

## Raising Vital Funds

SEAN HEALY



RAISING funds for St. Vincent De Paul has been to the forefront of all our events throughout the year. Much of our work was community-based and giving back to the local community here in Swinford but nevertheless we felt that raising vital funds for the organisation was very important in aiding them with the great work they do.

We had several bake sales throughout the year which helped to raise a modest amount of money thanks to the generosity of the students and teachers here in Scoil Muire agus Padraig. We found the bake sales worked very well as we were giving back to the school community and giving them home baked goods as a token of their generosity towards St. Vincent De Paul.



▲ **DONATING** Scoil Muire Agus Padraig's TY SVP committee members presenting a check of €500 to members of the local SVP branch in Swinford



▲ **FIRST-YEAR DAY** The school's new first years pictured at the Swinford Amenity Pitch Astro participating in team building challenges, set up by the TY's.

## First-Year day a big success!

CIAN MCNICHOLAS



WHEN we look back to the start of the school year, it did not take us long in TY to get the ball rolling when it came to organizing events. We quickly set our sights on organizing an allocated day for the new first-years that started in our school.

It was a chance for all the new first-years in the school

to mix as a collective group and mix with the TY's. This event ran from 9:30 in the morning up until 3:50 pm with lots of activities, games, and challenges for the first years.

This was an event where everyone wanted to be involved and take part in, which made organising the event so much easier.

The event was spread across three separate locations both in the school and down at the local Amenity pitch in Swin-

ford. The first location was in the PE hall for Jiving and dancing classes with some of our TY students. We had a table quiz up on the gym balcony, where the first-year students were put in different teams to answer general knowledge questions.

The final question was the brand-new GAA AstroTurf beside Tesco where the students had several challenges and games including tug of war, hurdles, obstacle course, planks, a football game etc.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Celebrating for Mayo day

PAGE 2

Giving back to the Swinford community

PAGE 2

Saying goodbye to our international students

PAGE 3

REPORT

# Bake sales

SEAN HEALY



OUR latest initiative was to host a bake sale for our end of year SVP event. A number of girls from our class led the sale and prepared for it. A bake sale is quite difficult to organise and host but our team of Shauna, Ciara, Ella, Lucy and Anna made sure that no stone was left unturned and everything was arranged prior to it. Shopping lists, recipes and measurements had to be arranged before any baking could take place. This took time and required a lot of hard work and concentration. With a plan in place of what they would cook, batches etc..., the girls took to the kitchen to start baking. The day of the bake sale was nearing ever closer and so there could be no delay in getting everything ready. Apart from baking there was a considerable amount of setting up to be done of tables as well as purchasing napkins, decorations etc... These were the finishing touches to what was a brilliant day that was a great success. The students and staff in Scoil Muire agus Pdraig really enjoyed what we had on offer and felt that our Friday bake sale brought the week to an end on a high note. All proceeds from the sale went towards buying flowers for our end of year Mayo Day flower event.

OPINION

# Our TY experience

CIAN MCNICHOLAS



IN TY we got ourselves involved in numerous projects and events that shaped our entire year in TY. I got involved in events such as the Trinity Law Outreach Day, where we travelled up to the prestigious Trinity College Dublin to take part in various Mock Trials. We got involved as a collective year group in bake sales, mayo day, window painting, shoe box appeal and so much more. In my view we were in our element when we were keeping busy, organizing, and planning these events. We learned how to take responsibility and make things happen quickly and efficiently.

Going on tours is always going to be one of the highlights of the year. Considering the Covid-19 restrictions that were put in place and mandatory mask wearing we did well to get on as many trips as we could. We travelled to Castlebar, Dublin, Galway and we are soon going to be heading for Italy on our TY holiday- what a way to end of the year!

FEATURE



# Pulling together to support our county

## Mayo Day in Swinford

CIAN MCNCULTY



THE Mayo bands were the first project we did as a class, which really brought us together as a group. Everyone pitched in and helped, as we did this in celebration of making the All-Ireland football final.

As a result, we made a significant amount of money which put us in a comfortable place financially for our

upcoming projects. We sold them to students in our own school and in the local national school in Swinford.

To make the actual bands we were given the luxury of doing that while doing our day-to-day schoolwork. The hope in making the Mayo bands was that the men in red and green would bring home the Sam Maguire to Mayo People of all ages from Swinford wore these headbands on matchdays both all over our local town

and some of the lucky ones that made it up to Croke park.

