

# HFCS Transition Year 2022/23

## 'A YEAR TO REMEMBER'



### Transition year began..

with an action-packed first term, students took part in a wide range of activities and workshops. They had a fantastic blend of educational and holistic events such as bonding trips to Liliput Adventure Centre and Zipit High Wire Experience. They also benefitted from the following talks; Bridge to College Trinity Access Programme, Breast Cancer Awareness and Connecting Women in Technology. Students also had a talk from Ms. Alpina Delaney about the wonderful work that the Hope Foundation does.

The Tenderfoot drama team were in and held auditions for their school drama programme. Students also had a trip to Dáil Éireann, where they had a tour and talk with former student, TD Emer Higgins. As part of their Development Education module, they completed two sustainability workshops called 'Plastic Free' and 'Fast Fashion'.

Students developed their barista skills, where students experienced what it was like to be a Barista for the day by preparing their own cappuccinos, mochas, and lattes! They learned how to do special effects makeup for film and television and they participated in a 'School of Life' programme, learning valuable skills that they will use in the future.

### The world of work

TY work experience is an integral element to the Transition Year programme as it allows students to explore the world of work and give them opportunities to explore potential career paths.

TY students had two blocks (2 weeks each) of work experience. Students worked in a wide variety of local businesses, local primary schools, An Garda Síochána, DAA Airport, The Defence Forces, The Tallaght Echo, Dublin City Council, TU University Science Department, Dublin GAA, Google, Mastercard, Mercedes Benz dealership, South Dublin County Council etc. In fact, while TY student Shane Mancier was completing his work experience in the 'Tallaght Echo', his newspaper article was published!

We are extremely appreciative of and grateful to businesses who open their doors to welcome our students, and give them such valuable experience.



### Inspiring the future



### Girl Power

Our Transition Year girls took part in the STEM Passport for Inclusion in Maynooth University. This project encourages girls to move into STEM courses and careers. Students collaborated on projects in the areas of STEM, to give them an insight into what studying STEM would be like. Well done to all students who participated in the course!

### Giving back...

Transition Year students were involved in the Localise Youth Volunteering Programme, this programme allows young people to volunteer locally and become pro-active citizens and community leaders. Students completed three fantastic projects with the local Saoirse Domestic Violence women's refuge, Peamount Hospital - St. Brid's Ward and Corkagh Park's 'Darkness into Light' walk.

For the SDV women's refuge project, students created beautiful 'Welcome' hampers that will be given to women as they arrive to the refuge. Students made a trip to 'The Square' to purchase essential items like pyjamas, toothbrush and other skincare and beauty products for the women. Students visited Peamount Hospital, where they sang Christmas carols and gave gifts to residents of St. Brid's Neuro-Disability ward. As part of the Corkagh Park, 'Darkness into Light' walk project, students crafted beautiful candle holders which illuminated the 'Silent Mile' part of the walk.





On Wednesday, 8th of February, 64 Transition students and nine teachers, travelled to Lavarone, Italy. They had a wonderful time skiing the slopes of the Dolomite Alps! Well done to all the students for their enthusiasm and good spirits in learning this new skill. They worked hard adjusting to the skis in the first few days and their resilience paid off, as they were able to explore new and more challenging slopes in the latter part of the week. When off the slopes, students got to enjoy two thrilling evenings of snow tubing, which proved to be one of the many highlights of the trip. Their behaviour and attitude were exemplary throughout and this made the trip an enjoyable and pleasant experience for all. As Jamie Hanan Murphy (TY student) so eloquently summarised his experience; "Trip of a lifetime that we will all remember forever", emphasises just how much this trip meant to the students. The feedback from students and parents has been hugely positive; the opportunity afforded to the Transition Year students to travel on a ski trip is very much appreciated. We look forward to the same memorable experiences on our future ski trips!

**Lights... Camera... Action.**  Students enjoyed a private screening of 'Rosie' in the Lighthouse Cinema as part of their Development Education module. Students were moved by this heartbreaking story of homelessness that is relevant and topical. They also had a private screening of 'Cailín Ciúin' in the Riverbank Theatre.

