

TRANSITION YEAR IN OUR LADY'S

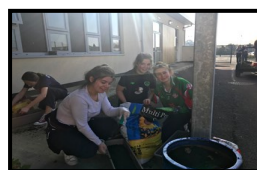
BR MARTIN BYRNE

Br. Martin Byrne gave a wonderful talk to TY students on Wednesday 13th March, about life in the docklands area of Inner City, North Dublin! This is an area of Dublin often unfairly defined by poverty. Br Martin Byrne has worked with this community for more than 20 years. Over this time, he has collected stories from its people. He believes that telling stories is a way to help the spirit of the community to stay alive for many years to come.



SOCCER TRIP

On Wednesday 27th, twenty nine TY students accompanied by four teachers travelled overnight to the Etihad Stadium in Manchester to watch Manchester City and West Ham perform in the Premier League. Everyone had a very enjoyable trip.



TY SPRING CLEAN

CHINESE

TY Students got the chance to experience genuine Chinese culture and traditions. Our Chinese teacher Charles along with two accompanying Chinese teachers played some beautiful Chinese musical instruments, sang Chinese songs, illustrated Chinese Calligraphy as well as the old tradition that is paper cutting. We would like to thank Charles and the accompanying teachers, Lille and Annie, for their time 谢谢 xie xie!!



TY GERMAN

Our TY German students along with their teacher Ms Emily Bergin have held a German club for pupils of 5th and 6th class from St. Colmcilles NS, St Joseph's NS, Castleiney NS and Clonmore NS. The club is a huge success. The pupils are loving the introduction to German and Chinese languages and cultures. Well done to all German TY students involved.



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Cumarsáid

Newsletter March 2019

Welcome from the Principal

I am delighted to introduce the Easter edition of *Cumarsáid*. Students and staff enjoyed a productive term at Our Lady's. Activities organised as part of the extra-curricular and co-curricular programmes allowed students to display their talents and to develop a wide range of skills. I pay tribute to the staff for their volunteerism and for their commitment to the holistic development of our young people. At the end of January, Catholic Schools Week was celebrated with reflections each morning and further exploration of the themes during religion classes. Wellbeing week provided a little time out from the busyness of school life. Students attended a number of presentations and took time to reflect on their own mental health and wellbeing. The highlight of the week was a visit from Br. Martin Byrne who shared with us his experience of working with the deaf community. Bhí áthas orainn Seachtain na Gaeilge a cheiliúradh i mí Márta le ceolchoirm, cluichí agus tráth na gCeist chomh maith le cuairt ó "Caith Amach É" le haghaidh daltaí sa séú bhliain. Celebration of our tradition and culture continued when students represented Our Lady's with great pride at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Templemore. We were delighted to be awarded second prize by the distinguished panel of judges on the day. I extend my good wishes to students and teachers who will travel abroad during the Easter Break. Best of luck to students and teachers participating in the Easter Programme at Shanghai University and to students travelling to Paris this Easter. During the term the Learning to Learn committee and tutors/yearheads have assisted students in target setting, exam review and the preparation of study plans. As we approach the final academic term in the school year 2018-2019, I encourage third and sixth year students to work hard in preparation for the State Examinations in June. To facilitate exam students supervised study will be available in school during the Easter Break (15th – 18th April and 23rd – 26th April). In conclusion, I take this opportunity to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable Easter break.

Beannachtaí na Cásca oraibh go léir.

Patricia Higgins

JUNK KOUTURE

'Bling A Ring' was the brainstorm of Design Team Katie Cribbin, Leah Walsh and Laura Fogarty. Their piece was created from can rings, facial wipes and old fabric. The ensemble, modelled by Katie, won the hearts of the judges and was selected from 1,400 entries nationwide to go forward to the Junk Kouture Regional Final extravaganza on March 8th in University Concert Hall, Limerick. Overall it was an amazing day and a fantastic opportunity to participate in such a creative event.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

On St Patrick's Day both students and staff braved the cold and took to the streets of Templemore to participate in the annual Parade. This year we celebrated 'The 1970's & 1980's'. We were taken back in time as students dressed up as Jaws, ET, Ghostbusters, Star Wars, and bands such as The Beatles, ABBA and Elvis. Even Bosco made an appearance for the day that was in it!! Well done to students who donned their costumes, put on their dancing shoes, took out their musical instruments and celebrated our patron saint. It was great to see such teamwork and cooperation from so many involved in the creation of our entry.