Even though, we did not win, we were still glad we got the chance to make the bands, because when we finished- we felt a great relief after some long days and hours of challenging work that we as a class done our bit for our county. After seeing everyone work together so well, we were excited for upcoming Calander year we knew from this the work rate was amazing.



FEATURE

# International students' day

DAVID TAYLOR



AS part of our Transition Year programme, we had an International Day for foreign exchange students to mark their departure back to their home countries, Italy and India. We hosted a party for them by putting some of their traditional country's cuisines and their countries flags and banners on display. The students' names were Irene Mapelli from Italy and Melvin Franklin who was from India. Both students were in 5th year and they got on very well with the caring and welcoming bunch of students in our school.

Our day started with multiple TY students and the home economics teacher helping us prepare these fantastic meals and then we invited all the 5th year students down to the gym balcony



for a feast. We played their traditional music and let all our Irish students get a real feel for all the unique cultures around the world and to show the similarities and differences between them. It was a wonderful experience to have had the opportunity to see and learn about this and I am sure they enjoyed it and appreciated it also.

We had another group of Italian girls join our school in January and they also joined the 5th year group. They joined us on some of our TY trips to give them a better opportunity to see more of Ireland whilst here. We took them to Castlebar to Mayo Movie World, Bowling and to the Museum of Country Life in Turlough. We also brought them to the stand-up comedian Ger Carey in the TF on the 24th of March and that is the latest trip we completed. They were truly thankful for the opportunity we gave them by bringing them out on our fantastic trips and they will leave lifetime memories, which is something that is always a priority when we welcome international students into the school.

REVIEW

# Celebrating our international students

## Learning about the Italy and India

CIAN MCNICHOLAS



LOOKING back on these particular days where we celebrated the culture and the traditions of our interna-

tional students that come to our school to experience our Irish culture. They come in to our school to learn and experience Ireland and of course to improve their English. When they come to our school, we learn from them just as much as they learn from us. We get to hear about their country and their different traditions, which gives us a fascinating insight as teenagers from the West of Ireland. We look forward to welcoming more International students to our school.



FEATURE



# Spreading The Christmas Cheer

CONOR ROWLEY



BEFORE the Christmas holidays, a man named Damien Moran came into the school to teach us how to design and paint windows. We painted the school's front windows as you entered the building.

It certainly was an idea to brighten up the school and get everyone in the mood for the Christmas period. We enjoyed learning how to paint and of course painting the front windows of our school.

It was something we enjoyed so much we asked different businesses around Swinford if we could design and paint their windows. Most of the different business around the

town gladly accepted- so, one Friday morning, we all as a collective group made our way down to the art room for different paints and brushes. After that we divided into groups and went around Swinford going from business to business, from the white house to Gateway hotel.

The designs on the windows included- snowmen, reindeers,

Santa Claus's, fields of snow, stars, and angels like a winter wonderland on the window glass. Through the next two weeks we continued painting the windows. It was one thing we look back on that we really enjoyed throughout the Christmas period. We were proud of ourselves for helping our community by helping spread Christmas Cheer all over town.



## IN TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN

# Barristers for the day in Dublin

SEAN HEALY



SEVERAL weeks ago, twelve students and I, including three of our international students, set off for Trinity College Dublin to attend a law outreach day. We had participated in the Trinity Law Programme on Zoom since the beginning of the year, but some students had been selected to go to Trinity and participate in a series of trial

competitions.

Upon arrival at the college, we got a brief tour before we prepared for our first mock trial of the day. Following this, we entered the courtroom to proceed with the trial. I personally really enjoyed this first trial as it got us into the structure of a courtroom and familiarized us with a court setting.

After lunch we the Swinford group were picked out of the other eleven schools to go head-to-head with another school in the final trial of the day.

It was to be the grand finale and

with a few minutes' preparation, all other schools sitting in to watch and the finishing touch, a black robe each for the two barristers, Anna and I.

We walked into the courtroom nervously but excited for the challenge that lay ahead. Accompanying us were our two witnesses, Shauna O'Rourke and Cian McNicholas, who both did a particularly good job of acting out their roles. After much anticipation the trial began, it was a very new experience for us all but nevertheless we thoroughly enjoyed it.

