



St. Mary's Secondary School, Nenagh

Transition Year Easter Newsletter

April 2025

This newsletter was produced by a number of students in Transition Year.

A note from the TY Co-Ordinator

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S EASTER NEWSLETTER. THE GIRLS HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY THIS TERM AND THIS NEWSLETTER GIVES AN INSIGHT INTO THE VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES STUDENTS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN. STUDENTS HAVE JUST COMPLETED A WEEK OF WORK EXPERIENCE, WHICH IS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR THEM TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE FUTURE CAREER PATHS. WELL DONE TO OUR STUDENTS FOR THEIR POSITIVE ATTITUDE AND ENTHUSIASM AT ALL TIMES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HARD WORK OF THE TRANSITION YEAR TEACHING TEAM AND ALL STAFF FOR SUPPORTING AND GUIDING OUR STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. A SPECIAL THANKS TO STAFF WHO HAVE ACCOMPANIED OUR STUDENTS ON TRIPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. I LOOK FORWARD TO FURTHER WORKING CLOSERLY WITH THE TRANSITION YEAR STUDENTS FOR THE LAST WEEKS OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. MAY I ALSO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS FOR THEIR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR. I HOPE YOU ALL HAVE A WONDERFUL EASTER.

ELAINE KING

TRANSITION YEAR CO-ORDINATOR

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TY Day Out – Peter Pan at Bord Gáis

By Sadhb Connolly

In December, we set off for Dublin to see *Peter Pan* at the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre. Between laughs, music, and magic — plus a shopping spree in Newbridge — the day was truly unforgettable.



Tinpot Podcasting Workshop


By Amy Fitzgerald

Ever recorded a podcast in a van? We did! Tinpot introduced us to the world of radio, gave us full creative freedom, and let us record our own group podcast. 5 minutes flew by — we'd love to do it again!



Forensics Workshop


We investigated the JFK assassination, tested fingerprints, and examined bullet evidence. CSI meets TY!

 – Leah Cummins & Abby Gleason



EPIC Museum & Criminal Courts Trip

A day in Dublin exploring Irish emigration and witnessing live court cases. Eye-opening and unforgettable!

 – Ava Quigley

Student Enterprise Day


By Marie Gleeson & Hannah Whelan

After weeks of preparation, TYs launched their mini companies! Judges picked *Gleoite*, *Marie's Treats*, and *Flora & Mei* to represent us at the County Finals. The hall was buzzing with creativity, cupcakes, crafts, and future CEOs!




Ascend Domestic Abuse Awareness

Six impactful sessions with Karen from Ascend taught us about healthy and unhealthy relationship traits, from gaslighting to love bombing. Karen was informative, kind, and made a lasting impression.

 – *Roisín O'Meara*

Disability Awareness with Edel Carey

Edel spoke candidly about living with an invisible disability and inspired us with her journey of resilience and advocacy.

 – *Brooke Shoer*

Garda Talk: Money Muling

By Vanessa Was & Adah Minogue

A vital talk about staying safe online and spotting scams. We learned how money mules are recruited, how to stay alert, and how to report suspicious activity. Awareness is key in the digital age!



Young SVP – Giving Back

By Amy Ryan & Marie Gleeson

Inspired by Clodagh Lenihan's talk, we joined the Young SVP program and raised €900 through bake sales and pancakes! A sleep-out is next on our agenda. Together, we're learning the power of empathy and action.



Lilliput Outdoor Adventure Centre

By Hannah Whelan, Brooke Shoer & Aisling Kennedy

Mud, laughter, and memories! We tackled rock climbing, bog hopping, paddle boarding, and forest fort-building. It was the ultimate team bonding day — topped off with burgers and chips!



Food Safety Course

Nine modules completed with flying colours! TYs now know how to keep the kitchen clean and allergen-free.

 – *Orla Brislane & Alison Carroll*


GOSHH Workshop

This inclusive workshop helped us understand gender, orientation, identity, and relationships in a respectful, open way.

 – *Éire Ryan*

Fencing Workshop

Suits on, swords up! We learned proper fencing techniques and had a blast with Patrick Dight.


 – *Grace O'Brien*





Wellbeing Day

A relaxing day of reflection, crafts, games, and kind messages. A well-earned break from the books!

 – *Amber Clarke*



Teamworks Workshop


By Jessica Sharkey

We learned all about communication and teamwork through fun and competitive games like blindfolded Xs and Os and a water-passing race. It brought out the best in everyone — and a few surprise leaders!



Marie Keating Foundation

A powerful cancer awareness talk covering early detection, prevention, and the dangers of smoking.

 – *Sarah Williams & Alison O'Carroll*



Public Speaking Competition

Four of us represented the school in the Nenagh Lions Club event at the County Council Chambers – a proud moment!

