



# St. Louis Monaghan



**Transition Year Newsletter October 2019**



Meet the TY Newsletter Team! We really hope that you enjoy our October Newsletter! Our Newsletter Team consists of Tilly Cousley, Rebecca Kearney, Cairin McKenna, Emily Moore and Tanya Thinorantee. All topics were written and edited by us. We hope you find our first issue informative and engaging. All photos were taken by our adept TY Photography Team of Saoirse O'Toole, Grace Sherry and Ciara McCoy.



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## Musical Auditions and Call-Backs

On the 27th of August, musical auditions were held in Halla San Lughaidh. There were many delighted faces as the first round of call-backs were named. There were auditions the next day, when the final list was narrowed down to 20 people. 10 were chosen as the final cast of The Addams Family. We look forward to an impressive musical.

## Transition Year Assembly

The new Transition Year students had an assembly on the 30th of August. Mrs Conlon, Mr Sherry and Mr Fitzgerald discussed everything that will be going on this year and how exciting and eventful it will be.

## Volunteer Monaghan

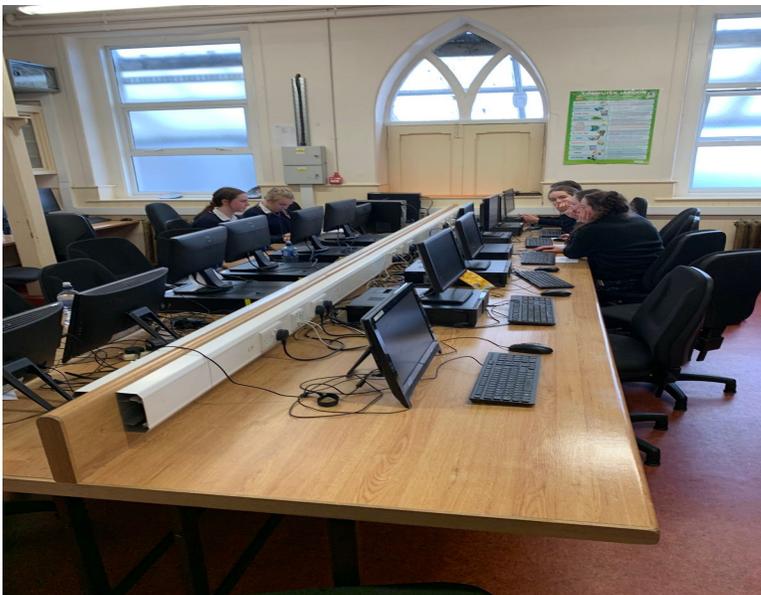
The girls had a guest speaker, called Grace Sherry from Volunteer Monaghan, come to the school on the 2nd of September and give us a speech on volunteering for the community and how it can benefit us and other people. The talk was mainly about the benefits of volunteering and the many organisations in town you can volunteer for, such as Tidy Towns, Special Olympics and many more.



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## Monday Modules

Monday modules started on the 9th of September, the girls had an option to pick what modules they wanted to do on the 5th and 6th period on a Monday. These modules included, Driver Theory, Gardening Club, Book Club, Enterprise, Musical, Junk Kouture, Safety in the Workplace and GAA Future Leaders.



## Enterprise Module

The Enterprise Module is set up for students who want to create a product or set up their own business in the future. The students learn how a business is run and how to create their own product and sell it. The students this module have also entered the Young Enterprise Competition.

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## GAA Future Leaders

The GAA future leaders module with Ms Tavey. The class focuses on coaching and nutrition. The students learn what makes a good GAA leader and how these skills are transferable.

## Garden Club

In the Garden Club, run by Mr McDermott the girls are focused on planting, pollination planning and sustainability.. The students observe many different plants and learn which plants are good, and which are bad for the environment. The students also studied Climate Change and how it affects life as we know it.



## Junk kouture

This year's TYs are flexing their artistic skills in the Junk Kouture Module with Ms Mahony. The 4th Years are focusing on making a charming gown out of junk. We look forward to a sensational catwalk performance in the upcoming months.

