

## TY Newsletter

January 2020



Dear parents, guardians and students

Happy New Year and I hope you all had a lovely break over Christmas. We had a very busy term in Transition Year before Christmas with many activities, talks, trips and work experience. Here are some of the highlights of our term.

**COLAISTE ACLA:** In August we travelled the four hours to Achill Island to Coláiste Acla - Irish Adventure Centre. The TY students took part in wonderful activities like surfing, bog snorkelling, hiking and team challenges.

**WORK EXPERIENCE:** There were two weeks of work experience in our first term. The TY students were given the opportunity to plan and organise their own work experience and write a meaningful reflection on their return to school. Many students took the opportunity to take an extra week of voluntary work experience. There was an array of careers sampled over these weeks including teaching, veterinary work, retail, health services, gardaí, childcare, politics and volunteering. The next work experience will run for two weeks from **February 24<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>**. Students are encouraged to try a range of career types so to best choose their Leaving Cert subjects.

**JOHN PAUL II AWARDS:** We have had great interest in the John Paul II achievement awards this year with over 40 TY students taking the opportunity to take part in this wonderful activity. The Award enables participants to take an active part in the life of their Church – in the life of their community and society.

**GAISCE:** Gaisce or 'great achievement' is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25 and has been in existence since 1985. The Awards initially flourished under the patronage of former President Patrick J. Hillery and to date and have been carried by incoming Presidents. We have over 60 students who have chosen to take part in Gaisce this year.

**COMPETITIONS & EVENTS:** All competitions and events available to TYs are emailed to all students and notices are placed on the TY noticeboard in their locker area. Students are encouraged to check their emails and read the noticeboard regularly for new opportunities and important information. For example:

- CanSat
- Literacy competitions
- Work Experience Opportunities
- Mini company
- Music events
- Career Placements

**CAREERS:** All students have a careers class and career guidance counsellor in TY. In November, all TY students travelled to the **Carlow IT** open day to explore the campus and the courses available to them in this 3<sup>rd</sup> level Institute.

**CHRISTMAS EXAMS:** All TY students sat Christmas exams in English & Media Studies, Maths, Irish, Science, Business and Modern Foreign Languages. Students are also required to arrange and present for an E-Portfolio interview. Interviews must be completed by January 9<sup>th</sup>.

**LAW:** The auditions for the Law team will take place this Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and next Monday 13<sup>th</sup>. Please see Ms. G Byrne for more information

**CAMINO:** We had a very informative talk from Eoin from the Camino Group on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October. The next instalment of €249 is due on February 24<sup>th</sup>. I hope all students are enjoying their preparation for this exciting trip.

**ACTIVITIES WEEK:** We had two activity weeks in Term 1. The activity weeks try to cater for all subjects and provide a varied programme of activities. The TY students were involved in the following:

- Yoga
- Cookery
- Art & craft workshops
- CPR
- Drumming
- Environment talks
- Dutch lessons
- Ultimate Frisbee
- Modern Foreign Language Day
- PE tournament
- Engineering workshop
- Maths Orienteering
- Curtis Walsh – singer
- Christmas Carolling
- Breakfast Newbridge Silverware
- Visit to Dáil Eireann
- Visit to the National History Museum
- ThinkLanguage event in the Convention Centre Dublin
- Christmas Lunch
- Cyber Safety Workshop
- Mini Company Market

The next Activity week in **January 27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>** and will include Law, Forensics, Breast Cancer Awareness, Careers & Finances, Crafts, a visit to Glendalough and their annual Reflection Day.

**FUNRAISING:** To date, fundraising for the following charities took place throughout the first term:

- Fighting Blindness
- Crumlin Children’s Hospital
- Jack & Jill Children’s Foundation

#### **PROGRESSING CHILDREN’S RIGHT TO BE HEARD THROUGH SOCIAL AND DIGITAL MEDIA**

The Ombudsman for Children’s Office (OCO) has commissioned Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin) to undertake research to better understand how social and digital media can be used to help support children’s right to be heard. Four national youth clusters have been identified; Newbridge was one of the areas and our school has been asked to take part. The aim of the workshop is to elicit young people’s ideas as to how social and digital media might be used to enhance civic awareness and participation, and to enable young people’s voices to be heard in public decision making. I have asked 4i to take part in this workshop. It will take place in school on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January from 9am – 1pm. I have provided the students from 4i with an information sheet and a consent form which must be returned to Ms. O’Brien before Wednesday.

**JUST1LIFE:** On **January 9<sup>th</sup>**, all TY student attended the annual Just1Life event at the Odeon Cinema in Newbridge organised by the Newbridge Rotary Club. This is a programme for transition year students prior to learning to drive. Students are shown hard hitting videos and slides on what can happen as a result of not driving safely.

**PARENT/TEACHER MEETING:** The joint TY/5<sup>th</sup> year parent teacher meeting will take place on **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February** from 4:15pm – 6:45pm.

**5<sup>TH</sup> YEARS SUBJECT OPTIONS:** There will be an information night for parents and students on subject choices for 5<sup>th</sup> year on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February from 8pm-9pm. Students will have a subject options seminar in early February to support them in this decision making.

**CYBER SAFETY TALK** There will be a cyber safety talk for parents on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the front hall. All parents are welcome. The talk will be delivered by Zeeko

Yours faithfully

Ms. E O’Brien - Programme Coordinator