

MAY 2023

TCS NEWS



A Message from Mr Lynch



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I would like to welcome you all to our May edition of TCS News.

As the academic year draws to a close, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on our successes and what we have accomplished throughout the year.

This year with full school life from the beginning, there has been so much happening in our school. From school outings, competitions, success on the sporting front, excitement with drama, music and the arts and a wonderful Culture Day to mention just a few. We have also seen the amazing generosity within the school community with the many fundraising activities which have support a number of causes both local and national.

It was a particularly special year with us celebrating 50 years since we first opened. This has been celebrated throughout the year but with a particular special occasion back in October. The night represented all that is special about our TCS and a night that will long live in the memories of us all.

Over the next few pages you will get to see all the wonderful activities that have made our school community a special place for all involved.

I would like to thank all the staff, students and parents for their time, energy and commitment contributing to these amazing activities throughout the year. These activities embrace our schools guiding vision of **“Learning Together, Everyone Matters, Every Moment Counts”**

I would like express my very best wishes to all our students who will be sitting their State Examinations in Junior Cycle, Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied. You have done the work, now is the opportunity for you to show it!!

So as we approach the summer break I would like to thank the whole school community of teachers, students, parents and volunteers for their commitment, co-operation and support throughout the school year. I would like also to give a mention to our Parents Association who have ran a number of hugely successful initiatives throughout the year and the support they have given the school.

I hope you all get to enjoy your summer break. We look forward to the new school year with great excitement and hope it is one that is filled with great success for all within our school community.

TCS Scoop Awards at Science Competitions

Scifest and PE Expo Ireland

The year brought lots of activity in the arena of Science and extracurricular . TCS was very proud to compete in three big competitions including The BT Young Scientist at the RDS, PE Expo Ireland at DCU and Scifest at TUD Tallaght. The projects included studies researching Covid 19 and spending, Sickle Cell Disease and Sports Psychology.

Posi Ashundaro and Lauren Coughlan scooped the top prize in the intermediate category for social and psychology projects at Scifest with their project title ‘The Magic Feather’. At the PE Expo in DCU, Kathy Okoeguale, Keren Agbassah and Leah Halpin won two of the top prizes on offer; 1st place in their category and the peer judges award for their project ‘Sickle Cell Disease and Sport.’ Aimee Keogh and Ashlee Keogh have wrote a student reflection on their experience at the BT Young Scientist Competition which is included inside. We are very proud of the hard work that these three entrants put into their work. No doubt the experience at these competitions will stand to these students long after the exhibition has passed.



TCS Talent Shines at TCS Factor



TCS Factor returned to the stage this March 30th and 31st for two stellar performances. This was the first show to take place since November 2019, so we were delighted in TCS to have the Arts back on stage.

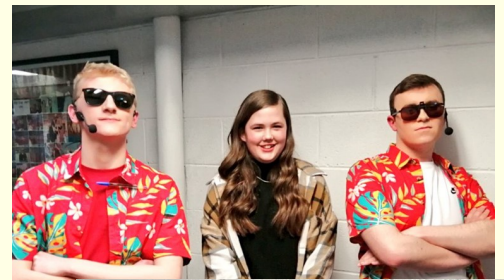
The opening night was filled with excitement as parent and students spilled into the TCS hall for showtime. The opening set of dance to the soundtrack of the Lion King set the scene for the talent that followed. The talent and confidence on display from our student cohort was spectacular. Knock out performances filled TCS with an electric atmosphere with our incredible singers, dancers and actors taking to the stage.

Stand out performances on the night went to Hayley Keeley singing a country song "You and Me on a Rock" and to Hasini Pinnelli with her rendition of "A Million Dreams" which had us feeling like we were at a sell out show in the 3Arena with the lighting backdrop from the audience.

On Friday March 31st, the TCS Factor show took to the stage once again to a packed hall of over 400 primary school 5th class students. We welcomed the 5th class students from Scoil Aonghusa, St Marys NS, Scoil Iosa, St Dominics, St Thomas' SNS, St Roses, St Kevins Boys and St Kevins Girls. It was a wonderful opportunity to restore this tradition that we have with our local primary schools as our invited guests for a matinee performance.

The production of such a showcase of talent was only made possible by our wonderful students and the support of some staff members including Grainne O Rourke, Sharon O Loughlin and Megan Quinn. The work from all of the helpers behind the scenes including; the back stage crew, dress rehearsal crew, the hair and beauty team and the show programme designers who made the show such a great success. We really appreciated the more recently added instalment of the hair and beauty room for the show prep!

Thank you the TCS Factor Team!



TCS Win at the TUD Young Creators Programme 2023



A group of TY students have taken part in a very unique opportunity over the second term of the school year. The students worked with Technological University Dublin on a project called 'The Young Creators Programme' 2023.

