

# TY Bulletin

## Winter 2021

### TY Class Names – Class Blackmore – Tutor Ms Kavanagh



TY Class Names 2021-22 are current Irish sports stars to hopefully show the TY students that with hard work and determination anything is possible. Thanks to TY Journalists Alannah McKane and Amber Finglas for this article on jockey, Rachael Blackmore.

#### **Class Blackmore**

Rachael Blackmore is an Irish jockey who competes in National Hunt racing. In April 2021, she became the first female jockey to win the Aintree Grand National. Her horse was Minella Times trained by Henry de Bromhead. She was born on 11 July 1989 and she is now 32 years old. She was born in Killenaule, Co Tipperary.

Blackmore, who also won the Champion Hurdle on Honeysuckle, suffered a fractured ankle and hip injury in a fall at Killarney in July 2021. Rachael is the daughter of a dairy farmer and a teacher. She was not reared in a racing family like many other jockeys. Her younger sister is a lawyer and her older brother a graphic designer. She initially wanted to train as a vet but ended up studying Equine Science in Limerick. Blackmore's first Grade 1 race victory in Ireland came in April 2019 when Honeysuckle won the Mares Novice Hurdle Championship Final at Fairyhouse. Her first winner as a professional was Most Honorable, trained by Hanlon, at Clonmel in September 2015. In 2017, she became the first woman to win the conditional riders' Championship in Ireland. In 2018 Blackmore had her first ride in the Grand National. **Rachael is an inspiration to young people in Ireland especially girls who aspire to be great jockeys like she is. She is a great representation of Irish sporting women. We are honoured to be part of Class Blackmore, called after the inspiring, resilient, and talented Rachael Blackmore.**

Written by TY Journalists, Alannah McKane and Amber Finglas, Class Blackmore.

Photo credit: @rtesport

## TY Class Names – Class Coyle – Tutor Mr Leahy



For 2021-22, TY classes are named after current Irish sports role models. Class Coyle is named after @natalyacoyle. Natalya Coyle is an Irish athlete who competes in the modern pentathlon. Natalya was born on 11 December 1992, and is from Ashbourne, Co. Meath. The modern pentathlon is an Olympic sport with 5 sporting events all done on the same day - fencing, swimming, show jumping and the combined event of shooting and cross country running. Natalya was the first woman to represent Ireland in the modern pentathlon. A sport of this nature takes a carefully constructed training regime, which Natalya has in place – hence her successful career.

Natalya has competed in 3 Olympic games, at the 2012 London Olympics (finishing 9th), at the 2016 Rio Olympics (finishing 6th) and at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics (which took place in 2021). In Tokyo she was in 4th place going into the equestrian part of the event, but was unlucky to be paired with an extremely tricky horse, who refused at a number of fences. This ended her medal hopes which was extremely unfortunate. Outside the Olympics, Natalya won gold at the 2016 Pentathlon World Cup. Her personal bests include 936 points in fencing, 2:19.33 in the 200m swim, 0.00 penalties in horse riding and 11:35.46 in the pistol shooting and the cross-country running. As well as her athletic pursuits, Natalya's academic and work schedule also keeps her busy. She is a brand ambassador for O'Brien's Sandwich Cafés and is studying a Masters in Sustainable Economic Policy. Natalya married Arthur Lanigan O'Keeffe this year, who also represented Ireland at London 2012 and Rio 2016 in the Modern Pentathlon. **Natalya is such a significant role model to young people in sport, particularly girls. Her dedication to her sports for so many years is admirable. I hope she competes in the Paris 2024 Olympics. I am delighted to be in TY Class Coyle, and think that choosing to call a TY class after Natalya Coyle was a great idea – particularly as she is from the area. I would love to interview Natalya and perhaps even invite her into ACS to speak to TYs!**

**Written by Amy Spratt, TY Journalist**

**Photo credit: Olympic Federation of Ireland**

***Natalya replied to our tag on social media and is honoured to have a TY class named in her honour. She hopes to visit us when she is home.***

### TY Class Names – Class Coyle – Tutor Mr Leahy



TY Classes are called after current Sports Stars. Thanks to TY Journalist Aoibheann Shortt for this article on Shane Lowry, who Class Lowry are called after. Shane Lowry is an Irish professional golfer who plays on the European Tour and the PGA Tour. From a young age, Shane's power hitting earned him recognition. He rose quickly through the amateur ranks, which got him into being a professional golfer even quicker. Shane is from Clara, Co. Offaly, and he rose to fame in 2009 when he became only the 3rd amateur to win a European Tour title by capturing the Irish Open at Baltray, Co. Louth. Lowry qualified for his first-ever major championship in June 2010. Shane became just the second golfer from the Republic of Ireland to claim a Major Championship title - after Pádraig Harrington - in 2019 after a six-stroke triumph at The 148th Open at Royal Portrush Golf Club. Shane is now 34 years old. His highest ranking was 14 (up to

November 2021). He has played in 25 tournaments, and has won 2 PGA Tours and 5 European Tours. His home course is Esker Hills Golf Club and he has also golfed at the University College Dublin. He has had 17 top 10 finishes on the PGA, including 5 this year. In 2021 he tied 4th at the PGA Championship (the second Major of the season) and was 8th at the Players' Championship. Shane Lowry finished 22nd in the 2020 Olympics which were held this summer. He was tied for 9th overnight just 2 strokes outside the top 3, but he closed with a disappointing level par 71 to tie for 22nd on 10-under. Shane's other interests include Gaelic football, hurling and rugby. This year ACS has linked up with [@ashbournegolfclub](#) with an Introduction to Golf Programme.

**Who knows maybe the next golf superstar is in Class Lowry. Perhaps Shane could come to Ashbourne to show us his golfing skills!**

**I am proud to be in TY Class Lowry - named after a hardworking, inspiring, team player, and all round nice guy, Mr Shane Lowry.**

[@shanelowrygolf](#)

Written by Aoibheann Shortt, TY Journalist

Photo credit [@team ireland olympic Team Ireland Sportsfile](#)

## TY Class Names – Class Smyth – Tutor Mr Murphy



TY Class Names 2021-22 are current Irish sports stars.

Thanks to TY Journalist Eve Flannery for this article on Paralympic athlete, Jason Smyth.

Class Smyth

All TY classes this year were named after famous current sports people. Class Smyth are named after the famous Paralympic runner Jason Smyth from Derry. He competes in the T13 disability sports classification at 100m and 200m as he is legally blind. His central vision being affected by Stargardts Disease. Jason is the fastest Paralympian on the planet. He has won 21 gold medals for Ireland and is a world record holder. At the 2008 Summer Olympics Jason won 2 gold medals and set world records at the men's 100 and 200 metres for athletes with a visual impairment. Some reporters compared his feat to that of Usain Bolt who achieved similar at the 2008 Summer Olympics. He made history as the first Paralympian to compete at an open European Championships. Jason has represented Ireland at 4 Paralympic Games including Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020 which took place in 2021. **Jason Smyth is an inspirational Irish athlete, having overcome many hurdles in his lifetime. It is a great honour to be in a class called after him.... TY Class Smyth.**

Written by Eve Flannery, TY Journalist

Photo credit @paralympics\_ireland

## Student Voice Series: Amber Flag

The Amber Flag Committee is a school run club working with the mental health organisation [@pieta.house](https://www.pieta.ie). The Amber Flag initiative was set up by Pieta House to work with a range of educational settings to create healthy, inclusive environments that support mental health and wellbeing. In our school, the Amber Flag Committee do the most amazing work to create a happier, healthier school atmosphere and to eradicate the stigmas associated with mental health issues. At the Amber Flag Committee meetings, students that are part of the team, discuss different topics such as, causes of stress, how to improve mental health and wellbeing, how to spread positive mental health awareness and events they could plan. In the recent meetings they have been speaking about different mental health disorders and how they can be treated. If the Amber Flag Committee is something you would be interested in joining, speak to or email Ms Hanahoe and Ms L McKenna. If you are interested in this initiative, please be prepared to speak in front of other as the Amber Flag Committee is all about sharing your opinions and thoughts.

Written by TY Journalist Amy Spratt



## Student Voice Series Green Schools in ACS

Green-Schools is Ireland's leading environmental management and award programme, working with primary and secondary schools across the country. Green Schools hope to improve the environment in schools in Ireland and promote action to help local communities. They encourage young people to engage in their environment by allowing them the opportunity to actively protect it.

In our school, we have an active group of students and teachers called the Green Schools Committee who hope to improve the environment of our school and of our local community.

**They are a very welcoming group and are happy to see new people coming to their meetings. They meet every Tuesday at lunchtime in Yellow Area 10. If anyone is interested in joining just go along!**

They have many different plans for this year! They are currently working towards their 9th Green Flag, Global Citizenship Travel. They are working with the [#andshecycles](#) ambassadors to promote cycling to and from school as a sustainable means of transport. This group is currently collecting old bike parts to make a new sculpture in the school! **If you have any old bike chains, please contact Ms. C. McCarthy.** They also work with our Climate Ambassadors, who are focusing on air quality, biodiversity enhancement, fast fashion as well as raising awareness within our school regarding the climate crisis.

The Green School's Committee put up our Christmas tree and decorated it with sustainable Christmas decorations which highlighted the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Artificial Christmas trees and other plastic decorations are non-biodegradable. They are sent to landfill or are incinerated, which has a terrible impact on the environment via emissions. Sustainable decorations are safer for the environment and make the school look amazing as well!

