

CHANEL COLLEGE

TRANSITION YEAR

MEMORIES
2024-2025



Howth Walk
Lilliput

Grease -
The Musical

Ice-skating
Hell & Back



Chanel College

Transition Year 2024–25: The Highlights

Howth Walk

One of the first trips was the glorious Howth walk...

My favourite memory of Transition Year was the Howth walk. Going around with my friends to have a laugh, getting the train up to Howth, and then getting food after was so funny.

On the way home, me and the lads were having a lot of fun. I got a few videos and photos going up and down the mountain.

We went to the playground after getting food, and it was just a great day overall.

I clearly remember the day the schedule was handed out. I smiled as I looked down and saw "Howth" written in bold at the top. On the day of the walk, everyone in TY gathered in the Colin Room, waiting for the teacher to arrive.

There was a real sense of excitement and anticipation as we got ready to head out. It was one of the first events we experienced together as a full year group, and it felt great to be doing something different.

We boarded the bus to the train station, where we'd get the DART to Howth. I remember the calm breeze, the sounds of seagulls, and the gentle swaying of the train. While waiting on the platform, we chatted and laughed, which made the time pass quickly. When the train arrived, we rushed to find seats together. The journey was peaceful and gave us all a chance to relax and enjoy the scenery.



Howth Walk

Once we arrived in Howth, we explored the town before heading up the hill walk. It was a breezy day, and the views from the top were stunning — the sea, the open sky, and the cliffs created a truly picturesque moment. I felt lucky to be there.

After the walk, we visited a small local restaurant that specialised in seafood. I ordered grilled squid and shrimp, and surprisingly, I really enjoyed it. It was delicious.

We ended the day with a relaxed train ride home. It was the perfect finish to a brilliant day — calm, fun, and full of good memories.

– *Transition year student*



Grease – The Musical

My favourite memory of TY has been doing rehearsals for the play. I liked the rehearsals because all the TY students were in the hall having a laugh. We weren't in class while working on the play, so we'd come in at 9:00 and stay in the hall for the whole day.

The play we performed was Grease. I wasn't in the play myself, but I really enjoyed watching it. My mates dressed up for their roles, and it was gas seeing them on stage.

We started rehearsals around February and finished in late March or early April.

- ***Jamie Gately***



Grease – The Musical

My favourite memory of this school year was rehearsing and performing the musical *Grease* with everyone. At the beginning, it was a bit awkward and some people were nervous to participate, but by the end, everyone really got into it.



I played a character named Sonny, and I had a lot of fun becoming the role. My character was basically a fat, small guy who doesn't get any girls. It might sound bad, but it was great. I loved bringing him to life on stage. The people I met along the way, too, were really good.

I made some great friends through the musical. Everyone was so fun and easy to work with, and I even reconnected with some old pals from when I was younger. We performed the show over two nights for completely different audiences, and both nights were brilliant.

The final night was actually on my birthday — and at the end, everyone surprised me by singing Happy Birthday. I wasn't expecting it at all, but I'll never forget it. I really hope everyone else enjoyed the musical as much as I did. If I could do it all again, I definitely would.

– **Senan Bell**

Grease – The Musical

My favourite memory of TY has to be being part of the *Grease* production. At the beginning of the year, I never thought I'd enjoy the play as much as I did.

In the first term, we spent a lot of time over in St. Mary's. Most Mondays, we'd head over and sit at the back of the hall. We didn't do much at first because no one really wanted to sing or dance.

The teachers handed out lyric sheets, and we just mumbled through them. None of us took it seriously at the start. But as time went on, things began to change. We were split into three groups, and I was in Group Three. I liked my group because there were loads of people I could talk to, and it made it easier to settle in.



Even though we weren't that into it at first, we kept showing up for rehearsals and started getting into the swing of it. When auditions came around, I was nervous, but I gave it a go and sang on stage. That was a turning point. Singing for Grease felt different, more fun, more confident. After that, rehearsals got more serious. We all started to learn our parts properly and worked hard on the songs.

Grease – The Musical

During the dress rehearsals, I found myself talking more with everyone in the group and actually enjoying it. When we weren't on stage, we were in the crowd watching and supporting each other. One of the funniest moments of the whole experience was when Justin drop-kicked the car and fell over. We still laugh about it.

On the night of the play, everyone was nervous, but we walked out smiling and put on a great show. I met loads of new people, grew closer with others, and gained so much confidence. I'd honestly say it was one of the best experiences of my life and I'm really proud to have been a part of it.