The students worked weekly creating their own podcast which they titled 'TCS Spills the Tea'. The group of students developed their own script, developed the skills to record a podcast and they produced their final product of a podcast series at the end of the process. All schools that took part in the initiative attended an awards ceremony on Tuesday May 2nd. The Tallaght Community School students were thrilled to hear they won the top prize in the 'The Young Creators Programme'. Congratulations to Kali Nelson, Sarah Hayden, Cara Tilly, Erin O'Driscoll, Sorcha McLoughlin, Kim McNicholas, Darragh Kelly, Aphiwe Mhlongo, Victory Opara, Alexandra Bulter, Katie Enright, John Hynes and Nicole Kavanagh. These are names we may recognise working in media in the future!

History Week

History week took place in TCS from March 20th to 25th. The week was filled with activities for students from every year group. Leading up to History week, 5th year students Robyn Hooper and Shannon Seery accompanied Ms Geoghegan and Mr Harman at the 175th Anniversary Irish Flag Presentation Ceremony in SETU Waterford. We opened our own History week with a flag raising ceremony in TCS. 5th and 6th Year History students toured Kilmainham Gaol and learned about its long and complex history. 6th year History students attended a talk with Don Mullan. They listened attentively as he shared his experiences on Bloody Sunday and the role his book played in the Saville Inquiry which was a remarkable opportunity for History Week. Spoken word poet Emmet O'Brien treated 2nd year students to a rendition of his historical poem 'Eire'. He answered their questions about History, writing and where he finds inspiration. 2nd Year students displayed their CBA work for a History museum which our 1st year students toured. Our 3rd year students enjoyed a trip to Glasnevin Cemetery.

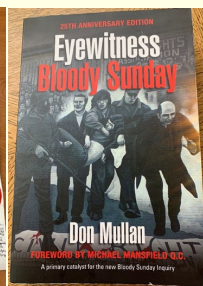
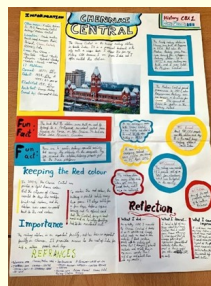
This was the first time that we hosted History week in TCS and we look forward to it already for next year.



Engineering Week

From March 6th to 10th we celebrated Engineering Week. The week brought lots of fun and competition to TCS for the week. Lots of our students had the chance to try out some puzzles and trivia in class. The highlight of the week was our very own Escape room, designed and put together by Ms. Finlayson and some of our TY students. Thanks to Victory Opara, Shauna Byrne Kerrigan and Amara Mukhta, Niamh Kelly and Nicole Kavanagh for helping with the design, promotion and organisation of the event. The Escape room involved teams of 2 to 6 members, finding and solving a series of clues and puzzles to recover the stolen money in under 45 minutes.

Each participant gave a donation of €2, which was donated to Crumlin Childrens Hospital.



Active and Wellbeing Week

The end of the long month of January was the perfect time for us to enjoy Active and Wellbeing week. We all focused on how we can bring more activity into our daily lives and each year group got the opportunity to get active and enjoy the outdoors. The highlight of the week was a hike for each year group as students went to either the Hellfire Club or TickKnock. The weather stayed fine and we were so lucky to be able to get out, enjoy the fresh air, catch up with friends and get some exercise too.

The week also allowed us to reflect on our eating habits with new meals and snacks available in the canteen and a competition for students to develop a healthy recipe to be featured on our school lunch menu. Our Home Ec students also enjoyed some practical classes that focused on preparing healthy meals.

The week also gave students an opportunity to sign up to some yoga and meditation with Ms Martin. These sessions gave students a chance to slow down and focus on their wellbeing. It was a lovely week for all and it set us along the right path for a healthy New Year.



Culture Day Celebrations

In March 2023, The Student Council collaborated with Ms Muir and her TCS Global Club with the idea of a multi-cultural event in school. We formed a sub-committee within the Student Council to organise, prepare and plan the event. Then we started creating posters of our countries and cultures. We met up during lunchtimes to prepare. In our meetings we planned out who was bringing clothing, food etc. We made display boards dividing the countries by continents, Africa, Europe, Asia, South America, and the Pacific. Mr Grimes and Yasmin made a presentation to present to the classes at to all classes across the school. We made a playlist of music from different countries for the event.

The culture day took place on Thursday 4th of May. Students brought in food that celebrated their culture. We stored the food in the fridge. Students worked until lunchtime setting up tables with cutlery and plates and advertising the event. In 4th period, students began heating up their dishes and preparing their stalls. Some students changed into their cultural clothes.