Green Schools is a great group and extra-curricular activity in ACS and they really hope to make a difference for the future of the school. **Thanks so much for all they do and for keeping our school a clean and environmentally safe place. Photos include the Green School's Noticeboard being updated, Green Schools busy making salt dough decorations for the Christmas tree, planting "Bulbs for Bees" and decorating the Christmas tree. A big thanks to the staff who work with these groups, Ms Hughes, Ms Flanagan, Ms C. McCarthy, and Ms Gralton. Thanks for all the info and photos also.**

Written by Alannah Dunican, TY Journalist



## **Student Voice Series**

### **Student Voice Series - Senior Prefects Article**

#### **by Aoife Rooney, TY Journalist**

The Senior Prefects are a group of thirteen 5th year students. They are another Student Voice group particularly involved with first years and their transition into secondary school. Currently in the school, senior prefects monitor the first year games room at lunchtimes, visit the first year tutor groups during lunch and often during tutorial, as well as attending Guth na Daltaí meetings. Senior Prefects meet every second Monday in Ms. Kendall's classroom. If you need to contact senior prefects, there is a senior prefect email and each first year knows their prefect assigned to their base at the start of the year. They become prefects through recommendations from teachers and the year head. They apply for the role and answer a series of questions. They need two members of staff to be their referees and then their applications are reviewed. When accepted, they have a training day before the first years entered the school and they help them from there. **Thanks to Meabh O'Gradaigh for the information about senior prefects! A really interesting leadership role in ACS.**

**Written by TY Journalist Aoife Rooney**



## **Student Voice Series**

### **Student Voice Series: Climate Ambassadors**

The Climate Ambassador Programme is Ireland's first ever initiative to train and support individuals taking action on climate change. Climate Ambassadors receive training which covers the causes and effects of climate change as well as the solutions, communications, and climate action planning. The Climate Ambassadors in TY in Ashbourne Community School are arranging competitions for the school to help raise awareness for climate change. They planted wildflowers as part of [#climateactionweek](#). They are also working on posters for the Climate Crisis Competition. The group of TYs who are in the Climate Ambassadors Group on Tuesdays meet with Ms Hughes - there are also room for new members in TY to join at 1.25 pm on Tuesdays. They are learning valuable skills like teamwork, communication and research skills which will be useful in the future. **Thanks to Faderara Owoade for this information about Climate Ambassadors!**

**Written by Jessica Walton, TY Journalist.**

## November 2021

### In November We Remember



November is a time for remembering and praying for our loved ones who have gone before us and whose loss we feel. It is a time when we are particularly conscious of those in our community who are grieving and all those families who have lost loved ones in the past year. More than most years, this November was especially poignant as we remembered all those who have died during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also remember the staff and students of ACS who have passed away at this time. †

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha.

### Climate Crisis Competition

In response to the Conference of the Parties COP 26 summit in Glasgow, our Climate Ambassadors ran a poster competition open to all year groups. The brief was to create a poster to raise awareness around our Climate Crisis. The judges were looking for posters which inspire and empower everyone to play their part in the actions we must all take to protect and restore our planet. Closing date for entries was Tuesday 30th November 2021.

Prizes were presented on Tuesday 7th December 2021. Well done to all.

### Foroige

Foroige Leadership for Life Programme is well underway with 3 sessions of 15 completed before midterm. The groups got to know each other better by playing human bingo as well as creating words from a set of letters, which turned out to be leadership. They've looked at the most inspiring leaders they know locally, nationally and internationally, as well identifying their own leadership skills and qualities. Teamwork is a key part of programme and groups are randomly chosen each week so students get used to working with everyone in each of the 2 classes of 30 students. The students who signed up for the programme are really enjoying it, as are the trained facilitators, Ms McLoughlin, Ms Mathews and Ms Kavanagh. This year Class Yangtze in 5th year LCA are also completing the programme with Ms Kavanagh. A great opportunity for all involved. #foroige



### **PALS Workshops**

On Tuesday 2nd November 2021 TY classes Lowry and Coyle attended a @pals\_programme with Bee Flanagan on Positive and Assertive Life Skills. Students learned about gratitude and the importance of positivity. They also learned about the benefits of journaling for positive mental health and gratitude. Thanks Bee for bringing positivity at this challenging time for all. Classes Lowry and Smyth had their workshops on Thursday 4th November 2021. #TYworkshops <https://www.facebook.com/palsprogrammeireland/>  
[https://instagram.com/pals\\_programme](https://instagram.com/pals_programme)

### **"UNESCO International Day against violence and bullying at school including Cyberbullying." 4th November 2022.**

No student should live in fear of going to school. On this new International Day against violence and bullying at school, including cyberbullying, UNESCO called on all countries, organisations and people to come together with the common purpose of ensuring schools are free from fear and violence and children and adolescents are protected from cyberbullying. ACS stands against ALL forms of bullying. We support this day and the rights of individuals to feel safe in our school. Thanks to Ms Hanahoe, SPHE coordinator for the info and image.

### **Team Hope Shoebox Appeal**

Thanks to those who donated to the [@teamhopeireland](https://www.teamhopeireland.com/) shoebox appeal including the €4 postage. Boxes were collected on Monday 8th November 2021 by a volunteer with [@teamhopeireland](https://www.teamhopeireland.com/). Donations were also accepted online. <https://www.teamhope.ie/>

### **Irish Refugee Council Workshops**

@irishrefugeecouncil

On Monday 8th November 2021, TY students took part in 80 minute workshops with Natasha and Philip from The Irish Refugee Council. The workshop focused on raising awareness of Direct Provision and why people seek international protection. In addition, they encouraged students





to think about the impact they can make to create an inclusive society. Moving debate, group work activities and creative writing were strategies used in the workshop. The workshops were engaging and interactive for the TYs. Thanks to Natasha and Philip, and to Ms O'Neill for organising the workshop. Great groupwork was done by TYs at the Irish Refugee Council workshops on Monday 8th November 2022 with facilitators Natasha and Philip. Following this we ran a collection for Baleskin Reception Centre where asylum seekers go when they arrive to Ireland. We accepted clothes and runners for all ages in a clean good condition. New socks and underwear were also collected.

[@irishrefugeecouncil](https://www.instagram.com/irishrefugeecouncil)

### One Million Stars Initiative

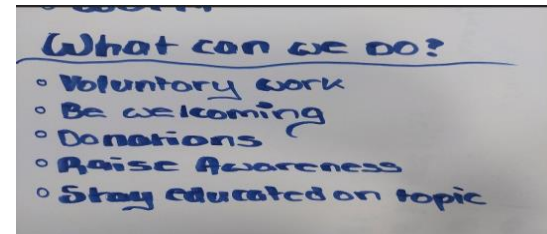
On Monday 8th November 2021, TYs in 2 Foroige groups began creating stars for the One Million Stars Ireland project. All TYs will be involved across the next few months. This is a community arts project that connects people through the craft of weaving stars. Each star represents light, hope and solidarity against violence. This project started in Australia following the murder of Drogheda woman Jill Meagher in Melbourne in 2012. So the worldwide group has joined together in solidarity against violence and to promote the message of hope for a better future. We will keep you posted on our progress and plans with this project. Thanks to Paola Flynn for organising the ribbon packs for ACS. We really appreciate it. @droghedastarweavers

### Gaelbhrtach

**Thanks to TY Journalist Jessica Walton for this article on Gaelbhrtach.**

Gaelbhrtach is a scheme which supports and encourages schools in their efforts to promote the Irish language. The primary aim of the scheme is to create and encourage a culture of speaking Irish informally within the school community and beyond.

On Tuesday 9th November 2021, the TY students involved in the Gaelbhrtach Committee helped set up #Gaeilge24 with Ms Vipond. We organised that all 1st year students brought in €10 and got a t-shirt, wristband, sponsorship card and ideas and phrases for the day. All 1st year classes had a



party at lunch time and then played games through Irish after. Overall #Gaeilge24 was a successful day, and we hope all students enjoyed it. All TY students involved prepared for this event by making posters, organising t-shirts, etc, emailing teachers and taking and sorting money. **Buíochas mór le Ms Vipond as ligean do na daltaí as TY cabhrú leat leis an lá iontach!**

**Written by Jessica Walton, TY Journalist**

**#gaeilge24IE 🍀**

### **@breastcancerireland**

#### **Breast Cancer Ireland**

On Tuesday 9th November 2021, Olivia Carpenter, Outreach Coordinator and breast cancer survivor spoke to TY, LCA and LCVP girls as part of their TY Awareness Programme. Breast Cancer Ireland's mandate is to support research and provide education on the importance of breast health. Olivia explained the 8 signs of breast cancer and how to perform a self-breast examination. Thanks to Olivia for visiting ACS and also running a talk for female staff at lunchtime also. Thanks to Ms Beharic for organising the talk again this year. We urge all teenage girls and women to download the Breast Cancer Ireland app for more info. Early detection is the key. #HealthIsWealth. TY boys had a talk from the Marie Keating Foundation later this month in November.

#### **Medicore First Aid Certificate Course**

On Wednesday 10th November 2021, TY Classes Lowry and Smyth, and half of Class Yangtze 5th Year LCA, completed their First Aid Certificate Training Day with Luis and John from Medicore Medical Services in BA04 and YA04. Lots of valuable information and practical advice on how best to cope in a crisis situation. A vital life skill and an essential part of our TY Programme. Following the practical parts of the course, all props were fully sanitised and students and the facilitators fully sanitised their hands regularly throughout the workshop, whilst wearing masks. Well done all. Classes Blackmore and Coyle, and the remainder of Class Yangtze 5th Year LCA, completed their first aid workshop 2 weeks later. Thanks to John and Luis..... fantastic facilitators. #LifeSkills



**Thanks to TY Journalists Jessica Walton and Amber Finglas for this info and photos on basketball matches on Wednesday 10th November 2021.**

U16s and U19s ACS v St Finian's CC Swords  
Hard luck to our 2 girls' basketball teams. Great performances from all the girls who worked hard. Well done to all players with a special mention for the scorers - U16s Eadaoin, Isabel, Alannah, Bolu, Tito and Lola and U19s Emer, MJ, Sophie, Ella, Naoise and Laura. Thanks to Ms Oates, Mr Hobbs and Ms Kavanagh for coaching these great teams!