- ***Transition year student***



Grease – The Musical

We performed *Grease* as our musical with St. Mary Holy Faith in Killester. We started this in September, and it ran until April. When it came time to put on the play, we had Sharon and Zoe teaching us the dances and songs, and we rehearsed once a week.

Most of us didn't want to do it at the start, but as it went on and we got to know the girls, it became a blast. Ice-breakers like games and a day at St. Anne's helped everyone feel more relaxed and involved.

We were so far behind at one point that we had to fit in two or three rehearsals a week, but by then we had everything sorted. It was all about learning and practicing.

As the day of the show approached, everyone was nervous. But on the day itself, we were just blasting music and having a laugh in the dressing rooms to take our minds off it.

– **Ben McHale**



Grease – The Musical

My favourite memory of TY is doing the play *Grease*. It started out slow – no one really had much confidence apart from a few. But when we got stuck into doing the play, everyone gained confidence.

What I liked most was the people. While doing it, I talked to so many people I had never spoken to before. It made me realise how different people are. I was Kenickie in the play and had the song *Greased Lightning*. We used a red car on stage as a prop.

The theme with the T-Birds really brought the characters together. The characters were Danny, Kenickie, Rizzo, Doody and Sonny. We all wore jeans and leather jackets with "T-Birds" on the back. This really put us in character.

It was two really special nights. There was something in the air. Everyone had such a good time doing the play and there was no better feeling than being up on that stage. I will never forget doing it. There were so many great memories during TY, but nothing could compare to *Grease*.

Being there with all the lads and girls, there was a real buzz. At first I was hesitant about doing it, but afterwards I was so glad I did. I got out of my comfort zone and tried something new – and I think that's what life is about. So that's why the play was my favourite memory of TY.

– **Justin Rankin**



Staff gear up for *Grease*

Lilliput Adventure Centre

My favourite memory of TY was the camping trip we did in Westmeath. The trip lasted a full 24 hours, and we took part in several activities including a treasure hunt, rounders, capture the flag, laser tag, bog jumping, lake swimming, and rock climbing.



We started the morning by meeting at Parnell's at 8:30 and hopped on the bus straight away. We arrived after an hour and a half and immediately organised our tents. We then set off in groups to do a treasure hunt. After that, we were split into two big groups to do rounders, laser tag, bog jumping, lake swimming, and rock climbing. We also competed in capture the flag.

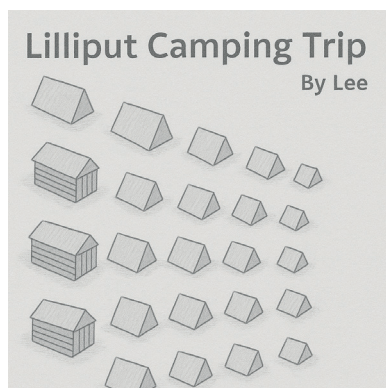
That evening, we had dinner, which was burgers and chips. Afterwards, we got to do our own thing, and later Mr. Greene ordered pizza and people got haircuts. We also played games like 30 Seconds and UNO. Eventually, we all went to sleep in our tents and rooms. We woke up early the next morning, packed our stuff, and went home.

It was a brilliant trip — full of fun, laughs, and memories I'll never forget.

- **Jay Deacon**

Lilliput Adventure Centre

My favourite memory of 4th year was our trip to Lilliput Adventure Centre in County Westmeath. This was one of the more recent trips we went on and definitely the most memorable.



We left the school early one morning to head down for an overnight stay in Lilliput. It was a long enough journey — about an hour and thirty minutes. Once we arrived, we settled into our rooms and then headed out to take part in many activities like rounders and laser tag. By the time we completed the activities, it was lunchtime, so we all gathered in the kitchen to eat.

Afterwards, we went swimming in the local lake with surfboards. The water was ice cold and the instructors wouldn't let us past a certain point in the lake, so that was a slight disappointment — but it was still a good experience. After the swim, we went to shower and get changed.

Once everyone was ready, we gathered in the kitchen to have dinner. By that time, it was around 7 o'clock. After feasting, we returned to our rooms to relax, listen to music, and play cards. The room was roasting hot because there was a heater that stayed on all night while the rest of the year were out in tents.

To kill time, one of the lads got a haircut off one of the instructors, as he was practicing to be a barber. Safe to say it wasn't the best haircut I've ever seen.

Once it hit about 12 o'clock, we all jumped out the window in the room and went for a walk. We were eventually seen and had to go back inside. That night, we all got around four hours of sleep — but it was worth it in the end.

- **Transition year student**

Lilliput Adventure Centre

My favourite memory of Transition Year was an overnight stay at Lilliput Adventure Centre.