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

This term we welcomed Jim Maher, alumnus of Our Lady's from the Leaving Cert class of 2007. Jim works in The European Parliament in Brussels as a Web Editor with European Parliament's Director General for Communication. Jim spoke to students about the work of the European Parliament and the upcoming European elections. He gave students an insight into his work, the places it takes him and people he has interviewed. We were delighted and honoured to welcome Jim back to Our Lady's. It is always a privilege to hear how our students are progressing after their time here.



CEIST STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Wednesday 20th March, Daniel Tuohy, Meagan Sheridan and Coloma Stone attended the CEIST Student Leadership Conference in DCU. They had a warm welcome from Dr. Gareth Byrne, Director at the Mater Day Centre for Catholic Education, followed by a blessing from Archbishop Diarmuid Martin who also spoke to the group of over 300 students about the importance of caring for our environment. Students then attended leadership and wellbeing workshops followed by a presentation of mementos from the World Meeting of Families.



SPORTS AT OUR LADYS

U17 FITZGERALD CUP WINNERS



BADMINTON

Congratulations to our U14 boys team, comprised of Ned Delaney, Kyle Whelan, Eoin Larkin, Cian Sheedy & Daniel McAlister. They were U14 Tipperary winners in the Boys badminton. Having beaten Nenagh CBS, Thurles CBS and Borrisokane CC they represented Tipperary in the Munster Competition. The team came 3rd in Munster in the U14 Boys Badminton Championship. A fantastic achievement for first year boys.

SENIOR LADIES FOOTBALL

The Senior Ladies Football team contested the Munster semi-final against Kilrush Community School earlier this term. Following an impressive display of skill and determination the girls emerged victorious and secured a place in the Munster Post Primary Schools Final. On a cold January afternoon the girls lined out against St. Joseph's Secondary School Spanish Point. The girls played to the best of their ability but unfortunately were not successful in securing the win. A huge thank you to Mrs O'Hara, Ms Kelly, Ms Dann and Mr O'Donoghue for their help and commitment throughout the year. Also a word of thanks to Michael Towey who voluntarily gave his time to train the team and help prepare for games.



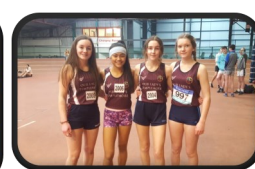
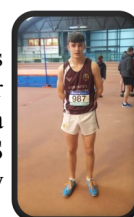
RICE CUP

Congratulations to our Fé14 hurlers who are now through to the quarter finals of the Rice Cup. Our Lady's had a great win over Middleton B team on Wednesday 27th March. Their great performances throughout the field saw the team win on a score line of 3 -16 to 1-8. The team will now face Nenagh CBS in the quarter finals before the Easter holidays.



ATHLETICS

This term our junior and intermediate Athletes travelled to Nenagh to take part in the Munster Athletics Indoor Competition. It was certainly a very successful day for our BGS Athletes. Congrats to the Intermediate Girls relay team who won overall gold in the 4x200m relay. They have now won it 3 years in a row. An amazing achievement. The team was made up of Emma Grant, Niamh Lalor, Kate Delaney and Neassa Towey. Our Junior girls relay team came third in the 2x200m relay with Katie Burke, Niamh Egan, Sarah O'Brien, Casey Crous on the team. Jack Ryan came 2nd in the 600m event. While David Quinn came 3rd in the intermediate 600m and Molly Nevin took 3rd place in the minor shot putt. Congrats to all of our students who competed.