 – *Roisín O'Meara*



Nenagh Fire Station Visit

By Clíona Hanrahan & Lisa Nolan

A fascinating and hands-on trip where we learned about fire safety, explored fire trucks, used extinguishers, and even wore real firefighting gear. Definitely a highlight!



Driver Theory Test Workshop

We practiced the test, learned car parts, and tackled road signs – a great head start for future drivers!

 – *Heidi Kelly, Niamh McGrath & Anna Paxman*

Seó Bóthair – Irish Language Workshop

Games, quizzes, and Gaeilge fun with Dónall Breathnach. We learned about Irish in everyday life and careers.

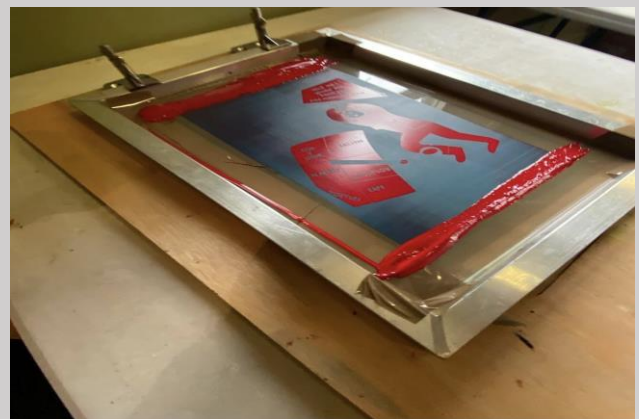
 – *Caoimhe Ryan & Eleanor Boland*



Printmaking Workshop

By Orla Brislane

Over three weeks, we worked with Mná na n-Ealaín at Nenagh Arts Centre creating linocut and silkscreen prints. Our artworks were exhibited for six weeks — and one piece is now displayed at Dunoon MOCA!



Work Experience Highlights

Nenagh Photo Station

By Grace O'Brien

Before the Christmas break, I spent two weeks at Nenagh's local photography shop. Roisín Scully, the owner, was not only an incredible mentor but also a community advocate. I learned a ton – from customer service to photo editing. It was inspiring and eye-opening, and I'd absolutely love to return someday.



Moneygall Primary School

By Lisa Nolan

Going back to my old primary school for work experience was both nostalgic and rewarding. I helped with plays, costumes, and even supervised yard time. The highlight? Helping bring the magic of Christmas alive with a Santa visit. This gave me real insight into the world of teaching!

First Aid Workshop

By Aisling Kennedy & Isabelle Kingston

Barry's interactive session taught us how to handle emergencies — from CPR and asthma attacks to strokes and burns. It was fun, hands-on, and taught us life-saving skills with memorable songs like “Stayin’ Alive”!

Lights, Camera, ANNIE!

By Lauren Gavin, Alannah Stanley, Zoey Morkan & Ciara O'Keeffe

Our TY musical, *Tomorrow*, was a whirlwind of dance, drama and teamwork. From auditions to full performances, we grew more confident and bonded as a year group. From “Hard Knock Life” to “Let’s Go to the Movies”, each scene was a celebration of creativity and collaboration!


Midwest Careers Fair at UL

We browsed booths, met college reps, and discovered exciting future paths.

 – Rose Cunningham


Poetry Slam

Poet Steven Murray helped us create poems with a twist — from hate to love with just one-word swap!

 – *Yvonne Yi Qi Huang*


Road Safety Talk

Rosanna highlighted the real-life dangers of reckless driving, fatigue, and distractions behind the wheel.

 – *Amber Clarke*



Nenagh River Walk

Our first activity of the year! A peaceful group stroll to kick things off.

 – *Aukse Mauricaite*




Financial Literacy Talks

- **Nenagh Credit Union** gave us the lowdown on loans, accounts & mortgages.
 – *Anna Paxman & Heidi Kelly*
- **AIB & BOI** explained mobile banking, fraud prevention & how to save smart.
 – *Caoimhe Hayes, Sasha McDonnell & Grainne O'Brien*

Musical Magic

From *Bat Out of Hell* in Thurles to *Mamma Mia* in Nenagh College, we've enjoyed amazing shows and singing along to the classics.

 – *Zoey Morkan, Aoife O'Connor & Emma Walsh*

Zumba Mornings

By Jessica Sharkey

Zumba with Christine Nevin kicked off our Mondays with energy and laughter! It was more than just exercise — it was a way to boost our mood, stay fit, and connect with friends through dance. Highly recommended for body and mind!

From All of TY...

Wishing our school community a joyful Easter filled with peace, renewal, and plenty of chocolate! 🐰🍫

Still to come in 2025:

Portumna – Paintballing and Bike Tour

LIFT Presentation

Future Leaders Breakfast Morning

Barista Training

Jiving and Line-dancing with CBS

Breast Cancer Ireland talk

Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre

Derg Isle, Scariff

Chinese Activities