We went on the trip on Monday, the 7th of April. Everyone met at the school for 8:35 a.m., and the buses took us to Westmeath. Around 9:00 a.m., we set off. The journey to Lilliput took roughly two hours. On the bus, we mostly chatted, relaxed, and listened to music. The weather was extremely warm, which helped set a positive mood for the day.



When we arrived, we were introduced to the instructors. Some were Irish, and some were foreign exchange students.

We then got our rooms. A few of us decided to sleep indoors rather than in the tents, which turned out to be a good call — the room was just as warm as the weather outside.

Later, we took part in some outdoor activities like rounders and quick team games to pass the time. It was great fun and kept everyone entertained.

They then let us into the water. It was nice and refreshing because of the heat. When we got out, we showered and chilled out for the rest of the night.

- **Transition year student**



Lilliput Adventure Centre

In April, we headed off to Lilliput Activity Centre for an overnight trip and a Gaisce award. We were buzzing as the buses pulled off at 2:30pm, with our old clothes, sleeping bags, pillows, and – most importantly – all our munchies.

On arrival, we were given a choice of tents or hostel. Most opted for tents, thinking, this is going to be a mad night. Pitched in the middle of a field and ready to run amok!



The activities started right away with rock climbing, the bog, canoe jumping, games, and swimming. We should have been exhausted – but no way. The night was young.

By 11 o'clock it was pitch dark. Most people's tents had been turned over in some way, pillows gone, munchies gone, bashed with eggs – and all the time the music was banging so loud. We were buzzing.

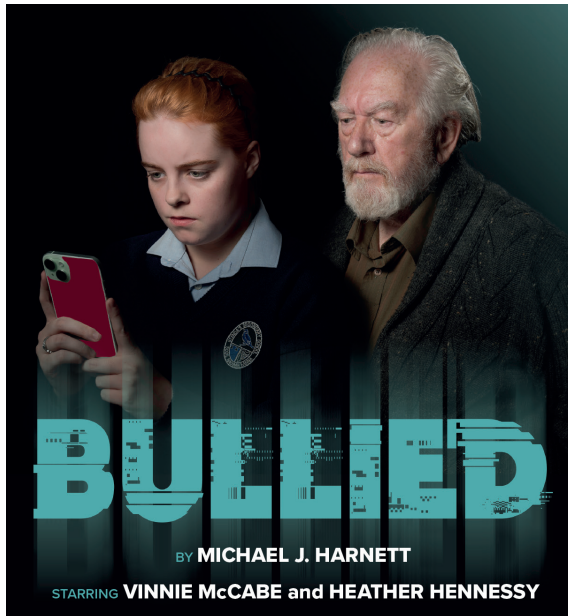
The teachers who came to look after us were flipping and decided to take turns staying up through the night. But the mayhem continued. Eventually, they just gave up and we dropped off one by one. The last of us lasted till around 5 o'clock in the morning.

The next morning, the teachers woke us up at about 8:30 saying the bus was ready to go – and playing the music so loud. It was head-wrecking! The bus did arrive at about 9 and we slept all the way back.

It was a great overnight. The weather was amazing, the company magic, and a great time was had by all.

Theatre Review

On a sunny day, our class went to see the play Bullied, organised by the English Department. It was performed at the Sean O'Casey Community Theatre – a venue I had never visited before, which made the experience even more memorable.



The story followed an elderly man whose granddaughter was being bullied, and how he supported her through it.

I really enjoyed the performance.

The two main actors had great chemistry and added some humorous touches that made the serious topic more engaging.

The theatre itself was big but not overwhelming, giving it a cosy, intimate feel. I'm really grateful we got to see the play in that particular venue, especially since it was my first time attending a show there.

- **Josh**

Hell & Back

The highlight of TY for me was definitely the trip to Hell & Back. The day began with us waiting for the bus for about 30 minutes. Once it finally arrived, we were off and full of excitement.

The first part of the course was a warm-up — crawling through tunnels and jumping over barricades. It was only the beginning, but most of us were already shattered!



Then we headed into the woods, where we faced all sorts of challenges: wooden logs, stepping stones, swinging ropes, and even a climbing wall.

When we finally made it out of the forest and down a hill, we got our one and only water break — and it was badly needed.

After 15 minutes of rest, we moved onto the next section: the bog. There were countless marshes filled with disgusting, foul-smelling water. Me and two others ended up accidentally falling into the biggest one — which wasn't even part of the course!

- ***Tyler Murray***

Hell & Back



Ice-skating at Christmas

The highlight of TY for me was definitely the trip to Hell & Back. The day began with us waiting for the bus for about 30 minutes. Once it finally arrived, we were off and full of excitement.

