.



Overall, the workshop was a thoroughly enjoyable experience that sparked the interest of many TY students, some of whom are now considering careers in An Garda Síochána. We also learned valuable skills in critical analysis. Did Oswald kill JFK? Most likely, but it remains fascinating to consider other potential factors or accomplices. It's exactly this sort of intrigue that made the workshop so engaging, and I look forward to whatever we'll try next.



DAVITT GIRLS GAA DIARY

by CLODAGH TIMLIN

School football is going really well for the girls this year. We began training in early September, and our first match was against Balla on the 25th. It was a tough, tight game for the whole team, but we managed to win by just one point.

Our second match was on the 3rd of October against Claremorris. Despite having a younger team, we won by a good margin, scoring plenty of points and goals.

On the 17th of October, we faced Foxford for our third game. We thought it would be a tough match, as both teams were fairly even, but we were pleasantly surprised. We ended up dominating Foxford with a scoreline of 7-12 to just 2 points.

Our Gaelic team is made up of a lot of players from different clubs, but we all love playing together. It's a pleasure to be part of the team, especially with such great coaches like Ms. Flynn and Ms. Casey. We have plenty more matches ahead, and we're excited for what's to come!



DAVITT COLLEGE SENIOR BOYS

by Ronan Loftus & Cian Corley Clark

In the first two group stage games, Davitt College Senior Boys, managed by Mr Larkin and Mr Murphy, faced Lacken and Belmullet, securing victories against both teams and positioning themselves well for a chance to win the Flanagan Cup.

On Wednesday, 16th October 2024, the senior boys travelled to Bohola Moy Davitts Gaelic grounds to face Foxford in the third group stage game of the Flanagan Cup, which was effectively a semi-final. The weather was harsh, leaving the pitch in poor condition and the team drenched before the match had even started. In the first half, the team put up a great fight, and thanks to a strong performance from the lads, we went into half-time with the score level, feeling confident with the wind at our backs for the second half.

Unfortunately, we let this overconfidence affect us and quickly found ourselves falling behind the opposition. Despite the setback, the team fought hard until the end. However, despite our best efforts, we lost to Foxford, which knocked us out of the competition on score difference. By the end of the match, most of the lads were more concerned about being soaked to the skin, having forgotten to bring spare gear!

Driving Range

BY DAIRE HUGHES

The Golf Driving Range in Castlebar is located just off the N5, a 20-minute walk from Davitt College. It is run by golf professional Adrian Moran and is open seven days a week. A bucket of 40 golf balls costs €3, and golf lessons can be booked with Adrian. There are eight indoor bays in a row and an additional larger bay for private lessons, meaning nine people can use the facility at once. As part of Transition Year at Davitt College, the school organised for multiple class groups to attend the Golf Driving Range for their PE lessons over two weeks. Everyone was taught the basics of golf, including how to hold a club, position and strike the golf ball, and swing safely without causing injury.



The range has various targets in the field ahead, such as tyres, cars, and goalposts, with distances clearly marked, ranging from 10 to 250 yards. To help us achieve longer distances, Adrian provided us with different numbered irons. The lower-numbered irons, or long irons, are harder to hit but cover greater distances due to their reduced loft (they sit at a lower angle). With Adrian's tips and plenty of practice, who knows—maybe we'll all become professionals one day!

DRIVING RANGE



Spikeball

BY GRACE CARROLL & KATIE O'MALLEY

The Davitt College PE Department offer Transition Year students the chance to participate in Spikeball, and to progress to a coaching course with a view to training younger students in the school. In order to participate in the Spikeball coaching course, we first had to complete an online test covering all the rules of the game.

On Wednesday, 25th September, Connor from Volleyball Ireland visited to teach us the rules, essential skills, and how to be effective coaches. We began with an introduction to the game of Spikeball, followed by a review of the hand signals used by referees during matches. After that, we focused on the key skills required for the game, including spiking, volleying, and digging.

Next, we went through a session plan outlining what we would cover with the 2nd Year class each of us had been assigned to coach. We then broke into small groups to create coaching plans for our peers. After practising our coaching methods, Connor visited each group to provide feedback on our techniques. Each week, we continue to practise our coaching skills with our assigned 2nd Year class. At the end of the coaching period, all 2nd Year classes will take part in a Spikeball blitz, organised by the TY coaches.



TY ON THE MOVE



GAA Coaching



14K Walk



Boxercise



14K Walk



Driving Range



MUSICAL DIARY

BY CLODAGH TIMLIN & RÓISÍN DALY

The TY musical auditions were held at the end of Third Year. Everyone had to audition and give it their best shot, whether they wanted a part or not. After many decisions by our teachers, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. MacDonnacha, and Ms. Kennady, a call-back list was created. This list was posted at the start of TY, and many students were called back for various roles.