When the event began, students swarmed into the room, ready to try all the international cuisines. There were also drinks available such as mango juice and malt. There was music playing from different countries. Students and teachers really enjoyed the event. This was only made possible by the determined and hardworking students who gave their time up creating posters and cooking food etc.

I think that this event helped students embrace their diversity in our school. It helped educate our school community who might have not have the opportunity to learn about all the wonderful cultures and backgrounds in TCS. Culture day 2023 was very successful and we are inspired to improve it for next year. Thanks to the Global Committee for proposing the idea and the student council alongside the volunteers for executing it.

Ayaan Idle- 3rd year



TCS at The BT Young Scientist

When we found out we were accepted into the BT young scientist and technology exhibition, we were ecstatic! Our project is centralized around how throughout the Covid 19 pandemic our spending habits changed. There was a shift to a cashless society and online shopping. Our project analysed shopping and its link with anxiety levels, the prevalence of self justification (retail therapy), addiction and boredom. We started working harder than ever on our report book, display, and PowerPoint slides on the weeks leading up to the event. It was great to engage with our school communities through group discussions around the reasons why they answered our survey the way they did.

When the day finally arrived to go to the RDS we were so excited. We set up our display and it looked great. On the first day there was a buzz around the RDS among every student participating as we went to the opening ceremony. We saw performances from Sello and the super hero scientist along with a very motivational speech given by President Michael D Higgins. We had a busy few days whether it be the judging's or talking to the public who seemed to be very interested in our project as they realised, they relate to our results. All of it was such a great and educational experience. We met TDs including John Lahart and Francis Noel Duffy where we discussed the importance of consumer awareness and the spending habits of our younger generation. We were interviewed by Q102 and got our pictures taken for the southside people and the Irish times on set up day. We even made the news!

We made so many new friends and it was such a fun environment to be in. We were so happy to see students from our year come to see us and the compliments and support we got showered with was immense. We were lucky enough to meet the Tánaiste Michael Martin when he came to talk to us about our project. He outlined how important projects like ours were and what laws he wanted to bring in around our results to better our economy for the future economy. He loved our display and he even held our DIY Covid mascot Colin made from shopping bags. Overall, we had an amazing experience that we were so lucky to be able to take part in such a brilliant event. It is certainly an experience we will never forget. Thanks to TCS for giving us the facilities, support and overall pride. Without our school we would have never got this opportunity and we are so grateful. Thank you especially to Ms O Gorman as she put not only her time but her whole heart into our project.

-Ashlee Keogh and Aimee Keogh Transition Year 2023



Leaving Cert Options Fair

Choosing Leaving Cert subjects is always a big decision for our Transition year students. Our students and their parents were welcomed into the hall where a number of stalls were set up representing the wide range of subjects we have on offer here in TCS. Our teachers and representatives from this years 5th and 6th year groups were on hand to provide advice, knowledge and insight into the various subjects. It was a wonderful chance for our TY students and their parents to see examples of works from the different subjects and chat to our very own experts.



Campus Trips to TUD Tallaght, Maynooth University and Greenhills College

On March 28th, 5th year students visited TUD Tallaght to learn about the Access route, go on a tour and hear from past pupils. They also participated in a Engineering workshop. Students also had the opportunity to visit Maynooth and Greenhills College.



Feliz San Valentín

First Year Spanish students spread the love during the month of February making cards for el día de San Valentín. The TCS MFL department also hosted a quiz for all of our Spanish and French classes in 1st and 2nd year.



Parents Corner

There have been a number of free programmes for parents this year. It has been wonderful having parents in the school taking part in activities like the cooking course, yoga course, flower arranging day. The school also hosted an online webinar on the topic of managing teens and technology which was very well attended by the parents in our school community.

A big thank you to the TCS Parents Association for their ongoing work this year. There has been lots of great fundraising initiatives with clothes collections, a Christmas raffle and the TCS Factor raffle. All of the funds raised through the year are being used to purchase materials for extra curricular activities in the school. The committee are working to purchase boardgames for our lunchtime games club, equipment for the BY young Scientist group and a new kit for the Junior boys basketball team. If any parent would like to get involved in the Parents Association or our parent classes next year, be sure to watch our for the notices and link in with the HSCL.



1st and 2nd Year Basketball

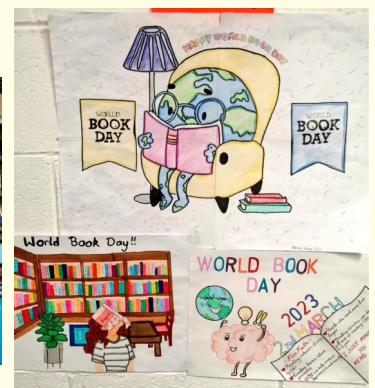


The TCS Basketball for our 1st and 2nd year students had their season begin in January. This was particularly exciting for the 1st year students as many of our students had began their first extracurricular activity in post primary. The coaches for all teams have reported great energy and team work in these junior squads. The girls squad were delighted to take to the court in their new kit which was purchased by the TCS parents association from funds raised last year. The smiles in the photographs above say it all!