KOLKATA — THE HOPE FOUNDATION

This January, fifteen TY students and two teachers, Ms Therese Boland and Ms Aileen Cashman, from Our Lady’s took part in The Hope Foundation’s School Immersion Programme. The Immersion Programme gave Transition Year and 5th Year students the unique opportunity to travel to Kolkata for one week. During this educational and cultural programme the group had an opportunity to visit HOPE projects and to witness first-hand the work of the HOPE Foundation and the extremities of life in Kolkata.

The fifteen students from Our Lady’s, Ciara O’Brien, Aoife Devlin, Clodagh Bergin, Jack Ryan, Kate Shanahan, Emily Kirwan, Sarah O’Sullivan, Chloe Whelan, Caelainn Luby, Kate Fogarty, Jean Rush, Eva Wallace, Jack Nevin, Chloe Morris and Anna Ryan spent the previous ten months fundraising for the projects, both together as a group and individually. They were able to see first-hand the amazing work that volunteers and staff from The Hope Foundation do in over sixty four projects scattered across a population of 27 million people. The group visited the slums, orphanages, crèches, rehabilitation centres for boys and girls homes, Special Needs Centres, Life-Skills Centre and The Hope Foundation Hospital. The group would like to extend its thanks to the Staff and students of Our Lady’s, the greater Templemore community, parishioners, businesses, sports clubs, organisations and family members who all contributed in so many meaningful ways.

The trip while moving was indeed at times upsetting but it allowed the group to witness the amazing work being done by HOPE’s team of professionals. It was a unique experience for our students, many of whom see it as the start of further voluntary work.



WELL BEING WEEK

Staff and students in Our Lady’s enjoyed an action packed week to mark the annual ‘Well Being’ week. Numerous activities and presentations were organised to remind students of the importance of looking after our physical and mental health. Artwork was displayed throughout the school to highlight the main message of the week and some year groups enjoyed presentations delivered by visiting speakers. Road Safety Ireland visited the school with the Road Safety Shuttle. This provided our senior students with a chance to interact with various safety campaigns.

Michael O’Sullivan, the director of the Humour Fit Theatre Company, presented workshops to all students in Our Lady’s. Michael has travelled to schools all around Ireland addressing issues such as bullying and resilience in a dramatic light for twenty six years. Key ideas covered during the workshop included: *Physical bullying*, *Exclusion* and *Cyber bullying*. TY students made fresh smoothies which were sold each break time, while staff and students also had the opportunity to work on their fitness levels through Zumba and Yoga classes.



YSI—YOUNG SOCIAL INNOVATOR

Transition Year students from Our Lady’s travelled to City Hall, in Cork on Thursday 22nd for the Young Social Innovator’s ‘Speak Out’ event. YSI encourages students to respond to social issues that concern them and contribute to building a fairer, more caring and equal society. The ‘Speak Out’ event allows students from all around the country to showcase their YSI projects. Four projects, each focusing on different aspects of society were presented from Our Lady’s.

The first group ‘*Inside Out*’ looked at how we could make small changes within the school to promote healthy eating. Their motto is ‘A healthy outside starts from the inside’. The second group is called ‘*Beat the Blues*’. They looked at the importance of ‘Wellbeing’ in order to relieve stress and anxiety in young people.

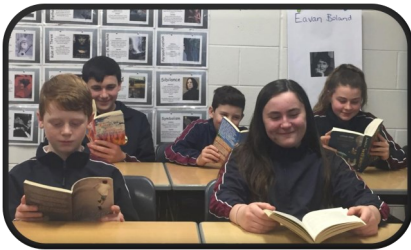
The third group, ‘*Never too young never too old*’ looked at how we can bridge the generation gap. The fourth and final group called ‘*Don’t fear if unable to hear*’ explored how we can give a voice to the deaf community, who are a minority and invisible group. Only this month the HSE has withdrawn funding from The Deaf Society. The group saw themselves as advocates for those who cannot hear. Students used a combination of song, drama, artwork and narration to illustrate their social issue and to provide details of the innovative actions they took to promote these social issues in the school and wider community.