### Senior Girls GAA

Congratulations to our Senior Ladies footballers who had another comprehensive victory to move on to the knockout stages of the championship against Cnoc Mhuire on Thursday 11th November 2021. Many thanks to Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA club for the use of club pitch.



### TY Golf Programme with Ashbourne Golf Club

Delighted to have started TY Introduction to Golf Programme at @ashbournegolfclub\_ on Thursday 11th November 2021. 2 groups of 10 TYs completed 6 1-hour lessons. A big thanks to Adrian and Ciaran at the club for approaching us about starting this programme.  
@ashbournegolfclubproshop



### LGBTQ+ Awareness Week

Sexual identity and sexual orientation are part of what makes you who you are. LGBTQ+ Awareness Week in ACS aims to encourage friendship and support for LGBTQ+ students through activities and discussion in SPHE. Be proud of who you are! Thursday 11th November was not a non-uniform day. Rather it is an opportunity to wear colourful socks or other colourful accessories such as hats, gloves, scarves etc.. in support of our LGBTQ+ Awareness Week. We had a ceremony to raise our Pride Flag also. Great work on the SPHE noticeboard by our TY noticeboard committee and SPHE Coordinator Ms Hanahoe.



### Pride Flag Raising Ceremony

As part of Stand Up Week on Thursday 11th November 2021 students and teachers were encouraged to wear something colourful to support our LGBTQ+ community. Mr. Stewart was

accompanied by some staff and Class Captains to raise the school's pride flag. This is a reminder to our school and surrounding community that we are an inclusive school, and everyone is welcome.



### [@localiseyouth](#)

Well done to the 12 TYs who took part in the Localise Volunteer for All Award Workshop on Thursday 11th November 2021. The students talked about themselves, their volunteering to date and their strengths. Each student identified a key relevant characteristic or skill. Then they worked in groups on a volunteering charter. The next step is to finalise a volunteering charter for ACS. Thanks to Sean from Localise for the workshop. The group afterwards met to decide how to involve the rest of TY and hopefully other students in volunteering before Christmas. Well done to all involved. The Volunteering For All award is a nationwide initiative that recognises and affirms volunteering and charitable work undertaken by young people from all backgrounds and circumstances. This initiative is supported by the Department of Justice and Equality through the Office for the Promotion of Migrant Integration. [#community](#)

### **Golf Programme**

[@ashbournegolfclub](#) thank you for the photos from Thursday 11th November 2021 of group 1, lesson 1 of 6 for the TY Golf Programme. 2 groups of 10 completed 6 1-hour classes in November 2021. Thanks to Ciaran and Adrian in Ashbourne Golf Club for their efforts in linking in with ACS for this great initiative. The students really enjoyed the lessons. 🏌️ [#CommunityLinks](#)

### [@jigsawmeath](#)

[@colaistedelacy](#)

The Jigsaw Peer Education Training Programme was facilitated on Thursday 11th November 2021 by Derek Hanway from Jigsaw. All interested students completed an application form. The Jigsaw Team ACS are Amy Spratt, Laura McNally, Sophie Coughlan and Orlaith Ferry. They were joined by 4 students from Colaiste de Lacy for the training. Jigsaw Team CDL are Holly McCarthy,



Tegan McGeogh, Sean O'Toole and Eoghan Gallagher along with their TY Coordinator Megan Regan. We hope to build on these links between the schools and Jigsaw. At the ACS One Good School Team meeting last Monday 8th November 2021, the members appointed the following students to The One Good School Team: TYs Amy O'Leary and Jessica Walton. The One Good School Team underpins the whole school approach to Jigsaw. It is comprised of representatives from leadership, staff, parents/guardians and students. Thanks to Ms Casey, Ms Hickey, Ms O'Dea and Ms McLoughlin (The ACS Jigsaw Team) for the info. Derek was a fantastic facilitator, and the 8 students had a great day of training. [#Jigsaw](#)

**Sonairte prize giving evening on Friday 12th November 2021 - Climate Change Art Competition**

Congratulations to TY students, Amy O'Leary and Darragh McGrath. Amy won 4th prize and Darragh won the draw for highly commended artwork for an art competition run by Sonairte – Visitor Eco-Centre and Gardens, Ninch, Co. Meath. Students were asked to respond through art their thoughts on climate change. Well done guys. Thanks to Ms S McKenna for the photos and info.

**Sonairte is a visitor experience which promotes a love of the outdoors, organic produce, eco-awareness and sustainable living. [@sonairte.ie](#)**

**Fingal Ravens County Champions**

Congratulations to [@fingal\\_ravens\\_gfc](#) winning Minor team, particularly the ACS students, who emerged victorious with St Patrick's Donabate in their Dublin Minor Championship Final on Sunday 14th November 2021, 1-11 to 0-13. Great teamwork. Massive congrats to players and management especially the ACS students – we are very proud of you all. **Photo Credit: [@mike.shoots.gaa](#)**

**Donaghmore Ashbourne Minor Footballers in County Final**

Donaghmore Ashbourne GAA reached the Meath Minor Football Championship Final against St. Colmcilles GAA Club on Sunday 14th November 2021, in Pairc Tailteann. We are very proud of the ACS students who were part of the panel.



### Safer Internet Day Ambassador

Congrats to TY student Robert McLaughlin who was chosen to train to be a Safer Internet Day Ambassador. [@webwiseireland](#) provide online training to the youth ambassadors to empower them to lead safer internet campaigns in their schools. The training took place over December 2021, and will continue in January 2022 in the lead up to Safer Internet Day, on 8th February 2022. There will be 5 online training sessions. Robert will bring together a team of TYs to run Safer Internet Day next February 2022.

### Foróige

Session 4 of Foroige Leadership for Life Programme for TYs looked at teamwork, problem solving and critical thinking on Monday 15th November 2021. These are all key skills for leadership. Students looked at puzzles, and completed the tasks by working as a team and thinking logically about the problems they had to solve. The group improved their communication and people skills, while having great fun.

[#teamwork](#) [#leadership](#)



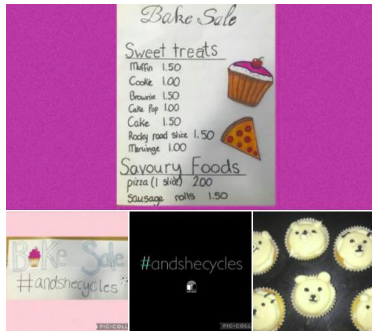
### Home Economics

Many thanks to Ms. N McCarthy's TY students for their support of the [#andshecycles](#) bake sale on Tuesday 16th November 2021. Well done to all involved in this very successful event. Thanks to Ms Hughes for the info and photos. Well done to our [#andshecycles](#) group. Thanks to all who supported. [#teamwork](#)



## RE Sustainability

Ms C McCarthy's TY RE class helping to put the finishing touches on sustainable salt dough Christmas decorations for the [#andshecycles](#) bake sale on Tuesday 16th November 2021. 🍪. Well done guys. [#teamwork](#) [#crosscurricular](#)

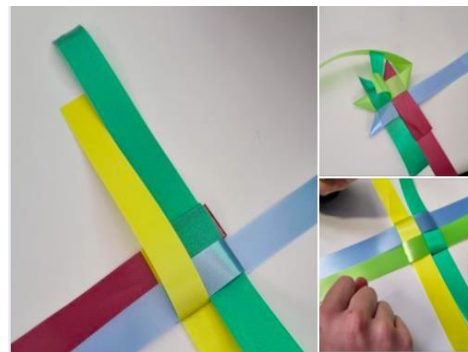


## Bake Sale on Tuesday 16th November 2021 at lunchtime outside RA05

Organised by the [#andshecycles](#) TY group to support their campaign expenses where a variety of sweet and savoury treats were sold. Well done to all.

## One Million Stars Project

Thanks to TYs in TY Class Blackmore who made more stars for our One Million Stars Project on Wednesday 17th November 2021. The One Million Stars Ireland project is a community arts project that connects our community through the craft of weaving stars. Each star represents light, hope and solidarity against violence. A tricky task but great satisfaction when the star is completed. Very proud of their efforts.



## #ThinkLanguages Preparation

Preparations were in full swing in November 2021, for the TY [#thinklanguages](#) event on Monday the 22nd of November 2021. Lots of work has been put into the event from decorating the school, to carrying out surveys on the languages spoken in our school. Goodie packs were made up TYs and a Poster Competition has taken place. A day of Workshops and Events promoting the many Languages and Cultures in our Community! Massive thanks to Ms Leyden, MFL Coordinator and the TY [#thinklanguages](#) team for all the preparation work.

[#thinklanguages](#) [#languagesconnect](#)

[#thinklanguages2021](#) 🇮🇪 🇪🇸 🇯🇵 🇩🇪 🇧🇷 🇨🇦



### Drumming Workshops

Thanks to Niall from [@mobilemusicschool](#) for 2 fantastic Drumming Workshops with TY Classes Smyth and Coyle. Fantastic teamwork activity which the teachers also enjoyed on Thursday 18th November 2021. The following week was the turn of Blackmore and Lowry. #TYworkshops



### Baleskin Refugee Collection

50+ bags of clothes, shoes and toiletries were collected for Baleskin Reception Centre for refugees. Thanks to all who donated. Ms McNamee's 2nd year RE class McNulty donated at least 1 item of clothing each and delivered them to the TY office on Friday 19th November 2021. Thanks guys. Huge thanks to TY students Amber Finglas and Alannah McKane who sorted, bagged and labelled all the donations for 4 hours on Friday 19th November 2021. #Community



### Dublin Barista School

Thanks to Mike and Neil from [@dublin\\_barista\\_school](#) for the Introduction to Barista Workshops for TY Classes Lowry and Coyle on Monday 22nd November 2021. The course covered:

- Understanding the Espresso Equipment
- Espresso Technique
- Understanding the Coffee Grinder
- Milk Chemistry and Milk Texturing Techniques
- Intro to Latte Art Designing
- Understanding the Coffee Menu
- Simulated Café Workflow
- Machine Cleaning.

