

# 2020-2021

# TY Newsletter



— Editor: Katie Wilson



## **Students**

Tom Boran

Conor Bowman

Fergal Bowman

Jamie Callaghan

Ryan Coleman

Oscar Conroy

Leo Connolly

Ryan Daly

Emma Dwyer

James Gibney

Evan Green

Aaron McEvoy

Jack McNally

Oran McNevin

Katie Morgan

Callum O'Connell

David O'Regan

Riain O'Reilly

Tom Ryan

Katie Wilson

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## [A word from our principal.....](#)

Transition year always presents a challenge to students as it pushes them outside the norms of the classroom. They are challenged to engage with different subjects, different areas of learning and indeed different activities. While the year may not have been as active as you may have wished, on reflection it provided many opportunities for you to push yourself. Whether that was outdoor activities, online learning or indeed the activities you undertook in pursuit of your Gaisce Award.

Well done to you all for completing the Transition Year Programme. I hope that you will carry the spirit of Transition Year into the Senior Cycle. Remember to retain that openness to learning and willingness to accept new challenges as you work your way through Senior Cycle and beyond.

Jean Ryan

## [New School Building](#)

At the start of the school year 2020 we were greeted in a new building in the heart of Trim town center, Scoil na gCeard, to commence our Transition Year. It was decided that it was safer for TY and LCA students to be located here temporarily while the portacabins in the main school were being built to reduce the risk of overcrowding in the main school due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements.

“Personally I really enjoyed my time in that building because it was quiet and it was quick to get into the town for lunch”- James Gibney.

Written by James Gibney and Katie Wilson



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## Orienteering

In October 2020 we went Orienteering around Trim for 2 hours. Our teacher got some people to set up flags around town. We were divided into groups of 4-5. Our goal was to collect a stamp from each flag location, by following a map. We were then set loose to try and find the flags. It went really well and everyone enjoyed it.

“I am grateful that i learned about this. If I was in any other year I wouldn't have gotten the opportunity to do this. It was really fun to be able to go outside of school for a few hours and have some time with my friends.” - Ryan Daly

Written by Ryan Daly and Ryan Coleman.

## Online Learning

We only went back to our school building on the 12th of August from the end of our Christmas to the beginning of our Easter holidays.

During that period of time we were participating in online learning. It was a hard adjustment to make for both teachers and students. There was no routine sometimes we never knew we had a class until 2 minutes before although there are some positives to the online learning which are

- Covid cases went down.
- We got to spend more time with pets.( if we had any)
- We got to spend more time with family.
- Not to mention we got some extra time in bed (even though some people took that to the next level.)
- For some classes we had our cameras turned on some we didn't. It was stressful. Considering not everyone had their own space to attend class. Some were sharing a room with siblings and others were having internet problems.

Written by Katie Morgan

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## Work Experience

For work experience we had to get a part time job for every Wednesday, but this was very difficult because of COVID-19. In this TY classes work experience, there was a wide range and variety of professions, such as:

- Working as a shop assistant.
- Window cleaner.
- Working in Centra.
- Mechanic.
- Carpentry.
- Helping around a school.
- Electricianing.
- Working in a garage.
- Painting and decorating.



As well as much more. It is important to do work experience in TY as it can give you a better understanding and idea of the career you want to do / experimenting with.

Written by Calum O'Connell and David O'Regan

## Litter Picking

In October of 2020, the TY class began work on achieving their Gaisce awards. In order to achieve their medals, the class had to complete activities in four different categories, one of which was Community involvement. The TY class decided to clean the streets of Trim by picking litter for an hour each Friday with the help of Ms. Sweeney. The class picked litter in shine and shower, through thick and thin. All-in-all, the TY class of 2020-2021, completed their community involvement with a smile under their masks and a pep in their step.

Written by Jamie Callaghan



## Causey Farm

Around the time of October our TY class went to Causey farm on our second school trip for team bonding. During this trip we did loads of activities including bog jumping, rafting, canoeing, wellies tossing and swimming in a lake.

This was a very good way of getting to know the class and was a nice break to get out of the classroom.