## Drivers Theory Module

The Driver Theory Module gets students prepared for the Driver Theory Test. Ms McCooley, who is giving the course is a qualified Driving Instructor.

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## Musical Module

TY students who were interested in participating in the musical attend this module. The girls rehearse their musical scores with Ms Duffy, Ms McGill and Ms Cassidy. The Stage Crew work with Mr Penders, Ms Mahony and Ms Fleming.

## Barnardo's Bag Packing

On the 13th of September St.Louis and St. Macartan's students collected money for the children's charity Barnardo's. Different groups were stationed all over the town in front of different shops such as Dunnes, Tescos and Flemmings to collect money. The girls had a great day and it was a huge success.





## Health and safety authority talk

The Safety in the Workplace Module group had a talk with guest speaker Seamus McDermott on the 16th of October.



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## Enterprise Modules Trip

Students taking part in the Enterprise Module took a trip to the Hillgrove Hotel on the 17th of September. There were 5 speakers who introduced the students to the concepts of product design and development.



## Cairde

On the 18th of September, the Cairde program began. The Cairde program is a buddy based system where the 4th Year students are each paired up with an individual 1st Year student. The 4th Year students have strict boundaries and guidelines to adhere to and have an important role to play in their younger student's First Year at secondary school. The 1st and 4th Year girls also participated in a talk with David McCague about their roles as Cairde.



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## Parents' Association flag day

The Parents' Association Flag Day took place on the 27th of September. Students from 4th Year were chosen to collect money around Monaghan. They braved the cold weather and collected a commendable amount of money for the Parents' Association.



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## Don't pour your dreams away

On the 30th of September the girls of TY participated in the 'Don't Pour Your Dreams Away' initiative, which aims to educate young people about the consequences of indulging in alcohol at a young age. This campaign also encourages students who are receiving examination results to celebrate responsibly.



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## Personal Safety Ireland

The students from St. Louis Secondary School and St. Macartan's College had a presentation on Consent and Respect by Alex Walsh from Personal Safety Ireland, in Halla San Lughaidh. Personal Safety is the ability to look after yourself, to be aware of your surroundings, to feel safe, to feel empowered, to feel confident and be able to adapt to any given situation. The course covered everything from basic guidelines about their personal space, to the legal aspects of consent.



## Competitions promoted in September

- Pramerica
- Euroscola - Video Clip Competition
- Press Pass
- The Mental Health Ireland Art and Photography Competition
- ActionAid National Speech Writing Competition
- Linguistics Olympiad.



## Pink Ribbon Day

On the 4th of October, a group of TY students raised money for Breast Cancer by bag packing and selling pins and ribbons. They bag-packed in Tesco and Dunnes Stores and sold pins and ribbons in and outside shops in different locations around the town.

## Work Experience Talk

This talk was on the 7th of October, 2019. The speaker, Seamus Grundy, Principal of St. Michael's N.S., spoke to the TY students about how to get a work placement and how to behave in the workplace.



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## Adopt-A-Nana

On the 8th of October a group of girls from TY, volunteered to go out to Drumbear Nursing Home to make friends with some Nannys and Grandads. The girls went every Tuesday and had an amazing time getting to know all the elderly people.

## Global Citizenship Development

On the 8th of October, Mr McDermott's Pollinator Planning Module group and the Green School's committee, travelled to Dublin to attend the 'Global Citizenship Development' talk, that discussed living in an increasingly interconnected world where our actions and networks are no longer limited by traditional boundaries or borders. The girls had an enjoyable and thought-provoking trip.



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## Pope John Paul 2 Awards

The speaker, James Mc Loughlin from Clogher don Oige, gave an engaging talk suggesting that the students spend an hour per week to do a good thing for their parish and community.



## Basketball with St. Louis G.N.S

On the 10th of October, a few girls from TY volunteered to train younger students in St Louis national school about how to play basketball. The 6th class girls are thoroughly enjoying the experience.