Classes Smyth and Blackmore had their Workshops on Monday 29th November 2021. Well done guys. Great feedback from the facilitators. #WorldOfWork





### **Ashbourne United Ladies U19**

Huge congrats to [Ashbourne United F.C.](#) ladies and management who won the EWFL U19 Cup Final on Saturday 20th November 2021 beating Lusk United 4-2. Fantastic achievement. Well done to all the ACS girls on the team. We are very proud of you all. 🏆

Photo credit [Ashbourne United F.C.](#)



### **One Million Stars**

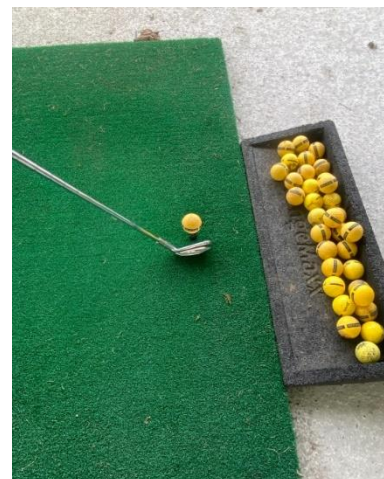
Thanks to Ms McLoughlin and her TY Foroige Class who weaved more stars for our One Million Stars Project of hope against all forms of violence on Monday 29th November 2021. Great work guys. [@droghedastarweavers](#)



### **TY Introduction to Golf Programme with [@ashbournegolfclub](#) written by TY Journalist, Eve Flannery.**

During November 2021, some TYs who were interested were given a wonderful opportunity to learn golf in [Ashbourne Golf Club](#). 2 groups of 10 TYs went out to play every Monday and Thursday for 3 weeks for 1 hour. During the 3 weeks at the driving range in the golf club is where we learnt how to swing correctly and how to hold the golf club. We then were able to go and collect the golf balls and take as many shots as we could while improving over time. It was a great way for us to learn a different sport and see if we liked it. After 3 weeks there was an improvement in our technique. Ciaran, who was a great coach, gave us helpful tips to improve our golf skills even more. It was a very fun experience, and everyone enjoyed learning this new skill. Golf has a range of mental and physical benefits, some of which are mental wellbeing, social sport, reduces stress and anxiety, maintains mental alertness and physical fitness and exercise. Thanks to Ciaran and Adrian at Ashbourne Golf Club for starting this programme for TYs in ACS.

**Written by Eve Flannery, TY Journalist**



### **Dublin Barista School**

[@dublin\\_barista\\_school](#) Thanks to John and Momo from [@dublin\\_barista\\_school](#) for the Introduction to Barista Workshops for TY Classes Blackmore and Smyth on Monday 29th November 2021. The course covered

- Understanding the Espresso Equipment
- Espresso Technique



- Understanding the Coffee Grinder
- Milk Chemistry and Milk Texturing Techniques
- Intro to Latte Art Designing
- Understanding the Coffee Menu
- Simulated Café Workflow
- Machine Cleaning.

Well done guys. Great feedback from the facilitators. Thanks to 5th year students Kacper, Amy and Jamie who helped the facilitators to wash the equipment and clean up the classroom on both Mondays. Much appreciated.

Students from TY and 5th Year LCA continued on to complete an assessment to gain the certificate for the Introduction to Barista Programme.

[#WorldOfWork](#)

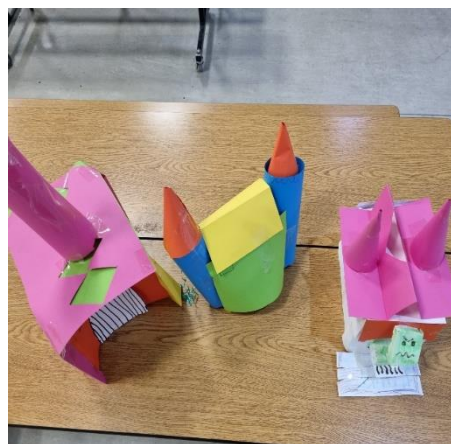
### Foroige

In lesson 5 on Monday 29th November 2021 of the Foroige Leadership for Life Programme the 2 TY groups and 1 LCA class looked at communication skills. They looked at what helps and hinders communication, the importance of listening and body language, as well as the differences between assertive, aggressive and passive communication. Students took part in a gossip game, drew pictures using verbal instructions only from a volunteer, and created a paper palace in a team through a trading game with limited resources. Well done to all. 5 out of 15 sessions of module 1 completed.



### U16 Hurlers

Well done to our U-16 hurlers had a great win over Dunshaughlin, 2-17 to 0-6 on Tuesday 30th November 2021.



### Support Local

We are so lucky in ACS to have such supportive local businesses and organisations. We think this image shows how important it is to shop local and support local. Thank you. [#ShopLocal](#) [#WeAreACS](#) [#Ashbourne](#)

### Marie Keating Foundation Talk

TY boys attended a talk with Ursula, a nurse, from the [@mariekeatingfoundation](#) on Tuesday 30th November 2021. The boys were very attentive and learned about being aware of different cancer signs and healthy living, including self-examination. Thanks to Mr Newman for organising the talk and to Ursula for visiting ACS this year. Mr Newman commented on the excellent behaviour of our TY boys, as did the facilitator Ursula. [#LifeSkills](#) [#Knowledge](#) [@mariekeatingfoundation](#)



### December 2021

Anti-Bullying Week was from Monday 29th November to Friday 3rd December 2021. This year we put a very positive spin on it by focusing on the "one kind word" theme. In SPHE students reflected on kindness and the powerful impact it can have on each and every one of us. Thanks to Ms Hanahoe for the info and photos. Thanks to TYs Jessica, Amy and Alannah from Class Blackmore for the great display on the SPHE noticeboard.

### One Kind Word

In a world that can sometimes feel like it's filled with negativity, one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It starts with one kind word.

**Credit: Anti-Bullying Alliance 2021**

### TY Business Class Blackmore

TY Class Blackmore being enterprising in Business on Wednesday 1st December 2021 by weaving more stars for our One Million Stars Project for hope against violence. They have learned the importance of learning a new skill, keeping busy, doing practical work, working as



a team, listening and communicating effectively, as well as thinking about the positive message their finished star represents. Planning has begun for how to display all the stars in ACS and in our community. Being enterprising means having the resourcefulness, initiative and drive to recognise opportunities, and the motivation to make the most of them. It is highly regarded by employers. Developing an enterprising approach to all areas of your life will not only enhance your success academically but will strengthen your confidence and instill qualities and skills which contribute to long-term career and personal success.

### **Christmas Message**

A Christmas message created by the TY students Evannah Mahon and Ella O'Connor as well as our crib. Thanks to Mr McCauley and Ms Guildea for the photos.

### **TY Climate Ambassadors**

Fantastic news received on Tuesday 7th December 2021 from the [@climateambassador](#) programme and Ms Hughes that for the first time ever we have 8 Climate Ambassadors in ACS for the year ahead. Exciting times ahead.

The TY students are;

Emma Gallagher

Conor McCluskey

David McCluskey

Faderera Owoade

William Cronin Fleming

Alexandra Diana

James Keller

Keitija Zarina

Congrats to the TYs who all applied themselves and were chosen externally. Thanks also to the staff mentors in ACS.... Ms Hughes, Ms C McCarthy, Ms Gralton and Ms Flanagan.

[The Climate Ambassador Programme](#)

[@antaisce](#)

### **Irish Refugee Collection thanks**

Thank you again to all the ACS families and staff who contributed to our recent clothes and toiletries collection for Baleskin Reception Centre for refugees. We received a lovely email from Natasha of the [@irishrefugeecouncil](#) to



extend their gratitude to ACS for the generous donation of 60 bags of clothes, shoes and toiletries.

One teenager at the centre could not attend his classes in the city because he did not have a winter jacket and warm clothes. Thanks to ACS donations he was able to find appropriate clothing and make the journey to and from his school now. He is so appreciative. Our donations have made a big practical difference for residents, and the staff and residents of Baleskin Reception Centre are really grateful. It goes to show what we can achieve when we set out to help others. Well done to all.

**Houses of the Oireachtas TY Programme  
Thanks to TY student Emma Gallagher for this article on the Houses of the Oireachtas TY Programme.**

During the week, 8th-12th of November 2021, I took part in the Houses of the Oireachtas online TY programme after applying for it some weeks prior. Places were very limited, so much so that I was the only student from my school allowed to apply after winning a draw. I was ecstatic after reading the email to say that I had been accepted.

Over the course of the week, we were given a research project to work on in groups. Our tasks were to create a campaign or piece of legislation to get certain groups of people more involved in politics and present it at the end of the week. There were many different ideas, but my group chose to focus on young people. We were also given talks by different guest speakers. We had a representative from the library and research team and the assistant to the Secretary General come to talk to us as well as many others. We also engaged in a great many discussions on topics such as lowering the voting age or what makes a good speech. It was a very enjoyable week and a great experience. I am so happy that I got the chance to participate.

**Written by Emma Gallagher, TY student**

**Sports Leadership Programme**

Congrats to the TYs who completed their 3 days Sports Leadership Certificate Programme on Thursday 19th November, 26th November and 2nd December 2021 with Linda Dungan. The



programme provides the ideal starting point for learners aged 13 years plus who wish to develop their leadership skills, whilst under the direct supervision of their tutor. The syllabus is designed to develop generic leadership skills that can be applied to a variety of sports and/or recreational situations as well as contributing to the personal development of the learner. The Sports Leadership Award is a practical award in which learners must demonstrate their ability to lead others in simple sport/activity. Thanks to Linda and Lisa in [@meathlocalsportspartnership](#) for running the programme in ACS again this year.