Written by Fergal Bowman



## Gaisce

Gaisce is “The President's Award”. We were working towards the Bronze Medal. In order to get the bronze medal from the president we had to do activities from the following categories:

1. Community Involvement for 13 hours
2. Personal Skill for 13 hours
3. Physical Recreation for 13 hours
4. Choose one again to do for an extra 13 hours
5. Adventure Journey

For the community involvement we went out in two groups and picked litter in our town for ten weeks. For the personal skill we could choose anything from knitting to cooking. It was different for everyone. I personally chose to do piano. We then had a physical recreation and we went to our local gym and swimming pool. We then had an opportunity to choose an extra 13 hours doing either the personal skill or the physical recreation. I chose the physical activity.

Obviously with covid, we couldn't complete the litter picking in the town so a couple of us planted trees, helped our neighbours and litter picked our school grounds. We have completed our bronze and if we want, we can continue to move onto the silver and then gold.

Written by Katie Wilson



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## Tanagh Trip

Early on in the year, we had our first trip as a group to Tanagh Adventure Centre in Monaghan. When we arrived we were briefed on what was planned for the day and we went to get changed to go kayaking first. A small bus took us in two groups to a river down the road where the boats and ores were waiting for us. We split into three groups and set off. After rowing a certain distance we were told we could all jump in the river. The water was freezing due to it being late in the year but nonetheless it was fun. We later found ourselves at a small pier where we took turns jumping off into the water. After we went back to the main area where we gathered around a big slip n' slide. Buckets of water and washing up liquid were being chucked at a consistent rate and we took turns of going down in two's on our stomachs. Some people flew well beyond the bottom of the hill and the place turned mucky very quickly. We got changed and had a lunch break. We then gathered at the obstacle course location where we were split again into different groups. We did things like crawling through tunnels, balancing on ropes and beams, climbing through tires etc. We then had a game of Tug of War and the same team won each round. We were then brought into the woods across the road where we took part in different team activities.



“All in all, the day was very fun and was well worth it”  
- Tom Ryan .

Written by Tom Ryan



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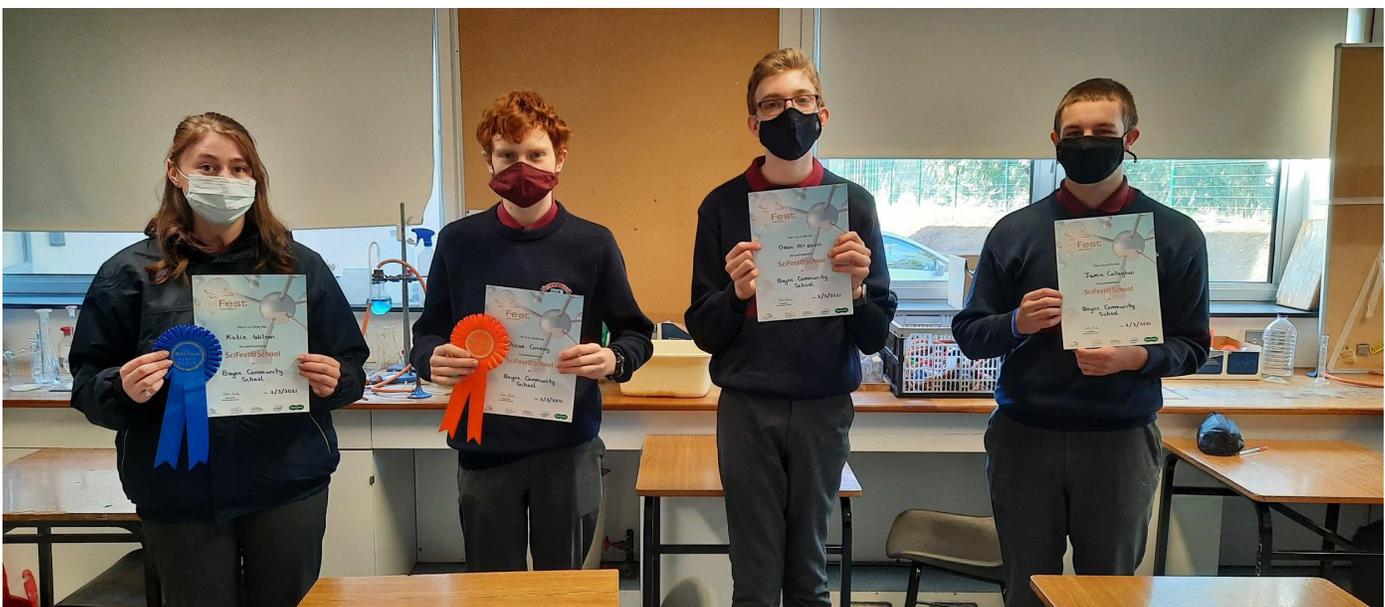
## SciFest

This Year, our TY students at Boyne Community School participated in Scifest, a competition between schools to see which student can come up with the best and most well researched science experiment. The first part of the competition was between the students of just Boyne Community School but the second part that is currently taking place is between all the participating schools students and will be held in DCU college. Some people did their experiment on “The factors that determine the rate at which heat is lost from different types of drinking cups that contain different hot liquids”, others on “how the temperature affects sugar in water”.