## Gaisce Launched

The 4th Year students had a talk about Gaisce on Friday, 11th of October. The speaker, Ms Flannagan who along with Ms Mc Cooley organises and runs Gaisce in our school, talked to us about why we should do Gaisce and the great opportunities that Gaisce offers us. She encouraged the students to take part, as it will be valuable in the future as well as an excellent learning experience.

## Transition Year Assembly on shared modules

On the 11th of October, the TY students had an Assembly on the shared module day with St Macartans, information on the Christmas exams and their TY Portfolios. The girls found out which activities they were going to participate in and who will be visiting St. Macartan's on the 16th of October.

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## GAA foundation Coaching Course

On the 14th of October, students doing the GAA future leaders module took part in the GAA foundation coaching course. In this course the TYs learned about what makes a good coach and if they have the qualities to be a good leader.

## TY shared module day with St. Macartans

On the 16th of October St. Louis and St. Macartans had a joint module day. Two classes of St. Louis TYs and two classes of St. Macartans TYs swapped places for a day and became Louis boys and Sem girls. There was an abundance of different modules on throughout the day, that they got to take part in.





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## Drumlin House Day Activation Unit

On the 18th of October, the TY students volunteered to sign up for Drumlin House Day Activation Unit in St. Davnet's. This involves a group of girls from St. Louis and a group of boys from St. Macartans working with people with special needs in St. Davnets.

## Rotary Leadership Interview

The TY students were introduced to rotary interviews on the 18th of October. Some 4th Year students applied to take part in a series of semi-formal interviews. Students were trained by Mr Fitzgerald before their interview. It was a very valuable learning experience.

## Crocus Promoted

The 4th years had a talk about Crocus on Friday 18th of October. Crocus is a Peer Support Group for those living with a cancer diagnosis, who are at different stages of their journey. Crocus are doing this because all people are equal and we must support each other and our families, to share experiences, to offer advice and help out if we can.



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## Dance Rehearsals for The Addams Family

The 18th October, dance rehearsals for the Addams Family Musical started and took place in Halla San Lughaidh with their new dance instructor, Paige. Paige was delighted with the progress and we look forward to more exciting dance rehearsals in the upcoming weeks. The musical rehearsals have now commenced.



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## Comhairle na nOg Conference



The girls that are in comhairle na nOg attended a conference talking about the issues they can tackle regarding young people in the county.

## Competitions promoted in October

- China in My Eyes Art Competition
- Columban Journalism Competition

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Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian,

We hope that your daughter is enjoying her Transition Year experience. The girls are a pleasure to work with and the vast majority have engaged with all aspects of our TY programme.

## Assessment in Transition Year

Transition Year should challenge students intellectually, give them an orientation to the world of work and cater for the development of their personal and social awareness. Research has shown that students who embrace TY, achieve, on average, higher points in the Leaving Certificate exam. This is perhaps due to the development of their general study skills, as well as the skills required for each individual subject and curricular area.

Students will be assessed on all aspects of the TY programme. Appropriate modes of assessment have been chosen to complement the wide variety of teaching and learning methodologies used in the St. Louis TY programme.

The students will have examinations before Christmas and will receive an academic report. This report will outline the students' academic progress. Experience shows that active participation is the key to success in Transition Year.

## Transition Year Student Portfolio

The Student Portfolio is a reflective mapping of the student's engagement with TY.

The student selects pieces of work that best show her learning, be that learning in an academic context or learning from extra-curricular activities.



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Please find a list below of the contents of the Student Portfolio:

- Reflective exercises on all aspects of Transition Year.
- Exemplars of classwork
- Reflective exercises on Work Experience.
- Photographs and accounts of activities undertaken during Transition Year.
- Accounts of participation in outside school activities

The Portfolio Interviews will be held during the month of May. The interview will be based on the student's Transition Year Student Portfolio.

## Dates for your Diary

Thurs 21st Nov - St. Louis Open Evening and Enrolment

Tue 11<sup>th</sup> - Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> December- TY Exams

Thurs 5th Dec - St. Louis Carol Service

Mon 16<sup>th</sup>- Fri 20th Dec - Work Experience

Tue 11<sup>th</sup> - Thurs 13th Feb - Addams Family



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## Contact us

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