The TYs who completed the programme are: Sean Leon, Michael Cullen, Cian Quinn, William Carr, Patrick Moran, Evan O’Kane, Deirdre Gaughan, Alannah Dunican, Aoibheann Shortt, Aoife Rooney, Erica Milling, Ciara Doherty, Fadekemi Owoade, Jessica Walton, Faderera Owoade, David Kinahan, Andrew Skelton, Amber Finglas, Eoghan McKenna, Jake Dennehy, Ben O’Sullivan and Michael Mclvor. Thanks to Mr Wasson for organising this programme for TYs.

**Thanks to TY Journalist Jessica Walton for this article on the Sports Leadership Programme with [Meath Local Sports Partnership](#)**

A group of TY students have successfully completed a 3 day Sports Leadership Course. All the students who got a place on this course were very grateful as they know these leadership skills they learnt can be used not only in sport! Throughout the 3 days all students logged their work in the given booklets as well took charge and split the students into groups. They had to come up with a successful way to train/teach the rest of the students how to play their chosen sport. For example, playing Gaelic football you would tell everyone the rules and show everyone how to solo, kick, hand pass etc. This course tackles all situations you may come across while leading a group of any age. This course made me and my peers more aware that everyone is at a different level and as a leader you need to be able to help the struggling people around you as well as including everyone taking part. We would like to thank Mr Wasson for organising this as well as Linda, our facilitator



who came in and helped us complete this amazing course. We all enjoyed it!

**Written by Jessica Walton, TY Journalist**

**Walk in my Show TY Programme**

**Thanks to Muireann Davis, TY Class Lowry, for this article on her participation in the Walk In My Shoes TY Programme.**

From the 22nd-26th November 2021, I took part in the Walk In My Shoes TY Programme online. Walk In My Shoes (WIMS) is the flagship awareness-raising and education campaign of St. Patrick's Mental Health Services (SPMHS). They aim to work to promote positive mental health, to tackle mental health stigma and to change how people, particularly young people, think about mental health.

I was part of 100 students selected throughout Ireland to represent their school, divided into groups of 20 students participating in 1 of 5 week-long placements. I was joined by students from all over Ireland including Offaly, Cork and Galway to name but a few. It was great to connect with students in TY from all over Ireland. The week consisted of online talks from psychiatrists, mental health nurse representatives, and counsellors, who all spoke about their field working with teenagers with mental health issues. I learnt a lot of valuable information. I learned about different mental health issues such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and eating disorders. We also had someone speak to us who has bipolar disorder and they talked about their experience and how they went to St. Patrick's Hospital as part of their recovery. They spoke about their road to recovery and how they bring balance to their lives now to live with the condition. Due to Covid restrictions the full course was online, and we were unable to go in to see St. Patrick's Hospital. As a replacement we had a virtual tour of the facility, which was very interesting. Working in a group of 5 we had to do a presentation on how we would design a visitors' centre for mentally healthy living. My part was to come up with ideas that would make it a welcoming place for teenager to come in to. My ideas included having a debating table, "just dance" and Zumba area, and area to exhibit art from teenagers who had attended the centre. My aim was to have a



welcome area with lots of workshops happening to keep teenage engagement. The week was very informative, the courses was very good, and I would definitely recommend it to other students coming into TY. I would love to see a way that all of TY students could become involved with the course. It was so worthwhile giving me a new understanding of what types of mental health issues can and do affect my peers. One of the many things I learnt from taking part in the course was how working with teenagers who have mental health issues is difficult and it is truly a vocation to anyone who go into it as a career.

**Written by Muireann Davis, TY Student**

### **Sustainable Fashion Academy**

**Thanks to TY student Fadekemi Owoade for this article on her participation in the @spunout.ie Sustainability Fashion Academy.**

The Spunout Sustainable Fashion Academy is a series of workshops for young people aged 16-25 living in Ireland. The academy took place online for 4 weeks every Wednesday from 6:00-7:30pm in November and early December 2021. I was introduced to the topic of fast fashion. I learned more about the impact our clothes have on the environment and explored ways you can make more sustainable choices. I feel empowered to act and demand change in the fashion industry. I also learned the difference between fast fashion and sustainable fashion. I found out about managing climate anxiety, and what a 'circular economy' is and what it means for sustainable fashion. I learned how to create a more sustainable wardrobe and how to be sustainable on a budget. It was interesting to look at how to tell if a company is lying about their sustainability practices and how Ireland can work toward a more sustainable future. We also had guest speakers Fionnuala Morgan and Rónán Ó Dálaigh (founder of Thriftify). We had a practical up-cycling session where we got an old t-shirt and turned it into a bag which was really fun to do! At the last workshop we broke into breakout rooms and told each other what are favourite fashion products were. Mine is an oversized t-shirt. We got our Sustainable Fashion Academy Certificate for completing the 4 week academy! Thanks to Fódhla O'Connell-





Grennell, the Project Officer, for running the academy. Thanks to Ms. Mathews for telling us TYs about the Academy as it was such a great experience and I'm so glad I applied.

**Written by Fadekemi Owoade, TY Student**

### **Christmas Jumper Day**

A big thanks to Alfie for dressing up in a striking Christmas Jumper for our annual SVP Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day on Thursday 9th December 2021. He even donated his €2. Well done Alfie.

Mr Stewart on behalf of the Board of Management of ACS sending Christmas greetings to the ACS families, staff and the wider local community. As you can see Mr Stewart made a big effort also for Christmas Jumper Day for SVP in his Christmas suit today Thursday 9th December 2021. We were delighted with the total amount of money collected. Thanks everyone. 🌲

### **Shop Local and Support Local Competition**

Well done to the teams in Ms Beharic's TY Business class Lowry who entered the Shop Local and Support Local Competition with [Meath County Council](#) in November 2021.

Group 1: Adam Lee, Jack Kelly, Robert McLoughlin, Jack Lynch.

Group 2: Sophie O'Grady, Ella Farrell, Emma Breathnach, Muireann Davis.

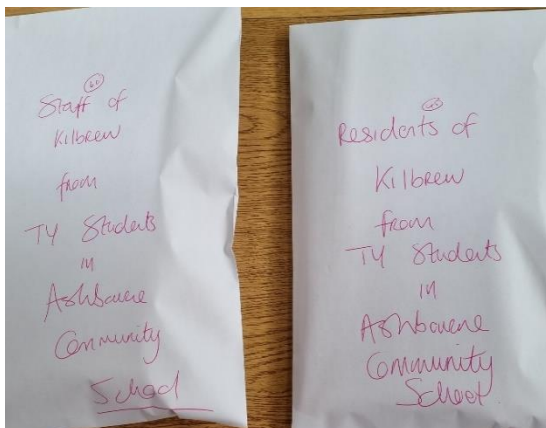
Group 3: Sean McKenna, William Carr, Patrick Moran. Great work done by these 3 groups to promote shopping local. Meath County Council in partnership with County Meath Chamber of Commerce and Retail invited Transition Year students in County Meath to participate in its Support Local Student Video Competition to promote the NEW Mí Meath Shop Local Card. Social Media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram and Facebook have offered the tools to young people to showcase their creativity. The competition gave students in Meath the opportunity to showcase their own creativity and digital skills.



Each year Meath County Council and County Meath Chamber launch a campaign to encourage Meath Citizens to support local. 92% of businesses across Ireland and in Meath are micro and small homegrown companies, many of which are family-owned. Supporting local businesses is also supporting local families, local jobs and the local economy. Thanks to Ms Beharic for the info.

### Volunteering for All Award – Support the Care Staff

60 boxes of chocolates, and 105 handmade cards for the staff and residents of Kilbrew Recuperation and Nursing Care from the TYs in ACS were delivered on Friday 10th December 2021. As part of our Volunteering for All Award, with [Localise](#), TYs donated a box of chocolates and made Christmas cards which we presented to Kilbrew Recuperation and Nursing Care as a gesture of kindness and thanks. We wished the staff and residents, and their families there, a happy, peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year from all at ACS. The extra boxes of chocolates donated by TYs are included in our SVP Appeal which was collected on Monday 13th December 2021 with the rest of our collection. Thanks to all the TYs involved. Small gestures can have big impact. [@localiseyouth](#)





### Christmas Carol Singing

Photos from our Christmas Carol Singing outside on Thursday 9th December 2021 on SVP Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day. Well done to all. Thanks to Mr O'Donnell, Ms McNamee, Ms McLoughlin, and all the students involved. Great fun. Great to hear singing again in ACS! 🎄🎵



### **@jigsawmeath**

@colaistedelacy

The Jigsaw Peer Education Training Programme was facilitated again on Thursday 2nd December 2021 by Derek Hanway from Jigsaw. The fully trained Jigsaw Peer Mentors from ACS are TYs, Amy Spratt, Laura McNally, Sophie Coughlan and Orlaith Ferry. They were joined by 4 students from Colaiste de Lacy for the completion of their training. Jigsaw Team CDL are Holly McCarthy, Tegan McGeogh, Sean O'Toole and Eoghan Gallagher. We hope to build on these links between the schools and Jigsaw. The One Good School Team underpins the whole school approach to Jigsaw. It is comprised of representatives from leadership, staff, parents/guardians and students. Thanks to Ms Casey, Ms Hickey, Ms O'Dea and Ms McLoughlin (The ACS Jigsaw Team) for the info. Derek was a fantastic facilitator and the 8 students had another great day of training.

[#jigsaw](#)

### **Certified Angus Beef Success**

Super news received on Thursday 9th December 2021 during TY Agricultural Science Class as it happens. 2 of the 3 groups of TYs who entered this year's Certified Irish Angus Schools Competition are through to the next stage of the competition! A massive achievement! This next stage will involve a 30-minute interview based on their video applications. They will be interviewed by representatives from:

- Certified Irish Angus Producer Group,
- ABP Food Group,
- Kepak Group,
- An Agricultural Science Teacher.

IF they are successful in this interview, they will go forward to the exhibition in Croke Park on 1st April 2022 at which the final 5 groups will be selected to win 5 Angus calves each.