Scifest was also more difficult as we did not have access to a lab and had to do our experiments at home which limited what we could do for our experiments. The winners of the SciFest in our school were Jamie Callaghan in 4th, Oran McNevin in 3rd, Oscar Conroy in 2nd and Katie Wilson in 1st.

“I found scifest to be mostly fun with researching the experiment and then doing it. The least enjoyable part was taking down all the information. Overall it was an enjoyable experience that we wouldn’t have done if we weren’t in TY” - Oscar Conroy.

Written by Oscar Conroy and Katie Wilson



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## Tinpot Productions

This year in English the TYs learned about the inner workings of running and upkeep of a radio show. This was thanks to Tinpot Productions providing their online course so we could get certified. The course talked about seeing a radio show from the presenters eye and giving tips to get through the show. The course is run by Daryl Moorhouse, the MD of Tinpot Productions and a highly regarded, experienced Media producer. He has created innovative concepts and content for major Irish and international brands. Daryl is a highly experienced copywriter, voiceover artist and production manager.

It tells the students how a radio show runs and gives them an insight into what not many people will see. Such as how 30% of all music has to be Irish. It also gave a look to see how the scripts for radio ads are formatted and let them try and run their own radio station for a short period of time.

“I think it was great to have the opportunity to try a niche section of entertainment and dive into how the presenters of the shows think and carry out a radio show.”- Tom Boran

Written by Tom Boran.

## GAA

In September 2020 we participated in a GAA course from James Andrews from Meath Coaching and Games with Trim. What we were doing was basic physical exercises and warm ups for a football match. We were told about how to be a referee, team leader and coach. After the warm up we were issued with footballs which were used to kick around or get ready for the match. When the match started people were picked to be players, the referee and team leaders. This was only for one day. Because of Covid-19 we were unable to do anything else other than what happened on that day.

“We all did enjoy it for that one day though” - Aaron McEvoy

Written by Aaron McEvoy

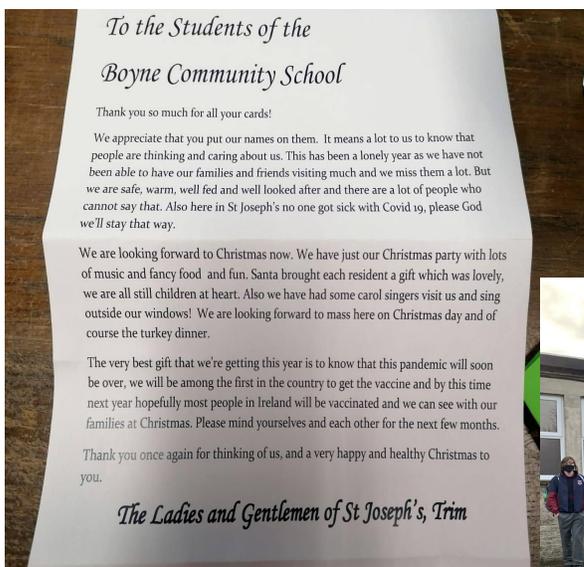
## Nursing home

The people at the St Joseph's Community Nursing Unit were going to have a lonely Christmas 2020, with no family to visit them. They may have felt a Christmas card coming from a friendly student would have cheered them up when they cannot meet their relatives because of Covid-19.

We, in the TY class decided to send them some Christmas cards that we custom designed with our newly acquired photoshop skills. There were loads of lovely designs of snowy scenes and cheesy christmas puns. When we were all done we packed up the many cards in envelopes and walked over to St. Josephs to deliver the box of cards ourselves. Later we received many thanks and appreciations from the lovely people in the centre who joyfully accepted our christmas cards.

We also wrote letters to each resident. We told them about ourselves, some funny stories and or jokes and told them that we hope this would all be over and they can see their family soon. Not only was it a nice thing to do, we all enjoyed it and would gladly do it again.