World Book Day at TCS

On March 2nd, TCS took part in the celebration of World Book Day. The English department planned school wide activities to promote the school target of engaging more students in reading for enjoyment. The school was a hive of activity in the day. Lots of initiatives took place. First years took part in a WBD year group quiz. Students from all year groups submitted posters for a WBG themed competition with nine prizes presented to the winners. The whole school community took part in 'Drop Everything and Read'. All classes took part in the '99 reasons to read' display that was set up in the school reception. All first year classes wrote their own book which contained stories, poems, comics and more! Classes visited Castletymon library. There was also a paired reading activity took place between the first year and TY students. Our school library is filled with books to suit all of the interests and the reading levels of our students from first to sixth year.

Our library is a space open to our students get lost in a book.



Act Up Festival at Rua Red



This year, a number of our students were involved in 'Act Up Festival' with Rua Red Theatre. It was a student-led performance which meant that our students, acted, managed and directed the entire play. The students worked on the performance over a couple of months and it was a fantastic success when they finally took to the stage in Rua Red. We look forward to what the future holds for these budding actors and actresses. A special mention to our prize winners following the performance.

Best Stage Management : Jackson Butler (6th year)

Best Supporting Male Actor: Dillon Duggan (3rd year)

Best Effects (Lighting Technology): Ella O Callaghan (3rd Year)

Best Supporting Female Actor: Hasini Pinnelli (2nd year)

Best Effects (Sound Technology): James Egan (2nd year)

Day Trip to Bray

Students across many year groups enjoyed a day by the sea with a trip to Bray in May. Students visited the Sea life Museum and enjoyed all of the wildlife. The museum was followed by lunch and time spent skimming stones on the beach.



Work Experience at Google



A group of TY students had a very unique opportunity availing of work placement with the tech giant Google. Students were tasked with designing a safety campaign over a number of weeks. This campaign was they displayed throughout the google headquarters.

LCA Award

In January, Christopher Higgins from the LCA group last year was presented with a Feargal Quinn award. This award was presented by the LCA National Association for achieving the highest LCA results in all of Dublin. This is a huge achievement by Christopher and one we are very proud of in TCS.



2nd Year Trip Stem at Amazon

Our 2nd Year girls enjoyed a trip to Amazon for a girls in STEM event. The event showcased all of the opportunities on offer in STEM and the students enjoyed different workshops and speakers at the event. Thanks to Amazon for the invitation. We hope trips like these ignite a passion for STEM in our students.



5th and 6th Year Mentoring Programme



Our senior cycle mentoring programme with the multinational company ARUP continued again this year. These links have been formed by TCS taking part in the Business in the Community Initiative. ARUP is one of the largest engineering consulting firms in Ireland employing over 700 people. 6th year students took part in year 2 of the programme and the 5th year cohort took part in year 1. Our 6th year student enjoyed meeting their mentors on site this year at the Dublin office and our 5th year students were treated to a fun day for their final mentoring session of the year. The Viking Splash Tour allowed for a day of fun for our students and their mentors after a year of a great partnership together.

We are very appreciative of the time, support and advice given to our TCS students as part of this programme.

TCS at The Oireachtas



Big congratulations to the TY students Lucas Walsh, Sarah Majchszak, Emma Mulhall Lynch, James Tumanan and Kenny Awoyemi on their work on the presentation to the House of the Oireachtas. This group of TY students completed a two-week work placement in the Oireachtas during the month of January.

As part of this placement, the students prepared a presentation addressing the problem of access and availability of services for young people with additional needs.

On Wednesday February 23rd, the students delivered this presentation to TDs and Senators in the House of the Oireachtas. The students answered questions from the TDs and Senators about their project. Mr Lynch and Ms Cawley attended the presentation and were filled with pride for our TCS students, showcasing themselves so wonderfully in the Oireachtas.



TCS at Trinity

In May, TCS were delighted to have many teams competing in the Bridge to College sustainability competition at Trinity College Dublin. Students showcased projects highlighting the fast fashion industry and litter picking.



Debate Team Win



The beaming TCS debate team pictured after their success. On Friday March 24th, the TCS debating team took part in the Griffith College Law Society's Schools' Debating Competition. They topped their group and won the prize for best essay entry. It was a national competition.

Contact us

Tallaght Community School, Balrothery, Dublin 24, D24 X759, Ireland.

Phone: 01 451 5566
Email: office@tallaghtcs.ie
Twitter: @TCS Tallaght

