



Saint Aloysius' Secondary School
Sharman Crawford Street, Cork
TY Newsletter 2017

ENTERPRISE EDUCATION

Another busy and successful year for the enterprising students of St Aloysius. This year we participated in the Cork Schools Company Programme run by the Local Enterprise Office. By setting

up mini companies the girls took a business idea from the idea stage right through to marketing, production and sales. They learned about business finances, management and report writing. The

girls got the opportunity to present their products at a trade fair in the Blackpool shopping centre in December and participated in the Enterprise Event in UCC in March where TY Creations were delighted to receive an award for Best Team Spirit.



Finance Your Future

In the second term we participated in the Junior Achievement Finance your Future programme. This is a programme which is designed to help students understand the importance of managing their personal finances and which also helps them gain an insight into how continuing with education provides better options in terms of career and future earnings. Cnoc Muire worked with Veronica Sexton from Musgrave while Dea Choirle worked with Cian Hill from Janssen Sciences.



LANGUAGES IN TY



We would like to thank our two language assistants, Maria Wander from Germany and Natasha Angot from France, for their excellent work with the pupils in TY this year. We wish them the very best in their future careers. A very active year has been had in modern languages with our participation in various activities such as the interschool French quiz, and our annual trip to the French film festival.

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TRANSITION YEAR TRIP TO TRALEE TO CELEBRATE PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL DONAL WALSH FILM COMPETITION.

Last February, TY students from Dea-Choirle had the pleasure of attending the Donal Walsh film festival in Tralee. This year the theme for all entrants was to *Make Every Second Count*. A number of TY students showcased their talents by creating a short film that was published to YouTube and showcased at the festival. On Thursday 19th February, Emma Rose Sweeny, Nessa Ferry, Aisling Donovan, Aoife Hegarty and Isobel Morley traveled to Tralee with Ms. L. Murphy to enjoy the celebrations. The girls received certificates for their hard work and preparation and enjoyed meeting this year's 'Dancing with the Stars' champion Aidan O' Mahony. A lot of work was put into the film entry and it showcased the friendship, collegiality and support that is center to school life in our community at St. Aloysius.

ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS



Our TY students have been studying how electricity is generated using electromagnetism in Science class. They entered the 2016 UCC Engineers without Borders Competition for which they had to research, design and build an electromagnetic Wind Turbine that would generate electricity. The turbines were so impressive that two of the groups won 2nd and 3rd place trophies. Excellent work girls!



Rockclimbing at the Maradyke



First Aid Module in P.E.

VARIETY SHOW

This year all Transition Year Music students were part of a Variety Show, which was a huge success. In this event students got the opportunity to showcase the many talents they have to offer, from performing solo songs to staging a full production of songs from the famous musical by Andrew Lloyd Webber, “*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*”. Some of the songs included *Jacob and Sons*, *Josephs Coat* and *Any Dream Will Do*. There was a great atmosphere in the school for the matinee show where the students performed for some of the local Primary Schools.

Transition Year Students also performed *Naughty* from the musical ‘*Matilda*’. Everyone enjoyed this

performance especially the Primary School Students at the matinee show. People couldn’t take their eyes away from this upbeat performance. Some Transition year students put together an Irish dancing display alongside students from other year groups. This was a fantastic show of the highly skilled Irish dancers that St. Aloysius has to offer. Rebecca Twomey performed a beautiful rendition of *I Have Nothing* by Whitney Houston. Rebecca had the audience in awe listening to her performance of the song and it was a delight to listen to. Other performances from the students included a drama piece where the students played out a scene from a retirement home. This was a truly laugh out loud performance which everyone enjoyed.



IWISH CONFERENCE

On 10th February the Transition Year students from St Aloysius spent the morning at the City Hall listening to the inspiring personal stories of women who work in science and technology. They also had the opportunity to chat with representatives of various companies based in Cork about the opportunities that will be available to them in Science and Technology, as well as experiencing some of the fun aspects of engineering and science.



WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

Three of our talented students from St Aloysius have been invited to participate in the Women in Technology Cork Programme 2016/17. This programme was created to encourage young women to consider pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Nessa, Tina and Emma are being mentored by engineers from Johnson Controls in Cork, while they learn how to program an Arduino robot, learn more about careers in technology in general and present their project. Best of Luck girls!

GEOGRAPHY

At the beginning of the year, we closely examined and discussed topics associated with Climate Change, most notably deforestation, desertification and global warming. We looked at how deforestation is a major issue in countries such as Brazil, and how the environment, indigenous peoples and ecosystems of the Amazon rainforest and their habitats are being destroyed. This brought us on to desertification, which is resultant from deforestation in sub Saharan countries such as Mali. We looked at why countries like Mali are effected by desertification, both environmental and human made. Finally, we examined global warming which linked both deforestation and desertification, where we looked at the views and actions of political figures such as Al Gore, and his work to combating climate change.

