

Volunteer Work Experience Week

Transition Year students took part in a volunteer work experience week from Monday 15th November to Friday 19th November 2021.

The Transition Year website committee share their individual experiences of this week in the reports below.

Team Hope

Report by Aoife Crosbie

From the 15th - 19th November, about 30 students, including myself did Voluntary Work Experience with Team Hope. This involved wrapping, packing and sorting shoeboxes to send off to unfortunate children around the world. I was beyond happy to get the opportunity to help the children in need by doing this. It made me feel grateful for everything I have.



Oxfam

Report by Clodagh Doyle

For the voluntary work week, I went to Oxfam to volunteer. In Oxfam, I had many different tasks such as working on the till, sorting through donations, merchandising and customer service. My favourite task to do was working on the till because I got to talk to lots of people and I also liked sorting out books to go out on to the shelves. From volunteering in Oxfam, I learned a lot about how the display of the shop influences whether customers will buy anything. I enjoyed meeting and working with all of the Oxfam volunteers who were all very welcoming and friendly.



Loreto Secondary School

Report by Samanta Lengvenyte

For volunteering week, I had to work in the Loreto. My volunteering week didn't go as planned, as I actually had a placement for an area already, but it was changed last minute so I had to come into school. Yet, I had a great time and things became better.



On the first day, me and my partner had to create a timetable for ourselves, so teachers could give us tasks to do to keep

us busy. The teachers found this very useful. Later, we had to organise the Volunteer forms. That was very tiring and took a while as we had to mark the names that had the forms handed in. Then we had to give each teacher 2-3 students for them to call and enquire about how the students were getting on with their volunteering. We then went to the Min Ryan Park to collect any waste that was left behind. We collected quite a bit. Then we left home. I enjoyed Monday a lot.

On Tuesday, the first thing we did was go to Aldi. We got different treats for 'think languages'. When we returned to the school, we had to pack the think languages packages, which consisted of different language booklets, a mint box, accessories and stationary supplies like a pen and sticker notes. Afterwards, me and my partner had to do a job for Ms. Curran. We had to go to each classroom and check if there was any sticker numbers on the computers. We also had to write down the model and the room number. It took us a while. We then wrote the recordings on excel. Later on, we had to help Ms. Zimmerman bring the shoe boxes for the Shoe Box Appeal to her car. Since we had extra time after, we went litter picking again in the Min Ryan. Tuesday was more busy, but it was still a great day.

On Wednesday, we helped Ms. Jordan with the letters for multicultural week, she wanted us to make the missing letters and wanted them laminated. Then Ms. Curran gave us a job of unscrewing PC boxes and taking out harddrives. I actually learnt a lot while working there and I enjoyed it. Then we had to help Ms. Whelan with decorating and fixing the flags for anti-bullying week. Wednesday was more tiring in my opinion, but I made it through the day. I loved unscrewing the PC's, it was definitely the highlight of the week.

On Thursday, we had to help the PE teachers laminate pages and also help type up posters of different exercises. After break, I had to help Ms. Curran write down the numbers on the stickers for the computers. Then we helped Ms Whelan with the flags again and she gave us another job of putting up posters on the notice boards. Thursday was tiring again but I had one more day left so that made me relax more.

On Friday, we helped Ms Whelan make letters for anti-bullying week and had to put them up. We then had to help Ms. Culleton check the bins and see if there were any bins that were contaminated for Climate Action week which is next week. Then we had to do more flags for Ms. Whelan and our Volunteer week was over.

Overall, I liked the volunteer week. It changed my daily routine into something new and I actually helped the teachers out in the school. I would definitely like to do it again, if the volunteering week was repeated.

Loreto Secondary School Library

Report by Heidi Rowlands

For voluntary work week, myself and two other members of the library committee spent the week refurbishing and organising the Loreto library. Our jobs ranged from dull (categorising, alphabetising and sorting) to the more enjoyable tasks of creating library playlists and taking trips to get posters printed. We also made sure to make time for essential snakes and ladder sessions in our break. The library is coming along well and with any luck should be open to students soon!

National Council for the Blind (NCBI)

Report by Rachel O'Rourke

I completed my volunteering work week in the NCBI Wexford. The NCBI stands for National Council for the Blind, Ireland. They help by supporting people with loss of sight. During my time in the NCBI charity shop I got to sort out clothes, tag clothes, organise Christmas decorations, work on the till, do paperwork and decorate the window. I really enjoyed all the different tasks but my favourite two was working on the till and sorting the clothes out. The staff working with us were very kind and helpful which made the work even more enjoyable. Going into the charity shop I didn't expect that there would be much work but, I realise now that charity shops do so much work even before the clothes are put on the shop floor. Clothes are donated, sorted, steamed,

tagged, priced and put up for sale. I now realise that people should be very grateful for the work charity shops do for their organisations. I will definitely shop at them more often.

