ST.MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL
SERVE THE LORD IN JOY

September TY Newsletter

This Month The TY's have been up to...

TY Induction

On August 31st our transition year students returned to school to receive their TY introduction. The class groups were announced and students were excited to mix with students whom they had not spoken to much from 1st to 3rd year. They received a detailed talk about the activities,trips and committees they would be involved in this coming year such as Gaisce, Green Schools, SVP and much more. Students were also notified about the school trip to Italy which is in May 2027. Our transition year students have enjoyed their first month of this unique year of fun activities, extra-curriculars and their musical (which has recently been announced to be 'High School Musical') and are excited to see what this year brings.

By Emma Cleary

Daisy Project Talk

On Thursday the 3rd of September, Transition year students were given a talk about The Irish Wheelchair Association's Daisy project. This project focuses on spreading awareness about different disabilities and how they impact the lives of people who have them. The talk was given by the projects coordinator and facilitator, Edel Carey and her wonderful assistance dog, Nala. Edel spoke about the different ways that we can be more considerate and inclusive of people with physical or mental disabilities, for example having wheelchair accessible buses and taxis, and also to have designated seating and parking for disabled people. This talk helped the TY's to get a better understanding of how people with disabilities live their lives and deal with daily struggles. Students also participated in activities with Edel such as writing their name backwards, blindfolded and with their less dominant hand. This taught the students about how everyday tasks can be very challenging for people with disabilities

By Emily O'Donoghue

Daisy PROJECT Irish Wheelchair Association

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Young SVP Talk

On September 7, 2026 Clodagh Linehan talked to us about who young SVP are and what they do. She told us about different ways we can help fundraise and help the young SVP. On Wednesday September 23, 2026 we made a committee of 6 people per class to make a committee who will organise events for young SVP. Our co-presidents are Ava Corbett and Libby Stanley and our secretary Lauren Duggan. We are hoping to meet and organise an event to have done before we finish for Mid-term.

By Kate Long

Zumba

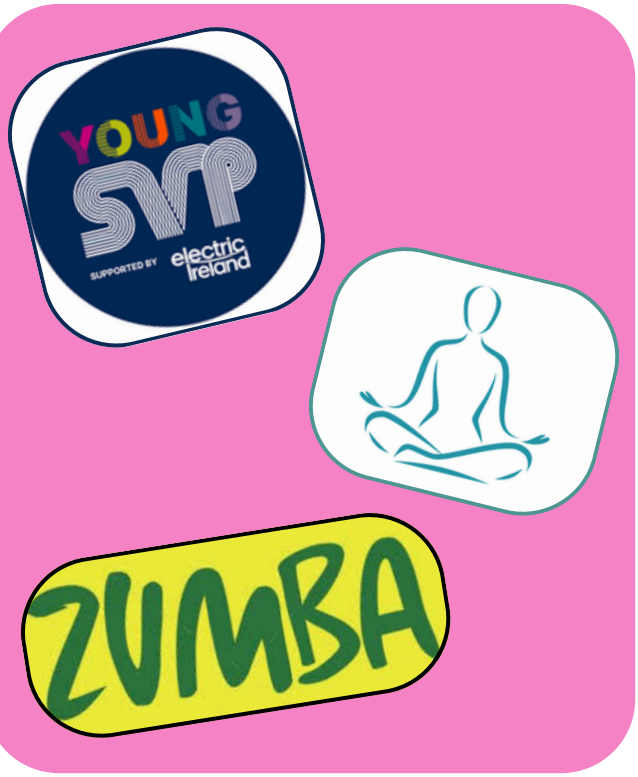
Every few weeks, we have a Zumba session with instructor Christine Nevin on a Monday evening. Zumba is a fun and energetic activity where we dance along to upbeat music while following different moves. It's a great way for us to stay active without it feeling like a typical workout.
The sessions are always full of energy, and we all get involved by dancing and joining in with the music. By the end, we are usually tired but glad we took part. Zumba is definitely something we look forward to!

By Caoimhe Kennedy

Yoga

Recently, TY classes have been taking part in a weekly yoga class in the PE hall. This is a great way for students to relax and de-stress while learning new stretches and exercises. The class will be continuing for the coming weeks, allowing for a chance to take a break from school classes.