Dale Cronin presenting Ms Tina Fogarty with best YSI Teacher at the 'Speakout' event in City

LITERACY IN OUR LADY’S

As part of our Literacy Strategy we have introduced the ‘*Book in a Bag*’ initiative this term. All students are encouraged to have a book in their possession at all times. Our aim is to encourage a culture of reading for pleasure and to instil a love of reading in our students. During tutor time junior classes are invited to visit the school library to select a book and to take time to read in the comfort of our modern, well-equipped facility.



WORLD BOOK WEEK

Students celebrated World Book Week by competing in Authors Scrabble and other reading related activities. First Years participated in a reading Taster Day on Thursday, 7th March and they enjoyed a range of activities organised for World Book Day at Our Lady’s. Well done to all students and a special congratulations to the prize winners.



CAITH AMACH É

Ar an 11ú Márta rinne an séú bhliain ceardlann 'Caith Amach é' mar ullmhú don scrúdú béil. Ar dtús rinne na leids seo grinn bunaithe ar na fiche sraith pictiúir sa scrúdú. Bhí sé bríomhar, barúil agus spreagúil, lán le stileanna eagsúla dramaíochta. Bhí an cur i láthair bríomhar lán le fuinneamh, agus cruthaithe sa chaoi go raibh sé oiriúnach do dhalta ar bith.



SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE

Is féile idirnáisiunta Ghaeilge í Seachtain na Gaeilge. Tugann an fhéile deis do gach uile dhuine sa scoil seo sult a bhaint as an nGaeilge. I mbliana tá nasc threascúraclár idir an Ghaeilge an ceol agus an ealaín. Ghlac na daltaí sa chéad agus an dara bhliain páirt i gcómortas na bpostair. Ins na ranganna bhí deis ag daltaí Gaeilge a fhoghlaim trí chluichí. Bhain said an taitneamh as na himeachtaí sin. Chomh maith le sin, chuir an rang ceol taispeántas talainne ar siúl i gceolchoirm ar Lá le Gaeilge. Bhí rinceoirí Ghaeilge, amhránaí sean-ós agus seinnteoirí tradisiúnta ag seinm. Bhí réimhse leathan siamsaíochta ar fáil den chéad scoth.



PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION 2017- 2018

The Knights of St Columbanus is a very successful All Ireland Public Speaking Competition. This year Sam Devanney, Katie Boyle and Patricia Gleeson qualified for the Munster Quarter Final of the UCC Debating Competition. Both Sam and Katie got through to the Munster semi-final but were unfortunate not to progress any further. Congratulations to all of you. A huge thank you to Ms T. Talbot and Mr A. Hogan for their work in preparing the students, it was an excellent learning experience.



KEMMY BUSINESS AWARDS

Congratulations to Aoife Devlin, Kevin Sheedy, Ciara O'Brien, Anna Ryan and Emma Fitzpatrick who were awarded Certificates of Achievement from the Kemmy Business School (KBS) and Business Studies Teachers Association (BSTAI) in University of Limerick earlier this term. These students obtained an 'A' grade in Business Studies at Higher Level in the Junior Certificate 2018. Missing from photo is Emma Fitzpatrick.



STUDENT ENTERPRISE COUNTY FINAL

Congratulations to all of our students who took part in the Student Enterprise Programme County Final in LIT Thurles on Thursday 28th March. A special congratulations to Caitlin Corrigan Black who was a winner in the best interview category.



ENTERPRISE WEEK

Enterprise Week commenced on March 4th. Students participated in a wide variety of activities and presentations. A massive thanks to all the businesses and guests who spoke to our students and gave them real life examples of Business in Action. A special mention to John Lillis from Bank of Ireland who spoke to TY and first year students about basic financial skills and the importance of staying safe online. Nóirín O'Dwyer from Chartered Accountants of Ireland visited Our Lady’s to talk to TYs, 5th and 6th year students about the life of an accountant, the opportunities in this field and pathways available to them. Dr. Fergal O'Brien from Kemmy Business School in UL spoke to TYs, 5th and 6th year students about careers in the Business sectors, courses available to students and real life business in action. Their contributions helped to make Enterprise Week a huge success.

