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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome back to the second half of this term. The students have been very busy since returning from their summer break. September began with a very successful and enjoyable trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre in Louth for two days. Digital Film School and Song School workshops were held on 11th and 14th September. As always there was a very positive response from students and workshop leaders and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing some of their completed films and songs. They are certainly a talented group.

My thanks to Garda David Barron who visited the school and gave a Road Safety talk to students. Soar gave a workshop on confidence and resilience. All TY students took part in a Gospel Music workshop and have now started into their Rehearsals for this years production of 'Beauty and the Beast'

A small group of students travelled to Germany with Ms. Drumm and Ms. Fitzgerald in September. The feedback from the teachers and students was excellent and the girls seemed to thoroughly enjoy the trip. Ms Brady organised a trip to the Ploughing Championships on September 18th. The girls truly embraced the day and all it had to offer, and they all seemed very happy returning home on the bus.

Students have taken part in 'mini company' workshops, organised by the Business teachers. Students have been encouraged to form mini companies. I look forward to seeing the products they produce.

As part of the sport module with Ms. Crowley, students have been taking part in the 'Get Going, Get Rowing' programme. On October 25th a group of students attended the indoor rowing championships in Trinity College, with one of our teams coming third place out of the thirty three schools in attendance. It is hoped that all students will get an opportunity to take part in these activities during the sport module.

As part of our Social Justice Programme, the students have had a variety of speakers visiting the school. Following a talk from Tony Rock, director of St. Vincent de Paul's Ozanam House, many of the students gave up their own free time after school and over the weekend of 12th October to bag pack for Ozanam House. Tony has asked me to pass on his thanks to the students for helping to raise valuable funds. On Friday 19th October students spent the afternoon in the City Centre helping with the Temple Street 'Trick or Treat' campaign.

On Friday 26th October there were fun activities organised by the TY Committee for the entire TY group. I would like to thank the Committee for their excellent organisational skills, and all the girls for their cooperation and participation on the day.

Next week (12-19th) all students will take part in their Community Care Placement. It is important that all students have their Community Care Placement Forms returned by now. This is an integral part of transition year and an important part of the Social Justice Programme. The girls receive many opportunities and advantages over the year and this is a chance to give something back to those less fortunate than themselves or

to those in need of a helping hand. At this stage all students should have arranged their placements. And have returned all forms.

Similarly, students should have already started to arrange work experience placements. Work experience will take place from Monday 4th February – Friday 15th February 2019 inclusive. All necessary forms have been made available to students and should be returned as soon as possible. The updated insurance form is now available on the school website.

There will be a GAA coaching course offered in November, places are limited and I would encourage all those who are interested to sign up before all places are filled.

In December students will have a day out to the city centre to visit some of our museums/galleries. December 17th TY students will have their Christmas exams. On the 18th December all students will take part in our annual bag packing fundraiser in Nolans supermarket. This is our largest TY fundraiser of the year and funds are used to help offset the costs of TY expenses along with making a donation to the Peter Mc Verry Trust. It is necessary for the smooth running of this fundraiser to get parent supervision on the day. If you think you could supervise for an hour or two on the day, please contact me at the above email address.

Wednesday 19th December Ty students will host their annual Christmas Carol Service. Parents and family members are invited to attend the service and refreshments after.

With regards to the academic side of Transition Year, homework is being given by the teachers and students should not be twiddling their thumbs at night. While there are many alternative activities on, there are also days and weeks of undisturbed school and we do emphasise the academic balance of the year. Students have been told to have a book to read with them every day.

A reminder that students cannot be excused for extra work experience unless it is an official TY Programme that is being held, for example the Beaumont Hospital TY Programme etc.

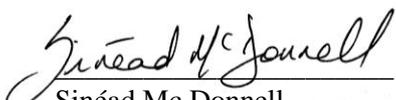
Ms Nolan spoke to the girls about the Gaisce awards, this programme is an excellent way for the girls to get involved in their community and to learn new skills. I am delighted to hear that over 80 students have signed up to take part in the Gaisce programme and I wish them well with it this year. A number of students have not paid their Gaisce registration. Please pay online ASAP directly to Gaisce.

I must stress the importance of participation in the TY programme, if the students are active and involved, they will enjoy the year and also develop and learn from their experience. In order to participate fully, attendance must be excellent. There will continue to be a variety of new and different activities on offer, it is up to each student to be adventurous and try new things.

Thank you to those that have paid the Ty Activities Contribution, I would ask those that have not yet paid to please do so on the schools' easy payment system before the Christmas break.

I am looking forward to the rest of the year and working with the girls, if you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please follow our TY activities on the schools new App.


Sinéad Mc Donnell
Transition Year Coordinator