Presented at the National Ploughing Championships in September 2022.

William Delaney of Certified Irish Angus was blown away by the high standard of this year's entries. Congrats to Group 1: Charlie Carberry, Matthew Tuite, Tadhg Tuite and Joe Murray; and Group 2: Amy O'Leary, Muireann Davis, Ellen Gough and Ella O'Connor.



We would like to commend Michael McIvor, Daniel Holmes, Fionnan Hogan, Evan O'Kane, who also produced a super video entry for the competition. We are so proud of you all and the huge effort and time you all put into this competition in your own time. Only some of the 12 TY students involved were actually doing Agricultural Science as a module this term, yet they produced amazing entries. Thanks to Mr Ryan for mentoring the students and to all the local farmers who allowed the students to shoot their videos on site.

### SVP Appeal

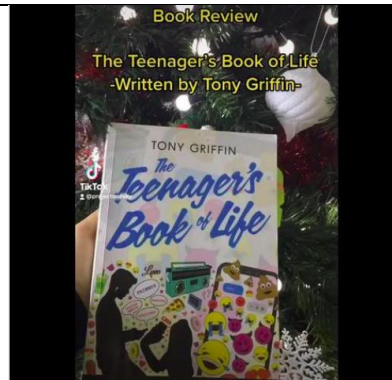
Delighted to have donated €1750 to SVP Ashbourne from Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day on Thursday 9th December 2021. On Monday 13th December 2021, 41 boxes of food, toys and gifts AND €520 worth of vouchers were collected by SVP from ACS to help local families in Ashbourne. We are very proud of and thankful to all who donated. Everyone can make a difference in the lives of others. Thank you all. €300 worth of SuperValu vouchers were also given to the Ashbourne Senior Citizens Group from some of the ACS staff.

A big THANKS to all who donated. A special word of thanks to all the students who helped out over the last few weeks with the different collections. Honestly couldn't have sorted it all without you all..... particularly those who helped on the Fridays, TYs, Amber Finglas, Alannah McKane, Fadekemi Owoade, Lucy Kalu, Ella Walsh and Erica Milling. Thanks also to students who counted and bagged the €1750 Non-Uniform Day collection on Thursday 9th December 2021, TYs, Ella O'Driscoll, Robert McLaughlin and Emer Quinn, and 5th Years, Ryan Kelly and Roisin Moss. It takes a team (and a large office space ❤️) to coordinate these fundraising events and collections, and I'm so grateful to all the students who offer to help and also of course those who donate.  
Regards, Ms Mathews



### TikTok Book Review

Great to see TY student Amy Spratt's review of Tony Griffin's book, "The Teenagers Book of Life". The book would make "a great stocking filler for any teenager this Christmas". Amy has been on work placement since September 2021 with [Project One Sky](#) who shared the book review. Well done Amy.



### Thank You gesture

On Monday 13th December 2021, 3 TY students Faderera Owoade, Sarah Moore and Orlaith Ferry made more handmade Christmas cards. They delivered them to their tutors, support staff and management in the school on behalf of TYs. Following this they delivered handmade Christmas cards to a number of local businesses, organisations and schools.....as many as they could in the time they had. We want to thank all the businesses, organisations and schools who facilitate our TY, LCA and LCVP students on work placement this week for TYs and all year round. Such an important part of our programmes and we really appreciate all that they do for our students and school.



### Mi Meath Competition Winners

Congrats to TY students Jack Kelly, Jack Lynch, Robert McLaughlin and Adam Lee who each won a €25 Mi Meath gift card in December 2021 in a County Meath Chamber video competition to promote shopping local. They were shortlisted as one of the best entries. Well done guys and Ms Beharic. Thanks to the local businesses who allowed the students to create a video in their businesses. Much appreciated. [www.mimeath.ie](http://www.mimeath.ie). Simply the best gift to give or get at anytime.



### TY SPHE

In SPHE students' contributions are highly valued. This was evident in the presentations that TY student, Robert McLaughlin collaborated on with Ms. Hanahoe, SPHE Coordinator. Road Safety and Financial Literacy are two subjects that students examined and explored in all SPHE classrooms this term. Robert created impactful and educational PowerPoint presentations to showcase to students the changes they can make to improve their safety on our roads. Suggestions



were offered to students on how to improve their financial wellness. Many thanks to Robert for his work and enthusiasm. Thanks to the SPHE noticeboard team of TYs Jessica Folan, Amy O’Leary, Laura McNally and Alannah McKane who supported Ms Hanahoe with keeping the SPHE noticeboard updated with valuable info and advice since September also. Thanks to Ms Hanahoe for the info and all the important awareness weeks since September 2021.

### **Think Languages**

**Thanks to TY Journalist Olivia Hanley for this article on the Think Languages TY Event in November 2021.**

On Monday the 22nd of November 2021, TYs from all over Ireland joined in a national celebration of languages and all hosted #ThinkLanguages events in their schools. TYs celebrated all the fun and benefits of foreign language learning through interesting and active workshops, poster competitions, learning from peers and other members of the school. Lots of preparation was put into organising the event by the #thinklanguages team who organised poster competitions, carried out surveys on languages spoken in our school, decorated the school with posters bunting and more.

They started the day listening to an Opening Ceremony listening to inspirational speakers of different languages while also receiving some #thinklanguages merchandise. All students had a packed fun day full of workshops including Origami, Brazilian Capoeira, GAA drills outside on the pitch ‘as Gaeilge’ and Turkish language workshops too. After a packed day, the TYs finished off the day with a language inspired Kahoot quiz and then watched a foreign language film with goodie bags.

A big thank you to all the teachers for facilitating the workshops for TYs and to Ms. Leyden and the [#thinklanguages](#) team for organising the events.

**Written by TY Journalist, Olivia Hanley**



### **The Litterbugz**

**@thelitterbugz\_**

During the last term, September to December 2021, we have done lots in our YSI Group, the Litterbugz. We have continued our hard work litter picking after lunch and we would like to thank everyone for listening to our message on Instagram. We have seen a decrease in litter since we started posting. Our main goal for this term has been to make our prototype bin. After a great team effort, we have completed it and hope to unveil it in the new year for you all. We would like to also thank Mr Deasy for providing our materials and helping us build our bin.

Thanks to Ms Mongey, our YSI teacher, also for all her support and guidance. The Litterbugz Team are Oisín Daly, George Hickey, Michael O'Sullivan, Eric Donohoe, Sean Lambe, Aidan Mackey, David Caffrey, Callum McMahon and Joedev Puchon.

[#slamdunkthejunk](#)

The Litterbugz

**Written by Oisín Daly, TY Student**

### **TY Politics and Society**

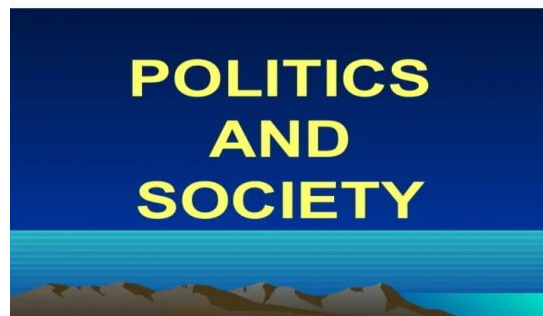
**Thanks to TY Journalist Alannah Dunican for this article on TY Politics and Society.**

For our TY Politics and Society module we attended eight online sessions with Conor Reale, the Parliamentary Education Officer with the Houses of the Oireachtas. During these sessions we were involved in learning many new concepts about politics, democracy and society. We learned how our government is a democratic government and that in our country we have the freedom to vote. In many countries in today's world, people still cannot vote and don't have the freedom of speech that we do. We can voice our opinions and vote for different parties while citizens in other countries can't. We also learned how our voting system works in Ireland. We learned that at 18 we can register to vote. When you vote in an election in Ireland, you are asked to give your vote in order of preference. This is because Ireland uses an electoral system called proportional representation with a single transferrable vote. At the polling station on election day, you will be given a stamped ballot paper. You vote by placing the number of your choice next to the candidate or candidates that



**thelitterbugz\_**

**Ashbourne Community School**





you have chosen. We finished off the sessions with a virtual tour of the Dáil and Seanad, our two Government Houses in Ireland. It was a great experience, and we learned a lot of new and interesting facts about power, society and politics in Ireland. Thanks to Ms Scannell for arranging all of the above interactions with the Houses of the Oireachtas and for such an interesting module.

**Written by Alannah Dunican, TY Journalist**

### **One Kind Word – Christmas Assembly**

On Monday 13th December we held our final online whole school assembly of 2021 on Teams. Mr Stewart acknowledged the hard work and resilience of students, staff and the wider community. He thanked everyone for all their support of recent fundraisers and collections including Baleskin Reception Centre and SVP. He talked about the importance of the One Kind Word over the coming weeks to support those around us in our families and community. He wished the whole ACS community a peaceful and restful Christmas and New Year. Ms Guildea finished the assembly with a beautiful Christmas blessing. Thanks to Ms McLoughlin for the photo.

### **TY Engineering Module**

As part of the TY programme here in Ashbourne Community School, the students are required to choose from a selection of half year modules or subjects. One immensely popular choice this year is Engineering. This module is taught by Mr. Walsh. In this module, you learn how to work with different machines and use different tools. We made copper bowls, using a process called annealing. This is a heat treatment that alters the physical and sometimes chemical properties of a material to increase its ductility, making it more workable. Most recently we made Christmas tree decorations by melting glass powder onto copper. This process was called enameling. Enameling is a process by which powdered glass is fused to a metal substrate at high heat. Enamels can be applied to glass, ceramics, and metals. The application of enamels can add colour to metals such as copper, silver, and gold. The powdered glass can be applied either



wet or dry to a surface. This module was very fascinating as it was the first time some of the students have done the subject. It was a terrific opportunity for TYs to get an insight into the subject and perhaps even consider it for the Leaving Certificate. Thanks to Mr Walsh for such a practical and interesting module.