By Lauren Duggan



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Poetry Slam Talk

Recently, we were fortunate to participate in a Poetry Slam talk conducted by Steven Murphy, an award-winning poet and founder of Inspireland. It was an interesting experience that taught us how poetry can be used to express thoughts and feelings.
Mr. Murphy shared some of his poems and explained how poets use their experiences and ideas to create poetry. We learned that poetry does not always have to follow rules or rhyme.
The most interesting part was reciting poems aloud, which showed us the importance of tone, expression and confidence. The activities also made writing poetry fun and helped us express our creativity.
Overall, the Poetry Slam was an enjoyable and memorable experience that taught us to see poetry in a new way.

By Leen Mazin

Kilfinane Trip

At the beginning of September, we went on an exciting overnight trip to the Kilfinnane Outdoor Education Centre. It was a great opportunity for us to spend time together outside the classroom and get to know each other better.
Over the two days, we took part in a range of fun and challenging activities, including kayaking, rock climbing and archery. These activities helped us work as a team, try new things and step outside our comfort zones. There was plenty of laughter, encouragement and some exciting moments along the way.
In the evening, we gathered around a warm bonfire, toasted marshmallows and relaxed after a busy day. Overall, the trip was a memorable experience that helped us make new friendships, create lasting memories and start our Transition Year journey on a positive note.

By Lauren Duggan

Outdoor Education & Training Centre Kilfinane

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Ascend Talks

This programme focused on domestic violence and abusive or toxic relationships. We began with a game and songs that helped us explore deeper meanings and messages that we might not normally notice. We then learned about support websites, created rules to make sure everyone felt safe and comfortable, and discussed the different forms of abuse and early warning signs.

We also learned what a healthy relationship should look like and how we deserve to be treated with respect, kindness and understanding. We discussed how abuse can happen not only in romantic relationships, but also in friendships and other social connections. Overall, the programme helped us understand the importance of healthy boundaries, respect and communication, as well as knowing when and where to seek support.

By Sana George & Anna Gleeson

Law Ed Talk

During this presentation it delves into topics such as:

- *Criminal law*
- *Civil law*
- *Family law*
- *Public law and more*

During this talk we learned a lot about different types of laws and our rights as citzens. In our opinion it was very engaging and enjoyable. It also helped us consider law as a future career.
At the end we even did a mock trial of an assault and attempted burglary! This was very fun and interesting.

By Susan Dunne & Wickortia Lepka

Teamwork Workshop

We recently took part in a team-building workshop called team works which was designed to encourage teamwork, communication and getting to know one another through team-bonding activities we were split into different groups and took part in lots of fun challenges and activities. It was a great opportunity to socialise and build stronger relationships among one another. Overall the workshop was an enjoyable experience and everyone had a great time.

By Tess Taylor

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Irish Wheelchair Assosiation Collection

On Thursday, 24th of September, we volunteered to collect money for the Irish Wheelchair Association. Many of us took part, and we were divided into different groups at various locations around Nenagh. Each group took turns collecting for two-hour slots in the morning.
We met lots of kind and generous people who were happy to donate and support the cause. It was a great experience for us to work together and give our time to help others in our community. We were delighted with the amount of money we collected, which will support the Irish Wheelchair Association in the important work they do to support disabled people across Ireland. Overall, it was a rewarding experience and a great opportunity for us to give back to our community.

By Leah McManus

Irish Wheelchair Association™

RSA Talk

RSA

We had a talk from the Road Safety Authority (RSA) about the importance of staying safe on the roads. We learned about the main dangers that can lead to road accidents, including speeding, distractions and not following road rules. We also discussed the importance of being responsible passengers and pedestrians and how our choices can affect ourselves and others.
The talk helped us understand the risks involved in using the roads and reminded us of the importance of making safe decisions. We learned that even small actions, such as wearing a seatbelt, paying attention and avoiding distractions, can make a big difference. Overall, it was an informative talk that gave us a better understanding of road safety and how we can help keep ourselves and others safe.

By Annabel Galvin