The first part of the course was a warm-up — crawling through tunnels and jumping over barricades. It was only the beginning, but most of us were already shattered!



Hi, my name is Rhys and my favourite TY memory is when we went ice skating. I had so much fun trying to skate and helping my mates from falling. I fell myself a few times but got back up and laughed about it. It was great craic and going around Pavilions messing with my mates was even better.

It will definitely be one of my favourite TY memories.

- **Rhys Carroll**

Ice-skating at Christmas



Let me take you back to Wednesday the 18th of December, just two days before Christmas break. After going ice skating, me and Jamie decided to head to the cinema. We saw a historical drama about the Magdalene Laundries called *Small Things Like These*, starring Cillian Murphy.

The movie was pretty good from what I remember. I finished off the day with basketball training and a game of NBA 2K.

- ***Adam Dunne Gallagher***

Pizza Making and First Aid (not related!)



Viking Splash Tour



Language Appreciation

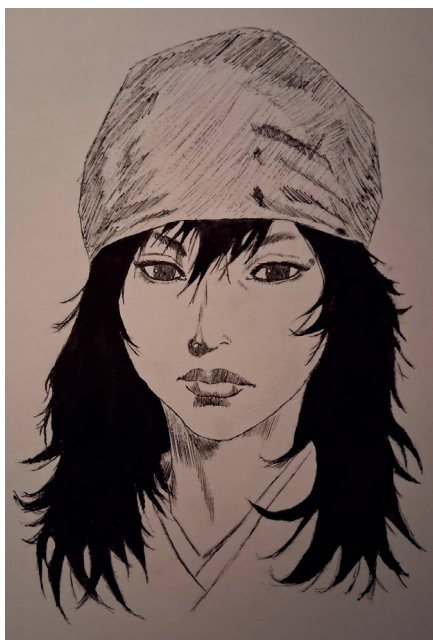
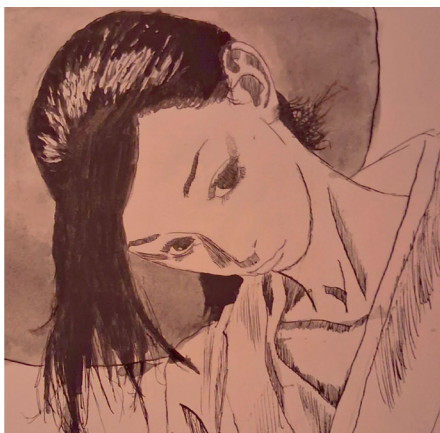


Learning from the Best



Artwork by Transition Year students

Artwork by Joe Preston



Artwork by Transition Year students

Artwork by Aaron Sheridan



TY Photos



TY Photos



Class Lists

4.1

Bell, Senan
Burke, Scott
Clarke, Ciaran
Condrón, Jamie
Crowe, Jamie
Deacon McMorro, Jay
Doyle, Daniel
Field, Jamie
Gately, Jamie
Hazenfuss, Nils
Kelly, Sam
Madigan, Christian
McCormack, Cillian
McGrath, Jayden
Mihajlovic, Zak
Mulligan, Sean
Murray, Tyler
O'Connor, Darragh
O'Toole, Ryan
Rankin, Justin
Roberts Brady, Dylan
Ryan, Billy
Shannon, Cillian
Sinnott Brady, Reece

4.2

Bergin, Ben
Brown, Callum
Conway, Robert
Crowley, Luke
Dalton, Ryan
Deegan, Sam
Doyle, Keith
Dyer, Cody
Feeney, Daniel
Graham, Aaron
Henshaw, Liam
Killalee, Dáire
Maher, Joshua
Maher, Killian
May, Tadgh
McDonald, Michael
O'Connor, Logan
Roche, Jake
Rothwell, Evan
Sherlock, Finn
Whelan, Jack

Class Lists

4.3

Craine, Jude
Craine, Rowan
Cullen, Darragh
Dignam, Craig
Dunne, Adam
Finnegan, Carl
Flood, Clayton
Folan Farmer, Patrick
Griffin, Dylan
Gudaitis, Lukas
Howard Keenan, Andrew
Kelly, Rhys
McQuaid Mullane, Jack
Molloy, Rhys
Ngo, Thang
Nguyen, Duc Anh
O'Donnell, Dean
O'Driscoll, Casey
Preston, Joe
Reddy, Cathal
Regan, Darragh
Reilly, Keegan
Sheridan, Aaron
Thunder, Reece
Whelan, Brodie

