

O'Carolan College

Nobber, Co. Meath.

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Principal: Cathal Rogers Deputy Principal: Helen Loftus



Dec 1st 2021

Dear Parent,

As we approach our Transition Year work experience and the Christmas holidays, I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the programme to date. This has been a really challenging year for students and families but I have to say that I am absolutely blown away with our TY cohort this year. The level of maturity, resilience, respect for teachers and for one another and their willingness to get involved in the TY Programme has been just amazing.

Since September, all students have been very busy in the classroom, learning how to code, investigating crime scenes, learning how to save a life with CPR Training, singing in the 'Sister Act' musical and learning how to cook a variety of cuisines! I have organised numerous workshops in school for Transition Year students including a Personal Safety Workshop, Develop Me workshop, Movie Magic, Reptile Haven, Poetry Slam, and this week we go off site to Dundrum Town Centre and will visit 'Go Quest' where students will partake in physical and mental challenges. We can't wait!

The highlight of our TY programme is always our annual show. Director of the show Grainne Kennedy has already engaged all students in dance classes for a period of six weeks. Students have had to come out of their comfort zones while getting a flavour of the various styles of dances. More to come in January where we will start our show rehearsals for the show in March!

Meath development team led a GAA coaching programme with students along with an 'inclusion in sport' course for coaching students with disabilities. They also completed the 'Sport Leader UK Award' and are all now qualified to lead sporting activities with younger students. We will be participating in a Basketball Ireland coaching Award later in the year.

'Gaeilge 24' challenge took place in November. Students had to speak Gaeilge during a 24 hour period while completing lots of challenges through the medium of Irish.

Students in TY have been 'paying it forward' by doing acts of kindness not only within our school walls but also in the community. They have been involved in Nobber Tidy Towns litter picking, helping out with 'Stand Up' Awareness week and Wellbeing week in school, teaching in our ASD Unit whilst also collecting food hampers for vulnerable families in Navan with the 'Nourish' project. They have also been busy putting their entrepreneurial skills into practice by setting up their own mini companies, well done everyone!

Let's not forget that we are only one third of the way through our Transition Year Programme. I just want to say how proud I am of each and every one of them at this stage and how truly resilient and caring they all have been during these times.

I would like to express my gratitude to you, the parent, for your continued support to the school and for guiding your child in securing work experience for a two-week period starting December 6th.

Finally, I would like to wish your family a very happy and healthy Christmas where I hope you can all be with your loved ones during the holiday season.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aileen Teeling". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Best wishes," text.

Aileen Teeling

TY Coordinator / Year Head