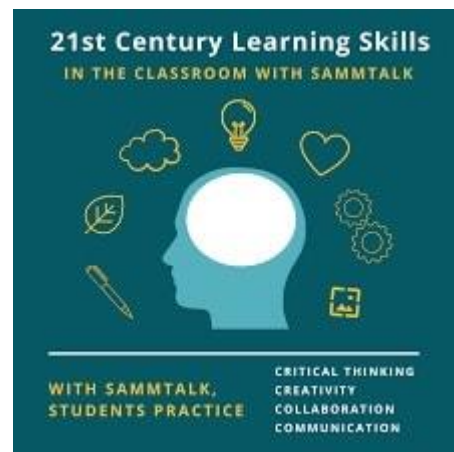
**Written by Ciara Doherty TY student and Aoibheann Shortt, TY Journalist**

### **Handmade Christmas Cards**

On Monday 13th December 2021, 3 TY students Faderera Owoade, Sarah Moore and Orlaith Ferry made more handmade Christmas cards. They delivered them to their tutors, support staff and management in the school on behalf of TYs. Following this they delivered handmade Christmas cards to a number of local businesses, organisations and schools.....as many as they could in the time they had. We want to thank all the businesses, organisations and schools who facilitate our TY, LCA and LCVP students on work placement this week for TYs and all year round. Such an important part of our programmes and we really appreciate all that they do for our students and school.

### **TY Spanish – Sammtalk Ms Slevin’s Class article written by TY student, David McCluskey**

In the month of November 2021, Ms Slevin’s Spanish class took part in a pilot programme with Sammtalk, a digital and cultural language exchange. It was a 4 week programme with a new task each week that was done online through their website. From the website you could upload the task you did and converse with the other students from the other schools. It allows students to practise and improve their language they are studying and also maybe make a few penpals along the way. The programme started by our teacher, Ms Slevin, matching our class with two other classes from Norway and Spain. Ms Slevin then told us a code to put into the website so we could join the group and take part in the programme. When we joined we had to upload a profile picture to our profile on the website. Then we completed each task every week. For example week 1’s task was to create a 1 minute video introducing ourselves and our school. Then at the end we asked the other schools 3 questions



about their countries which they answered in week 2's task. We did the same with their questions. In week 3 we all made a video about our hobbies in Spanish and then in week 4 we watched everyone's videos and left comments on them. When we finished a task we uploaded it onto the website in the group so the other schools could see what we did. When we finished all the tasks and the programme we had the opportunity to make penpals and continue to converse with the other students and practice our language.

I really enjoyed taking part in this programme and I would recommend it for other classes to do. It really helped in learning and practising my language by interacting with other students. It's an interactive, practical and fun way of learning a language with real people in the real world as opposed to learning through workbooks and classwork. Thanks to Ms Slevin for coordinating this interesting and practical learning experience.

**Written by David McCluskey, TY Student**

#### **GAA Ladies All Stars and All Ireland Champions**

Thanks to [@photosbydes meath](#) for the photos from Wednesday 24th November 2021 of the visit of past pupils Aoibhín Cleary and Máire O'Shaughnessy of [@donashgaclub](#) and [@meath\\_lgfa](#) with the Brendan Martin Cup to ACS - Senior Ladies All-Ireland Gaelic Football Champions and GAA All-Star Winners. 🏆🏆 A number of TY girls are featured in the photos.



#### **TY Accounting**

TYs engaged in a series of step-by-step lessons. They started off by working through the basic principles of accountancy, completing differentiation tasks such as 'income v expenses' and 'assets v liabilities' and



completing adjoining T accounts in the process. By the end of the term, the class were able to complete a LC section 1 question. The class got to experience the Accountancy subject material and gauge understanding and difficulty to this point, helping assist their decision-making process regarding selecting the subject next year. Students learned that accountants help organisations and individuals to manage their money. They examine financial records and statements and check them for accuracy. This allows them to provide their clients with a clear picture of their financial activities. Thanks to Mr Sheridan for the info.



### Christmas Bake Sale

Well done to TY YSI group @maketherightmoveonline who raised €200 at their Christmas Bake Sale on Thursday 9th December 2021. Well done guys. Thanks to all who supported.



### TY Home Economics

During Transition Year, TY students have the option of a Home Economics module which runs from September to December and January to May. This module looks at certain nutrition topics and an opportunity to practice cookery skills for independent living. In the first term of

this module, students looked at a variety of different topics such as balanced eating, sugar, fibre and fats. They completed some research tasks, observed documentaries, and had discussions of how these particular topics can contribute to a healthy diet or how foods high in sugars and fats can cause a negative impact if over consumed.

Students also had the opportunity to take part in practical classes. During these classes, students made a range of dishes including pizza, chicken curry, brownies and Halloween cupcakes to help get into the festive spirit. TYs also used their culinary skills to help out with a TY bake sale to support and help raise much needed funds to go towards buying cycling shorts for the [#andshecycles](#) group. Excellent teamwork and culinary skills were demonstrated by all students during this class as they prepared sausage rolls, chocolate muffins and rice krispie buns. Great motivation and enthusiasm was seen from all students during the first term of this module.

Well done guys and thanks to Ms N McCarthy for the info.

#### **TY ICT**

The beginning of each ICT lesson involved a few minutes practising typing skills on typing.com and students completed the beginner section for this session as part of their credits. ICT theory was covered, as well as using MS Word effectively, including the completion of a number of MS Word assignments. Using their phone to record a voice recording assignment which they uploaded to their OneNote, showed students the valuable learning tool that their mobile can be. Students completed a number of online certificate courses from the International Academy of Computer Training from the variety of modules in Computer Essentials, Online Essentials, IT Security, Microsoft Teams, Outlook for Students, PowerPoint for Students, Word for Students, Excel for Student and Access for Students.

#### **TY Geography**

TY Geography “Geography in the News” Geography is the study of places and the relationships between people and their environments. Geographers explore both the

The logo for 'HOME ECONOMICS' features the word 'HOME' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'ECONOMICS' is written in a green, stylized font where the letters are interconnected. A green arrow points upwards from the letter 'O' in 'ECONOMICS'.

physical properties of Earth's surface and the human societies spread across it.

In TY Geography this term we looked at both aspects during the module. We did locational geography relating to the EU countries to be able to locate them and their capital cities. We also worked on OS Maps. We looked at the ongoing situation in Afghanistan focusing on the rise of the Taliban and their decline and further rise last August. We learned about the impact on society and human lives during the time.

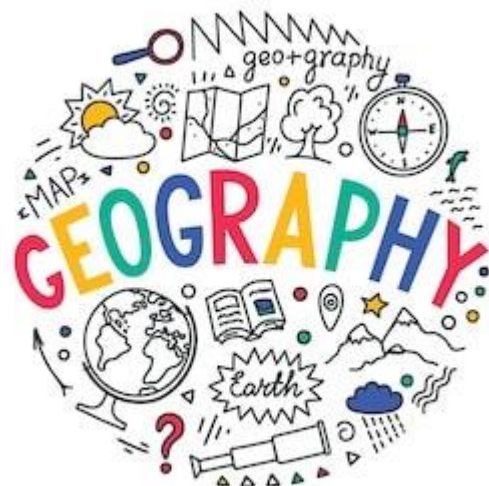
In September the Cumbre Vieja volcano on the island of La Palma began erupting. We used this as a Case Study and learned about plate tectonics and volcanic activity. We could see first-hand the impact on the region as a result. To date this volcano continues to be active. We spent time discussing the culture of Northern Ireland and the impact migration has had on the region. We learned about the "Troubles" and the complicated situation that continues in Northern Ireland today particularly with the impact of Brexit.

In October, the UN Climate Change Conference Cop 26 took place in Glasgow. We learned about the impact Climate Change and global warming will have on the planet and we concentrated on the impact it will have in Ireland. We discussed how we all have a role to play to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. One of our assignments was to produce a PowerPoint titled "There is no planet B".

Thanks to Ms Ryan for the info. 🌍

### **TY Business**

Following the preparation of their CV, and letters of application for work placement, as well completing a sample employment application form, students looked at their rights as an employee, and the acts that protected workers. Following the analysis of Budget 2022, the students looked at ways they would change the budget if they were in charge! During Financial Awareness Week, students looked at financial literacy, borrowing and keeping on top of debt payments. Several group assignments and discussions took place on how to be sensible with money and debts. The final assignment was a career investigation report



where students looked a career they were interested in, the skills and qualities needed for that career, 2 pathways to that career, and evaluated their investigation afterwards.

### **TY Gaeilge Rang Lowry agus Mr O'Maitiú**

Bhí scéalta traidisiúnta agus nua-aimseartha á dhéanamh ag rang Lowry sa chéad mhodúl leis an Uasal Ó Maitiú. Bhí roinnt daltaí páirteach in imeachtaí Ghaelbhratach freisin, le cabhair ó Iníon Vipond, agus bhain na daltaí ón chéad bhliain an-taitneamh as na himeachtaí éagsúla a d'éagraigh TY le déanaí, spórt & tráth na gceist san áireamh. Tá tuairiscí faoi leith againn thíos ó Jack, James & Sophie i rang Lowry, mar shampla de chuid den ábhar ar bhain na daltaí sult as.

Foclóir: nua-aimseartha = modern; imeachtaí = events; taitneamh= enjoy; san áireamh = including.

Ectasy le Ré Ó Laighléis

Léigh mise an scéal "Ectasy". Thaitin an scéal go mór liom. Bhí an-drámatúlacht sa scéal. Úna an príomhcharachtar. Déanadh bullaíocht uirthi ar scoil. Bhí drugaí ina póca ar scoil. Ní maith léi an scoil. Seo hiad na príomh íomhánna. Tugadh batráil (bualadh) uafásach di. Níor bhain mé taitneamh as sin! Bhain an scéal greim orm toisc na drugaí agus an teannas sa scéal. (James Jordan-Rang Lowry)

Foclóir: drámatúlacht = drama; bullaíocht = bullying; íomhá = image; greim= grab; teannas= tension.