4.4

Beasley McCarthy, Lee
Bridgeman, Jamie
Carroll, Rhys
Donnery, Ben
Dunne Gallagher, Adam
Dunne Gallagher, Jamie
Farrell, Dylan
Lennon Olufemi, Kori
Louth, Brody
McDowell, Sean
McEntee, Kyle
McHale, Ben
Melia Cahill, Christopher
Millmore, Ian
Murray, Josh
O'Connor, Kian
Prew, Stephen
Quinn, Cian
Thai Nguyen, Khuong Duy

Creative Writing

The End of the Beginning

The searing light and uproar of the crowd woke me. I lay there, watching as my coach approached me, flat on my back. A flash knockout — I never saw it coming.

Across the arena, I saw the interviewer walking over. Can't he see I'm done? I'm helped to my feet, and a microphone is shoved in my face. I can't understand what he's saying. I won't remember this anyway.

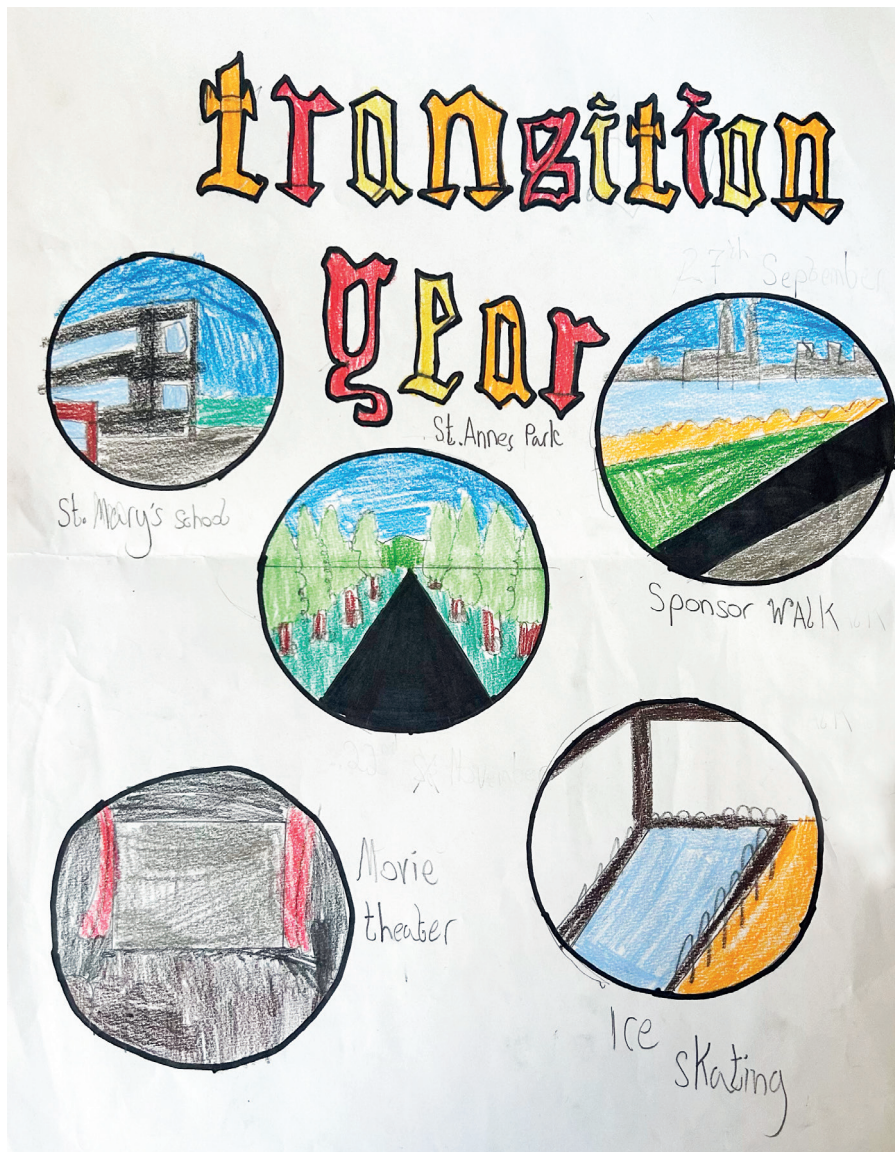
Then one question cuts through the noise:

"Is this the end?"

I dwell on it for a moment. I wanted — with all my heart — to say yes, it's the end. But I know I'd never rest easy if I stopped here. "No," I said. "It's not the end. It's just the end of the beginning."

- ***Darragh Regan***

Poster by Jamie Bridgeman





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