

# Transition Year 2023

## Christmas Newsletter



### Charity Work

Our TYs have been busy again this term and are organising our 'Festive Wear to Show You Care' charity day on December 22nd in aid of Bernardos. We will update on the total raised in the New Year.

Follow our updates @StMacDarasTY on Twitter.

### TY Mag.

The TY Mag is back in business. A big thank you to community member, Linda Daly for giving her time so generously and helping our budding journalists with our next edition of 'MagDaras'. If any parents/guardians wish to help out with sponsorship, please contact us in the New Year.

## Dingle, Burren, Tara, Ventry and Wicklow

Another busy term has passed and the TY students have really settled into their programme. They can usually be found busying themselves around the school building engaging in a variety of projects.

Ethos awards were given out to students this term for noteworthy acts of community, respect, equality, care and excellence in education. Pierce Delaney was rewarded for his excellence in education, Beth Crennan was acknowledged for equality, Josh Graham and Josh Boylan both received awards for respect with David Killeen and Jane Moran being recognised for their great work with Cheeverstown and receiving the award for care. Lastly, Sophie Tracey was recognised for her superb work on the field and awarded the community ethos award. Well done to these students.

As we come to the end of this term, students have started their third rotation of short courses. There are still lots of exciting things on the horizon for our TY students. January brings more outings and events, including more yoga, TY magazine and more talks and workshops.

The Christmas tree has been decorated, candy canes sold and Christmas jumpers are at the ready - the TYs are officially on their holidays this Friday! Well done to all on another fantastic term.

*N. Denny*  
Year Head

*L. McKeown*  
Programme Coordinator

## Work with Scoil Eoin

As a core part of our TY programme is working within our local community, we are delighted to be able to once again link up with Scoil Eoin on Armagh Road. This term, ten of our TY students have been visiting Scoil Eoin on Thursdays to help their students with their literacy skills. Our TYs have engaged in a paired reading programme as well as helping the students of Scoil Eoin develop their Nativity play. It is wonderful to see our TY students volunteering in this way. We look forward to our next group of students engaging in this programme in the New Year.

## Cheeverstown 'Fast Friends' Programme

This term it was class Ventry's turn to engage with our friends in Cheeverstown. Under the wonderful guidance of Ms.Dingle, Ventry worked alongside our Cheeverstown friends every week to create clay Christmas decorations. A long-standing relationship, our link with Cheeverstown has allowed our students to learn and foster key skills of working with people with special needs. Once again, this has been extremely rewarding for our students, allowing them to forge friendships with the lovely service users of Cheeverstown. We are immensely proud of the respect and care shown by all students.



## Yoga with Oksana

Here in Mac Dara's, we recognise the importance of wellbeing and stress management. TY allows students that extra time to relax and learn new skills. This term, all classes engaged in yoga sessions with local community member, Oksana. Yoga is a wonderful activity with many benefits, allowing students to try something new and develop a skill in meditating and reflection. We have more yoga scheduled for next term. A big thank you to Oksana, Judes and Mick Nerney for all their help in bringing this service to our TYs.

## TY Football Team

Our boys TY football team have been engaging well this year. They suffered a narrow defeat having come from 3-1 down to draw level with Patricians of Newbridge. Eoghan O'Donnell got 'Man of the Match', with the opposing team manager suggesting he should be playing League of Ireland! Superb coaching from Mr.Geraghty of course. We look forward to what next term brings for the lads.

## Mini Company

Mini company was back again this term, this time with a Christmas theme! Under the guidance of Ms.O.Brennan, class Burren decided to sell candy canes to the student population. This created a lovely atmosphere as the TY students visited all classes delivering the candy canes purchased by friends. TYs have really enjoyed their mini-company endeavours and we look forward to what the next group will bring.

## Comedy Gig

All five classes headed off into the city centre to attend a special comedy gig designed for TY students by comedian Ger Carey. This was a great opportunity for students to get out of the classroom, gain some independence and have a good time. A big thank you to the Liberty Theatre for hosting a great event.

## Christmas Day Out

After a long week of exams, our TY students got the chance to sit back, relax and watch arguably the best Christmas movie ever, 'Home Alone'. TYs headed for Movies@The Square last Friday to get into the festive spirit. It was a lovely morning and a great way to close off their exam week. Well done to all students on their behaviour. We hope they enjoyed their day.

## Christmas Exams

This year our TY students sat formal exams for the first time. This allowed students to showcase their engagement in their core subjects so far this year. Academics are a vital part of our TY programme and we encourage all students to strive to achieve their potential across all areas. Reports will be available after the New Year.

## Work Experience

Every Wednesday, our TY students enter the world of work and gain experience in a wide range of professions. Some students have also completed block weeks, allowing them to experience a full week of their chosen profession. As always, we encourage students to try a wide range of professions, so as to allow them discover what it is they are passionate about. Details of the next work experience are due this week, so please ensure to give in the work experience forms. We hope students have valued their time in their first placement and we look forward to the stories from their second stint.

## Next Term

Next term will be a super busy one for our TY cohort as we have more yoga classes, talks from Downsyndrome Ireland, workshops from BLAST art, trips to Irish and French cinema, historical trips into the city centre, workshops on female empowerment and lots more!

## Support

Lastly, a big thank you to the TY team within the school. The tutors and SNAs who work directly with the TY students everyday play a massive role in ensuring all students have an enjoyable experience of TY. A big thank you to everyone who helps organise, facilitate and attend all the TY trips. It simply would not happen without the huge buy in from all staff.



**A big thank you to all parents/guardians for your support to our TY programme.**

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*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*