Our client was found not guilty and we got the overall winners award. A great end to what was one of the best outings this year. We all really enjoyed the day, especially our international students consisting of Anna Rusconi, Caterina Ballini (Italy) and Leonor Bauer (Germany). I learned a lot from this experience and it really opened my eyes to the world of law.

Whether I choose a career in law or not, it still was a worthwhile trip that I will have fond memories of for years to come.

## TRINITY TRIUMPHS!



SEAN HEALY

*"It was a very new experience for us all but nevertheless we thoroughly enjoyed it"*

FEATURE

SVP SHOE BOX APPEAL

CONOR ROWLEY



TEAM Hope's Christmas Shoebox Appeal is an annual campaign that delivers gifts straight into the hands of children affected by poverty. Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible. Since 2010, with your help, they have delivered over 2.1 million Shoebox gifts to Vulnerable Children across the world.

I was a part of the committee in charge of The Shoe Box Appeal this year in school. Over five weeks, we campaigned to try and encourage students in the school to contribute to the collection and what is a very worthwhile cause. We encouraged students to remember the four 'W's something to Wash, something to Wear, something to Write with, something to Wow the child receiving their present

On the week of the 10th of November, we began gathering all the boxes, and after quite a slow start and with a bit more encouragement of the students, we ended up gathering a lot of boxes for these kids that come from many different countries.

Often these shoebox gifts are the only gift that a child will receive at Christmas and the joy that they bring is incredible.

We as a class really cherished the chance to help these children who are less privileged than us. It helped us open our eyes to the trouble these kids are in, safety wise and financially

**"WE HOPE WE HAVE HELPED THEM AND BROUGHT SOME JOY"**

CONOR ROWLEY

WE really hope what we did as a class influenced these kids' lives. We sent items to keep them clean, for example toothbrushes, clothes etc. We also sent toys so they can play with their friends and try to enjoy their childhood. We wrapped these in Christmas wrapping so they could tear them open on Christmas morning. We hope we have helped them and brought some joy to what is supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year.

OPINION

A real eye-opener when it comes to a career in law

A Student's Take on Things

CIAN MCNICHOLAS



IF you told any of us at the start of TY, that we would be acting as barristers in a mock court room trial in the country's most prestigious college- we simply would not have believed you. Law is something that is commonly associated with being quite 'boring' and a bit tedious in some respects. Well, that was certainly my view of it- prior to this event, but that view dramatically changed after spending the day acting as a real-life barrister & witness, going up against other schools in a battle to win your case. There was a real buzz from the intense atmosphere inside the 'court room' or even in your preparation heading in to battle against the opposing side.

It was a place and a role where you really had to put in the work to win- just like if you were playing on a football team or a rugby team. But it made the victory even sweeter knowing that you had worked hard for that win. For some people that went on this trip it might have turned their head towards a possible career in Law- either as a Barrister, Solicitor, Judge etc. Even it did not have that influence on you, it is certainly not a terrible thing to have on anyone's CV.

For myself personally, it has definitely changed my head towards a possible career in Law, even as a Barrister or a Solicitor.



▲ IN ACTION TY student Anna Doherty pictured making her opening statement to the court room



▲ WINNERS Students Shauna O'Rourke, Sean Healy, Anna Doherty and Cian McNicholas pictured with the winning trophy.



The competitive aspect of Law, makes it certainly a lot more appealing to people when it comes to the one team vs another team in the court room.

You could get the feeling that it would be a fantastic job to have where you are going into court each day fighting a case for your clients- but of course I know that is not the full reality of life as a day-to-day barrister or solicitor, but it certainly is a large part of the job- which makes it even more exciting.

It will be sure to be something that we look back on during our TY experience with a great deal of accomplishment. We are certainly glad we done took part it.

FEATURE

Baking up a storm!

SEAN HEALY



OUR latest initiative was to host a bake sale for our end of year SVP event. A number of girls from our class led the sale and prepared for it. A bake sale is quite difficult to organise and host but our team of Shauna, Ciara, Ella, Lucy and Anna made sure that no stone was left unturned and everything was arranged prior to it. Shopping lists, recipes and measurements had to be arranged before any baking could take place.

This took time and required a lot of hard work and concentration.

With a plan in place of what they would cook, batches etc..., the girls took to the kitchen to start baking. The day of the bake sale was nearing ever closer and so there could be no delay in getting everything ready.