Fionn agus an Fathach:

Bhain mé taitneamh as a bheith ag léamh an scéal, Fionn agus an Fathach toisc go raibh rudaí dearfacha ann ... Bhí a lán seatanna le feiceáil ann... B'fhearr liom scéal le casadh ach tuigim gur scéal traidisiúnta agus náisiúnta é. Bhain mé an-sult as an scéal seo. (Sophie Ní Ghráda- Rang Lowry)

Foclóir: seatanna = movie / film shots; casadh = twist; an-sult = really enjoyed.

Mar a fuair Setanta an t-ainm cú Chulainn.

Léimear scéal Setanta freisin. Chuaigh sé go dtí féasta i dteach Chulainn. Bhí cú ollmhór ag Culann. Bhí an cú an-láidir agus feargach.

Thosaigh Setanta ag imirt iománaíocht lena chairde... agus leanann an scéal ar aghaidh mar sin. Is seanscéal náisiúnta é. Thaitin sé go mór liom (Jack Ó Loingsigh-Rang Lowry)



Foclóir: féasta = feast; ollmhór = enormous; leanann = it continues.

### Seasons Greetings

Wishing all the students, staff and families of ACS, and the wider community a peaceful and safe Christmas and New Year. Thanks to everyone for the part they have played in keeping everyone as safe as possible in ACS. The students deserve a special mention. It certainly has not been easy on anyone, and our students in ACS have certainly rose to the challenge over the last 21 months. A reminder to everyone to be kind to others both in person and online... holidays can be a difficult time for some people. Keep in touch safely with others particularly with those who are lonely or vulnerable. Try and do at least 1 act of kindness every day.... however small. Here's hoping that there are brighter days ahead in 2022. Take care everyone. 🌲

### Tutor Group Names Success

When we chose the TY tutor group names we'd no idea what a successful year it would be for the sports stars they were called after. Blackmore after Rachael Blackmore, Coyle after Natalya Coyle, Lowry after Shane Lowry and Smyth after Jason Smyth.

Congrats to Rachael Blackmore and Jason Smyth on making it to the top 10 Irish Sports Stars of 2021. Both were also shortlisted for RTÉ Sportsperson of the Year.

Jason Smyth at the Tokyo Paralympics, became the 100-metres Paralympics champion, in the T-13 class, for a fourth time.

Rachael Blackmore became the first female jockey to win the Aintree Grand National, and was leading jockey at the Cheltenham Festival. She won the Irish Grand National and the Irish Champion Hurdle. She also won the RTÉ Sports Person of the Year and BBC World Sports Star awards, last weekend.

With hard work anything is possible guys..... 🏆  
Photo credit and info [@joe.ie](https://www.joe.ie).





**Thanks to TY Journalist Stephen Jordan for this article on his interview with our All Star and All Ireland heroes!**

**ACS welcomes two county heroes home!**

Sunday 5th September 2021 will go down as a historic day for the county of Meath in particular the Senior Ladies football team. They were victorious over the reigning champions Dublin in a two point win on an overcast day in Croke Park. The atmosphere was electric from fans on both sides cheering on their respective counties. However, it was a particularly momentous day for our school as two former students Máire O'Shaughnessy and Aoibhín Cleary were on the team. As students in ACS they conducted themselves with distinction on the pitch and in the classroom.

Ashbourne Community School was lucky on Wednesday 24th November 2021 to welcome back these two ambassadors carrying the Brendan Martin Cup. They also had a chat with students and staff and recounted the events of what was a wonderful day in sport for Meath. All of this proving how a combination of talent, hard work and dedication will help you achieve your 'GOALS'.

Both girls started playing on the under 10 teams for [@donashgaclub](#). They both agreed that their inspiration was their parents as they were encouraged to play sports from the time they could walk. Talking about the training schedule, the girls said it was very tough in the weeks running up to the final as they had three sessions on the pitch, for up to two and a half hours and two sessions in the gym each week. Their message to the students of ACS as they arrived back at the school was with hard work and dedication, you can achieve anything - nothing is impossible. It was an absolute pleasure to interview Máire and Aoibhín and hopefully they inspired the current generations of sport stars in ACS.

**Written by Stephen Jordan, TY Journalist**



**Coat of Arms Article by TY Journalist Aoife Rooney**

The TY Calligraphy class are doing a Coats of Arms project where they are making their own style of their Coat of Arms. They began by researching about their family coat of arms crest, finding out what their family motto is, and meanings of the symbols, colours, animals and shields. They then started brainstorming and drawing ideas of what they wanted to do for their crest. They began doing their crests using different paints. The class also used their calligraphy writing skills to write their family name and motto on their crest. Coats of Arms date to the early Middle Ages. In the early twelfth century, helmets and other armour began making it difficult to tell armed warriors apart. So the solution was for each knight or soldier to paint something personal on their shield. These designs were important in battle, but they also functioned like team uniforms when knights met in tournaments. Overtime, shield emblem designs became enduring symbols of their owners, and of their owners' families.

A really interesting and creative project. Thanks to our teacher Ms Maher.

**Written by Aoife Rooney, TY Journalist**



+3

## Work Placements

**Thanks to TY Journalist Eve Flannery for this article on her work placement in Little Buddies Playgroup & Montessori in Ashbourne.**

As part of my work experience, I am doing my first work placement in a pre-school and Montessori in Ashbourne called Little Buddies. The staff are very nice and helpful and really give me the experience of working in a playschool. I perform different tasks throughout the day where I have improved many different skills like patience, creativity, organising and understanding skills. I also do different jobs. For example when the children come into school, I take their school bags and put their lunch boxes into the fridge. I hang their schoolbags on to their hooks with their names on it. I also help with the sports class that happens every Friday. I help and encourage the children in different activities where they may be shy at first. It is always a positive experience and a great way to see if it would be something I would be interested in doing in the future!

Thanks so much to the staff and children there. I am really learning a lot and enjoying my time there in such a positive atmosphere. The skills and knowledge I have learned I will apply to school, home, community and working life. The image attached is on their social media page and really sums up what the staff are trying to achieve there.

**Written by Eve Flannery, TY Journalist**



**Thanks to TY Journalist Alannah Dunican for this article on work placement in TY.**

In TY, students have every opportunity to explore the real world of work. A work placement is a period of supervised work, where you will have the opportunity to experience working in a specific role with a company. Students can apply for work placement and even part-time jobs in different businesses that interest them, such as working in primary schools, shops, restaurants, and many other different businesses and organisations! In TY Business, CVs and cover letters were prepared for work placement and part-time work. In TY, you can explore all your interests and careers that you might be considering as a future in college or after school. As a TY student myself, I have explored and applied to many different workplaces, like working in a pharmacy in Ashbourne and going into a hospital in Dublin. TY is a great opportunity for students to network and make links in the working world. It is a chance to meet new people and get to see the real world outside of school. I would encourage everyone to do TY. It's a great experience and we have so many opportunities already and lots more to come! **A massive thanks to every employer who has taken on students from ACS whether for TY, LCVP or LCA Work Placement over the years. This part of the programmes would not be as successful as it is without all the businesses and organisations. We are very grateful to you all.**

**Written by Alannah Dunican, TY Journalist**



**Voluntary Work Placement**

We are delighted to have 3 TY students doing work placement with the voluntary organisation Ripples or The Ripple Effect on Friday evenings and Saturdays. Ella McAdam, Eve Whelan and Seanan Wright travel to Clontarf to assist the volunteers with their activities. The organisation is involved in organising activities and sports for young people with a variety of learning difficulties. Our TYs are really learning a lot from their work and improving their teamwork, organisation and creative skills. Well done guys. Thanks to Anne and the volunteers for supporting the TYs.

**We are so grateful to the organisations and businesses locally and further afield, for supporting our work placement programmes in TY, LCA and LCVP.**



**TY Mini-Company**

**DHM Gear bags**

**George Hickey, Aidan Mackey, Eric Donohoe**  
sold gear bags to store boots, gloves, clothes  
etc Ideal for athletes, the gym or storage

### **DHM Gear Bags**

George Hickey, Aidan Mackey, Eric Donohoe

Selling O'Neill's ACS Gear Bags



We are a TY Mini company selling gear bags to store your boots, gloves, clothes etc. Ideal for athletes, the gym or storage

**TY Mini-Company**

**DMQ Hats**

**Ciara Doherty, Éabha Magee and Emer Quinn**  
sold Noggin brand of hats who donate a % of  
profits to mental health awareness projects  
in UK and Ireland.

### **DMQ Hats**

*Ciara Doherty, Éabha Magee & Emer Quinn*

Selling the Noggin brand of hats who donate a % of profits to mental health awareness projects in UK & Ireland.

### **Noggin Hats**



We are TY Mini Company selling hats to keep your heads warm during the winter months. Ideal for teachers & students for the ski trip 2022 or those involved in extra-curricular activities.

### **ACS Football Shorts and Socks**

*Jessica Folan and Laura McNally*



Selling the Masita brand of shorts and socks

We are TY Mini Company selling football shorts and socks. Ideal for students part of the school football teams.

**Price €25!!!**

**TY Mini-Company**

**ACS Football Shorts and Socks**

**Laura McNally and Jessica Folan** sold ACS  
football socks and shorts.

**What an eventful November and December 2021! We have had lots of opportunities and we hope this gives you a flavour of them. We look forward to an educational and fun filled Spring term. We have attempted to include as much as we can in this Winter Edition of the TY Bulletin for 2021. There is a lot more going on in TY particularly inside our classrooms which we will let you know in our next 3 issues. We hope that we have given a flavour of life as a TY student in ACS. Wishing the students, families and staff of ACS a safe and happy Christmas and New Year. Be mindful of each other.**



"Nothing beats kindness," said the horse. "It sits quietly beyond all things."