

TY Newsletter Term 1 2020

Our TY classes have been kept very busy throughout term one and although the students have missed out on their bonding trip to Rostrevor they have made a very positive start to their Transition Year here at the college. It is our hope that we will still make it to Rostrevor before the year is out. As soon as things settle we will get out and about again. Thank you for your support so far this year.

They have been experiencing a wide variety of subjects. 4 Burren start the week with Japanese, taught by Ms Mika O'Loughlin, students are getting a taste for the language and indeed the culture. At the same time, Master Cha is putting 4 Dingle through their paces in St. Jude's hall as they master the martial art of Taekwondo. We are very proud of these two programmes here at the college.

Both TY classes have become ambassadors for the school and indeed role-models for the younger years by becoming Prefects for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year lunch break. This is a challenging role and builds responsibility and confidence. The Prefects have been praised by all for their efforts so far. They even have badges to prove it!

The students have also been acting as Covid Aides, ensuring cleaning and sanitisation stocks are replenished twice a week in every classroom. This has been such a help to the caretaking team and the teachers and we are very grateful to the TY classes for assisting in this area.

Students are on Work Experience on Wednesdays and we have been very fortunate that all students have been able to access a placement. Students have all completed and passed a "Covid in the Workplace" induction course which was certified. We have a farmer, a barber, a waitress, a shopkeeper, a mechanic and a dentist in the making, to name but a few. Some students are working here at the college with the caretaking team to improve the outdoor gardens and some students are working with The Kid's Coach too. Some students have acquired block weeks of placements too in a variety of different settings including St. Pat's Mental Health programme, Walk in my Shoes.

The Kid's Coach aka David Nugent is a past pupil of St. Mac Dara's. He left in 2016 and already has a published book, a Degree and his own business. He has designed a 10 week accredited programme for the classes entitled "Mentoring Mindset" where students take a closer look at goal setting and the power of positive affirmations.

We held an in-school bonding afternoon here in the college, students went "speed-dating" to get to know one another. This was a great success and the conversation was flowing. The classes have proven to be kind and interested which is fantastic. Mr Burke organised a Football Golf tournament for the classes to finish off the afternoon. There was stiff competition there.

In Agricultural Science, students have been busy planning a sensory garden in conjunction with the charity As I Am. In Technology, students have been busy building picnic benches for outdoor dining for all the students of the school. Students have also started their ECDL journey and 4 Burren have also begun a programme called "Make that Course" whereby they design their own online course in whatever area of interest they choose. The Spanish students also organised a treasure hunt for the 1st years for International Languages day. In English class, 4 Burren are producing a podcast with Ms Kelly, with former pupils as special guests. It is titled "Life After the Leaving". 4 Dingle are completing an accredited Food Hygiene course with Ms Rooney too which will be highly beneficial when seeking part-time work in the future.

TY classes also organised a very successful charity event for GOAL. They held a jersey day in the school on Friday 9th of October raising a massive €1221.60 for the charity. 4 Burren have started a Cycle Against Suicide committee and plan on delivering lessons to all year groups around mental health, they have many other plans for this initiative too. 4 Dingle are working on getting replacement bins for outdoor dining to ensure a reduction in litter and indeed seagulls.

Overall, a bright start here at the college and hopefully given time we will be able to venture further and try new things. A big thank you to the TY teachers who are adapting to this new way of teaching and an even bigger thank you to the students who have been supportive, enthusiastic and above all kind in this first term of TY.







