

Rockbrook Park School

# Transition Year Newsletter

September 2021



ROCKBROOK PARK SCHOOL



## An exciting start to an exciting year

As September draws to a close we look back on a busy first month for this year's TY group. In September the focus is on leadership and team bonding with our students setting the standard already. The photo above shows the group on their team building day in Causey Farm practicing one of our mottos, '*All together, all the Time*'. Read on to see what else they have been up to.

**Freedom of mind - strength of character**

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## Thursday activities - September 2021



### Causey Farm

The first Thursday activity saw the boys head to Causey Farm in Co. Meath for a team bonding day. Who knew that feeding animals, chasing chickens, baking bread and jumping in bogs would prove to be so popular with our students. Mr. Cummins reported that the journey home was the quietest trip in years apart from a few snores from the back of the bus. A good sign I would say.

Photo: Marcelo and Jeronimo take a plunge into the bog.

### Primary School Visit

On Thursday 16th September the TYs welcomed the 5th class students of St Olaf's NS to Rockbrook. The TYs organised and ran sports, obstacle courses and brought them on the nature walk before doing some art in the newly refurbished nature room. The feedback from the students and staff was fantastic. Well done to the TY team.

Photo: TY student Sean Magee was in charge of the nature room activity during the recent primary school visit to Rockbrook.



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## Surfdock Water Sports

On 23rd September the group headed off to Dublin's Docklands to test their water sports skills. Whilst the weather forecast was predicting rain, it turned out to be the perfect day. There were lots of opportunities for teamwork, leadership and fun.



Ignacio, Callum, Juan Luis, Sean, Jeronimo, Adam & Ben.



'Together we stand, together we fall'

## Rockbrook in the Community

The final Thursday activity of the month saw the TY group spend the day doing volunteer work in the community. 4A worked with Tallaght Community Council to prepare a large space in a primary school for tree planting. 4B spent the day with Ballyboden Tidy Towns weeding and tidying the rose beds at Pearse Brothers Park. Check out the school social media for more!



Tons of mulch moved to create a Stepping Stone Forest.



Ballyboden Tidy Towns were full of praise for the work done.

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## In other news...



### Gaisce - The President's Award

Gaisce –The President’s Award is a self-development programme for young people aged 14 -25 which has been proven to enhance confidence and wellbeing through participation in personal, physical and community challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, to all young people to dream big and realise their potential. This year Gaisce celebrated its 35th anniversary and we want all of our TY students to complete the bronze award to mark the occasion. They should sign up at [www.gaisce.ie](http://www.gaisce.ie).

### Rockbrook Wildlife Education Room

Well done to the TY class who cleared, cleaned and decorated the schools Wildlife Education Room. It had not been used for many years but is finally in operation. With 1 million species at risk of extinction worldwide it is more important than ever that students learn what they can do to protect and promote biodiversity. This educational space can play a small but important part in raising awareness.



### The TY group has grown

A big welcome to Jake and Conor who have joined the Rockbrook TY class this year. We also welcome four International students. Ignacio and Luis join us from Spain whilst Jeronimo and Marcelo have travelled all the way from Mexico to do the Rockbrook TY programme. Bienvenido!

For more see [www.rockbrook.ie](http://www.rockbrook.ie) or follow us on social media.

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A decorative graphic at the bottom of the page consisting of several overlapping geometric shapes in shades of pink and blue, creating a modern, abstract design.