Written by Ríain  
O'Reilly and Katie  
Wilson



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## Talks, Languages, music and others

Since we spent a lot of our school year at home, the teachers got a good few talks arranged over zoom, such as; Rory stories, a dementia talk, talk with Joanne O Riordan , a balance nutrition course with Paula Duggan, zoom with local trim guards and a sex talk which was in school.

We also were given courses to do in the comfort of our own homes, such as a Skincare course and Online Skills Programme which contained, Computer Skills Programme, Career Skills Programme and Driving Skills Programme. As part of our p.e, after the show “I’m a celebrity get me out of here” finished, our p.e teacher set up a two week competition, where we were given different exercises e.g. planks, squats, lunges etc, and we were to record how long we could do them and that would add up to a certain amount of stars. The three people with the most stars by the end of the two weeks were sent out prizes. The people who won were Jamie Callaghan, Tom Ryan and Katie Wilson. Ms Moriarty also got the girls in the class involved in a research project for a woman in college. It was to help you exercise more, it was not a competition with anyone else. This is a project on exercise amongst teenage girls below the age of 17. And for the whole class she arranged talks from Wolf Academy and a Health and Wellness International Workshop. A course that will deliver sessions on health psychology, nutrition and movement.

Before we did online learning we were also learning the ukulele for music. It was a new activity for most of the class and we all really enjoyed it plus we learned it quite fast. Ms Murphy has given us a great insight into what 5th year music would be like. In the last few weeks of Transition Year we have been given a chance to do some music technology on “MUSEscore” and practice making music on “Garage Band” on the music department's new tablets. This was a great success as everyone in the class loved playing around with the app and making music individualised to each person and their music tastes. We also took up a new language, spanish. we now know how to say hi, where we’re from, count and even order food!

We also had many in depth, interesting and mature conversations about women's rights - men’s rights, statistics on how often women and men are abused, threatened, followed and murdered, as well as the percentages of the attackers that are men and women. We were advised of ways to stay out of dangerous situations and how to be safe.

“It definitely opened up our minds to the reality of the world and now we know how to avoid risky situations”. - Katie Wilson.

As part of our P.E. we had CPR training. Even if it was only for a few weeks we still learned a lot and it was definitely a good experience. Our geography teacher asked for some volunteers to help plant trees in our school and she got three great helpers, Jamie Callaghan, Katie Wilson and Tom Ryan.

They, along with some teachers, planted a memorial for all the people our community lost during the pandemic and continued to plant more trees around the school grounds. They put that work down as community involvement for gaisce as well.

We also got three hours a week doing photoshop which helped us with our work for the nursing home and it was a new skill for most of our class.

Written by Katie Wilson





Under normal circumstances, we would have been looking forward to our end of year celebrations, graduation and our Camino trip. Alas, it was not to be this year. I hope however, that you are able to take away some good memories and learning experiences from your time in TY.

Transition Year Graduation 2021 would have been a chance to get together and reflect on a busy, productive year and acknowledge some outstanding achievements. I hope you can take some time to reflect on this - from urban orienteering to ukuleles, messing about in the water in Tanagh, Gaisce, Causey and a whole heap of self- learning. The Transition Year Programme is a unique one-year programme that promotes the personal, social, vocational and educational development of students and prepares you for your role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

TY provides a bridge to enable students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with Junior Cycle to the more independent learning environment associated with Senior Cycle.

It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem solving skills.

Well done to everyone who managed to complete your portfolios. It will be a great record of memories and achievements to look back on in years to come. Congratulations, also, on a record number of students completing the President's Award, with special thanks to Ms. Moriarty for her encouragement and insistence!

T. Corbett

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A word of thanks to our teachers for organising trips, events and interesting things that helped make this a great year.

A special word of thanks to our Year Head, Mr. Geraghty for encouraging us where appropriate and reminding us of our responsibilities when necessary.

Special thanks also to Ms. Higgins for always looking out for us.

Not forgetting, of course, Katie Wilson for putting this newsletter together

AS voted for by TY students..

Most likely to become President....James Gibney

Most likely to become a sporting legend.....Jamie Callaghan

Most likely to succeed in life.....Aaron McEvoy

Most likely to change the world.....Oscar Conroy

Student of the Year nominations...

Aaron O'Connor, Katie Wilson, Jamie Callaghan, Tom Ryan, Oscar Conroy

Transition Year Student of the Year 2021 ....**Katie Wilson**