Apart from baking there was a considerable amount of setting up to be done of tables as well as purchasing napkins, decorations etc... These were the finishing touches to what was a brilliant day that was a great success.

The students and staff in Scoil Muire agus Padraig really enjoyed what we had on offer and felt that our Friday bake sale brought the week to an end on a high note.

All proceeds from the sale went towards buying flowers for our end of year May Day flower event.



# 5 traits we have learned from SVP

CIAN MCNICHOLAS



## LEADERSHIP SKILLS

SOMETHING that was fundamental to our endeavours this year was the ability to show leadership in whatever task you were given throughout the year working with Saint Vincent De Paul and other projects. The premiss of taking responsibility and leading a group of people in organising an event was something that most of us have benefited from this year and will help us during and after our time in school.

## PROBLEM SOLVING

WHEN putting anything together,

you are always going to be dealt a few curveballs and throughout the year we learned that everything does not always run smoothly. The ability to solve minor logistical problems or even big deterrents was something that put us as a year group to the test, but it was something we grew at and improved on.

## TEAMWORK

A huge part of our year was centred around the skill of being able to work as a team. It was something that we had no choice in but to get on with things and work collectively and efficiently as a unit. We learned the benefits from having good teamwork skills can result in a person really reaching their potential when

it came to their role in whatever event we were planning or putting together.

## TIME MANAGEMENT

THIS particular trait was something we as a year group might have underestimated prior to starting TY. We learned quickly that it is in-fact a hugely important aspect when it comes to whatever you do. When you are planning to organise an event your first call to action is of-course trying to configurate what time does the event start, what time does the event end, what time do you stop for lunch etc.

## COMMUNICATION

IN today's world anyone can communicate, but the trick is how do

you communicate effectively and efficiently. That is what we eventually got the hang of, as we may have struggled with this concept at the start of the school year. It does not help when you are trying to communicate to over 40 people plus teachers and other staff in the school. But the as we approach the end of the school year, we can now look back and say it is something where we have made huge ground on.



# SVP Flower Box Event

WITH the intention of expanding our end of year event, we decided to make-up different flower arrangements and windowboxes to give to the local hospital and day-care centre here in Swinford. A number of us TY students took an afternoon out to price and plan what we needed in our local Homeland store, before finally taking the plunge and purchasing all the components we required. After that stage a small group of us spent a morning setting the various flowers and plants in the window boxes and also, in larger round pots. We were guided in the process by Mr. Sean Mitchell, who is a teacher in the school with a great



interest in horticulture and gardening. He advised us on flower varieties, sizes, amounts etc... His advice really helped and made a difference during our venture. In total made up ten window boxes along with two large round pots. Everyone in the school was very

impressed with what we had constructed, as were the patients and staff in the hospital/daycentre.

Our flowers helped hugely in improving the aesthetic of the building and certainly brought a smile to everyone's face, even to look out the window and see the beautiful montage of colours-was a major lift in spirits for everyone. In our own mind's we thought it was our duty to try and brighten-up the days for people that mightn't be as able or as healthy as ourselves. We are very pleased with how well our event went down and we are proud to be able, to give back to our local community and enrich the town of Swinford.

thought it was our duty to try and brighten-up the days for people that mightn't be as able or as healthy as ourselves. We are very pleased with how well our event went down and we are proud to be able, to give back to our local community and enrich the town of Swinford.

was filtered around different subjects such as: Sport, Music, Netflix, Human body, General Knowledge etc. We assembled a group of 4 TY students to correct the answer sheets from each round. They then totted up all the scores at the end and announced the winner. The event was a big success and was something that the two-year groups really enjoyed.



## Table quiz fun

AFTER weeks of organising, plotting, and planning TY B finally hosted the long-awaited 1st and 2nd year table quiz day, where the PE hall was filled with speakers, tables, and chairs to host an end of year table quiz.



This event was designed to bring all first years and second years together and work collectively as a team during the quiz. Each year group was split into multiple teams of 4, to compete for the top prize of a Cadburys Chocolate Easter Egg bundle.

There was a total of 8 rounds with 10 questions in each round. Each round

was filtered around different subjects such as: Sport, Music, Netflix, Human body, General Knowledge etc. We assembled a group of 4 TY students to correct the answer sheets from each round. They then totted up all the scores at the end and announced the winner. The event was a big success and was something that the two-year groups really enjoyed.