After the Christmas break we focused on project work, where we completed projects on a country of choice and of Cork city and county. We researched the projects under a number of topics, such as language, religion, environment, foreign relations, demographics, food, trade, tourism and geographical features. The students were then tasked with presenting these projects in groups with the aid of posters they had designed, along with a PowerPoint presentation. In addition, the students were also required to complete portfolios compiling their research on the projects. Overall, the students got to explore topics which they will revisit and expand on in 5th year Geography, along with getting practice of researching and portfolio work which will be an essential part of the Leaving Certificate Geography fieldwork.

TY BIOLOGY

Make-up Microbiology module September to December

This year in Transition Year Biology we examined a broad range of aspects within the area of microbiology. We touched on the science of cosmetics and their link with the skin, bacteria and microbiological testing. The term began with an in-depth analysis of the skin where we examined its functions, composition and role as an excretory organ. We showed great interest in studying this aspect of biology particularly the cosmetics industry. Throughout the practical lessons we were given the opportunity to make our own moisturisers, cleansers and toners where we examined the procedures involved and the function and roles of the associated ingredients. It was really interesting learning about what ingredients go into making these cosmetics and how our skin benefits from it.

After conducting these experiment we when on to examine the classification of microorganisms where we focused particularly on bacteria and its

association with the skin. We conducted various different experiments to investigate the bacteria build up on our make-up brushes. This experiment was conducted by inoculating the bacteria on to an agar medium which would allow the bacteria to grow and multiply when incubated. During this experiment we learned the precise skills associated with microbiology and the need to be particularly cautious with aseptic techniques. I think it is safe to say that we all got a big shock at what we had found. Everyone's brushes had a lot of bacteria and fungi.

Later in the term we examined cosmetic testing in relation to animal right. We investigated the area of cosmetic companies and the testing of their products. We were shocked to discover that many well-known companies were testing their products on innocent animals.

TY TRIP TO KENMARE IN MAY



HOME ECONOMICS

This year in Home Economics we covered many topics and completed some practical cookery lessons throughout the term. This not only served as valuable preparation for those who would like to continue to study the subject at senior cycle but also provided a good insight into the importance of nutrition, diet and health to individual who had not previously taking the subject at junior cycle. At the beginning of the term we went collecting in the city for our flag day to raise money for the refurbishment of the new Home Economics kitchen. This collection allowed us to have a very enjoyable term in the new Home Economics kitchen.

The practical cookery classes were very beneficial and allowed us to develop key culinary skills that are essential for life. We learned how to make Oreo muffins and were provided with the opportunity during this practical lesson to practice our cake decorating skills and piping of buttercream icing. This was a fun but challenging skill which required care and attention to detail. We examined the preparation of healthy chicken dippers as a healthy alternative to McDonald's chicken nuggets. This practical tied in very with our theory classes on nutrition, where we learned about the calorie content of various products and the relatively poor nutritional content. Other theory classes examined the negative effect of consuming foods high in fat, sugar and salt which can potentially lead to serious conditions such as diabetes, coronary heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure. This topic further overlapped with our cookery lessons where we were given the task of design a menu and preparing a dish that would suit the dietary needs of a person with coronary heart disease. As each group prepared different dishes, this allowed us to view and examine the variety of dishes at the end of the practical and each group had to identify why there dish was a suitable low fat healthy dish. Other practical cookery lessons included the preparation of chilli stir-fries, mars bar squares, yeast dough pizza.

JOHNSON CONTROLS- WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMME 2017

"This year we were a part of the WIT (Women in Technology) Project 2016-2017 which took place in the Johnson Controls building in Albert Quay. Every Thursday from September to April we had the opportunity to go to the company for a period of two hours to work on our assigned project. During our orientation day we took part in an interview, met with our appointed mentors and we were introduced to our assigned project. There were three schools involved, therefore three projects and also three students in each group.

Our project was focused an audio robot while the other two groups were given the tasks of creating a mobile phone app and a website. The aim of our project was to design a programme that would enable an audio robot to navigate effectively using sensors on a standard office floor. Our group mentors gave us a session on how to carry out our task and helped us when we had problems. They explained the concept of programming such as structure, syntax and conditions which provided us with

the basic knowledge required to commence the project. We were also given instructions on reading the robot API and we looked at examples including how API functions are implemented in accurate code. We developed an understanding of user input and interactions such as how to receive inputs and handle user reactions. With supervision we successfully built our first programme that could interact and move the robot using buttons. Everyone was really kind and helpful as we really had no prior knowledge. Our session ended with a final group presentation where we showcased what we achieved and carried out during our time in Johnson Controls. It was a really worthwhile and enjoyable opportunity. It is a brilliant opportunity for any student interested in a career in technology, as this project is all about encouraging women to choose a career with the sector. Not only were we given sessions about our project, we learned how to write a good CV, how to attend an interview successfully, career guidance and also presentation techniques. It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience".

TYS ON TOUR IN BARCELONA

A fantastic time was had in Barcelona in March, when 25 TYs pupils set off for four days of action packed activities. Some of the highlights included a fantastic morning in Monsterrat, the memorable Sagrada Familia, a relaxing boat cruise around the port of Barcelona, and a visit to Gaudi's UNESCO World Heritage Site at Parc Guell, and the Picasso Musuem.