Students completed a Stand-Up Comedy workshop, they had a great laugh and really pushed themselves out of their comfort zone! They also participated in a First Aid course, where they learned the skills of basic First Aid and CPR. Another workshop they engaged with was forensics, where they investigated the assassination of JFK. As part of their Future Leaders programme, students organised and led an exciting fun day event for all our First year students which included bonding activities, games and inflatables.

22 students completed their Gaisce Bronze award, with a 25km hike along St Kevin's Way and around Glendalough. Students also ventured to the National Stud Farm as part of their Equine Studies module and also visited the Criminal Courts of Justice, which gave them insight into the Irish judicial system.

Throughout the year, students engaged with the local community in a number of different ways, most recently painting murals on the walls of local school Scoil Chróinín. Students worked with primary school students, encouraging and helping them to show off their creative flair. Students also brightened up the Saoirse Domestic Violence women's refuge children's play area, by painting an enchanted theme mural.



**Looking forward...**  They engaged in programmes such as the Tower Credit Union 'Clued-In' Programme, where students learned about the role of the credit union in our local community, the Future Leaders Programme, the Google 'Inspiring The Future Ireland' Programme, where students engaged in a bike maintenance project, learning a myriad of new skills which they shared with their fellow students, and which will be of benefit to them in their futures!



Transition Year students also took part in several fundraisers, including the Focus Ireland Sleep Out, where they raised money for Focus Ireland's Youth Project, the Darkness Into Light in Corkagh Park walk, helping to raise vital funds for Pieta House and the wonderful work that they do. It was a fabulous experience for them, to come together to spread a message of hope, love, and support. They also took part in DIL Corkagh Park's TikTok School challenge. Several local schools participated in this fun filled activity to raise awareness on the splendid work Pieta House does. Local Zumba dance teacher, Lorraine Smith came in to show our students the moves!

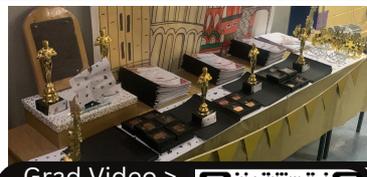
The three final trips of the year included Carlingford Adventure Centre, a 3 day trip to Coláiste Acla, and an exciting trip to Athlone Waterpark. They engaged in an array of water sports such as surfing, cliff-jumping, bog snorkelling etc. It was a wonderful end to a jam-packed year!

**A Bridge to the future...** 

A group of Transition Year students also took part in the Bridge to College programme, run by Trinity Access, which is a course aimed to show students what college life is like. They were tasked with running an event and informing students about sustainability. Our TY students won the national competition for their outstanding TAP Leadership Sustainability Project.

These students organised a whole-school clothes swap. With the money raised, they purchased trees and plants, which were planted at the local Day Care Centre. Students presented at the ACCS Education Conference, where they educated other schools on how fast fashion choices impact the world, and what they could do to change it.

As well as winning the national competition, two students received awards for their individual contributions. Kamile Aladinaitė was praised for her efforts as a team member, for her Bridge to College team, 'The Chosen Ones'. Sophia Stafford won the award for the 'Spirit of Bridge to College' award for her outstanding contribution to the programme. It was said that she encompassed the spirit of the programme, was a natural leader, ensured everyone got involved, and showed great kindness and empathy to others.



**All good things must come to an end...**  On the 22nd of May, Transition Year students had a fabulous graduation ceremony where all their wonderful achievements were celebrated in style. A myriad of awards were given for exemplary actions throughout the year.

Congratulations to 'Year Head Students of the Year' Ewan Coffey and Sophia Stafford, to Rebecca O'Loughlin winner of the 'TY Year Head Spirit of Transition Year' award, and Brandon Byrne winner of the 'TY Year Head Global Citizenship Award'. Also, to Keelyn McCarvill, Kathlyn Manning, and Aoife Cronin the 'Tutor Students of the Year'.

This year's cohort of students have been the most amazing group, we wish them the very best for the next chapter of their Senior Cycle journey.



Transition Year Class 25' - Thank you so much for the wonderful memories - Ms. Lauren O'Brien (TY Year Head & Coordinator)