Those whose names were on the list had to act out a scene or two, depending on the character they were auditioning for, in the canteen. This was when the eliminations began for each role. The teachers chose two or three people for each part. We auditioned for a few weeks, playing our characters and giving it our all, hoping that fate would work in our favour and we'd land the role we wanted.

For Róisín and me, we were the final two being considered for Dorothy, the main part in the musical. After much thought and a close decision by the teachers, our Róisín was chosen to play Dorothy halfway through September.

As for me (Clodagh), I became the understudy for Dorothy, and I re-auditioned and was given the role of Aunt Em, who is the mother figure to Dorothy throughout the musical. I was also selected as the understudy for Glinda, also known as The Good Witch. My role even has the opening song of the musical! We received our scripts a few days later, and I began learning my lines and songs. On top of that, I practiced the dances we were given at the start of September.

Overall, I found the auditions stressful but enjoyable. I pushed myself to try new things and gave it my all. Along the way, I met new people and made friends, discovered what I enjoy, and gained confidence from the experience.

WIZARD OF OZ REHEARSALS



WIZARD OF OZ REHEARSALS



WIZARD OF OZ REHEARSALS





DAVITT COLLEGE

Presents

THE WIZARD of OZ

20th, 21st & 22nd Nov 2024

The Wizard of ... What?

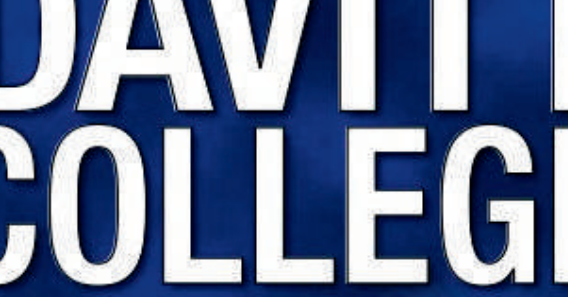
BY ERIC GANNON

Eric plays one of the mischievous Flying Monkeys in *The Wizard of Oz*.

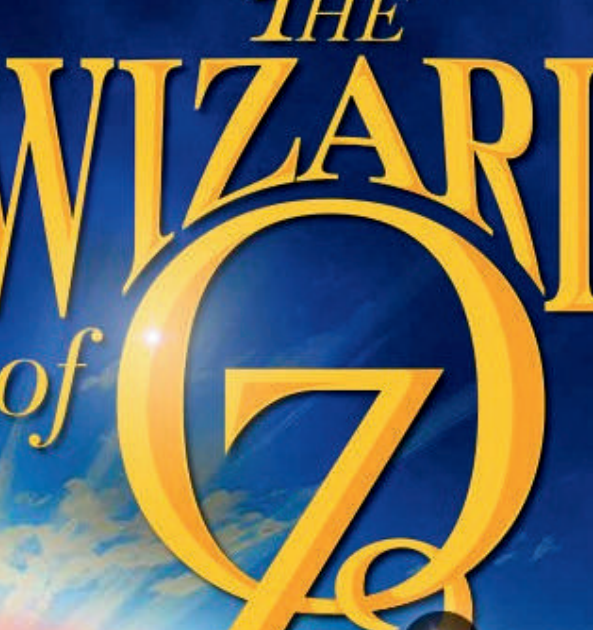
The upcoming musical at Davitt College is just around the corner. Reports suggest that this new production is neither the original nor an updated version, but rather a unique take with clever jokes sprinkled throughout. In this musical, as in the original, a young girl from Kansas is swept away by a tornado to the mysterious land of Oz. Along the way, she meets new friends with familiar personalities – the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the cowardly Lion – while encountering a host of witches, different villages, and cities of Oz, both good and bad, on her journey.

This exciting musical will be performed in the Davitt College sports hall from the 20th to the 22nd of November. We've got three nights filled with music and dance to entertain the people of Castlebar, plus a matinee performance on Wednesday. Tickets are available on Eventbrite, and a fantastic evening is guaranteed!

Rehearsals have been in full swing since September, with the cast busy perfecting their dancing and acting. The production is led by Mr. MacDonnacha, Mr. Gallagher, and Ms. Kennedy. If previous shows are anything to go by, this year's musical promises to be a hit – "Because, because, because..."



DAVITT
COLLEGE
Presents

The logo for 'The Wizard of Oz' is displayed in a stylized, golden-yellow font. The word 'THE' is in a small, elegant script at the top. 'WIZARD' is in large, bold, serif capital letters. 'of' is in a small, elegant script below 'WIZARD'. The letter 'O' is replaced by a large, stylized 'O' that contains a smaller 'Z'. The background is a vibrant blue sky with white clouds and a rainbow at the bottom. A bright star is visible in the upper right, and a small black circle with a star is at the bottom right.

**20th, 21st & 22nd
November 2024**

7.30pm - Davitt College Sports Hall

Children / OAPs €10 Adults €15

Tickets available on Eventbrite





*Oíche
Shamhna
shona daoibh
go léir*

THANK YOU FOR READING