

## *ROAD SAFETY DAY* by Erin Kehoe, edited by Aine Mooney

On December 13<sup>th</sup> all Loreto Transition Years went to Wexford Opera House for a talk called 'Just 1 Life'. This talk was about Road Safety. There were multiple TY groups from different schools. There were various different talks from many people. At first there was a man who told a story about how his nephew died in a car crash with his other friend in the car when they were only teenagers. The speaker said that a death affects 21 lives. He explained to us how the guy's friend who was in the car had survived and is now an alcoholic as he lost his best friend that day right beside him.

The next speakers were guards. These guards displayed videos on a projector about people who have lost their loved ones to drunk drivers. These stories from different people around the world were heartbreaking. They also explained how they do drug tests and showed a real one and what you would have to do if you were asked to use one.

After the guards spoke, some firemen addressed us. They showed us many videos as well, but pictures of the aftermath of a car crash were displayed mostly. Some car crashes were so bad you could barely see the car or it didn't even look like a car.

They explained how they would usually try to take people out of a car crash in a safe way by cutting the car roof off.

The last speakers were people in the medical field. The first one was a man who was an incredibly skilled medic with years of experience. He told us some of the horrendous things he had witnessed while working at his job. I learned good tips from him about how to stay that little bit safer while in a car. He was specially trained in dealing with car accidents and he usually airlifted people when they were incredibly damaged by a car crash.

The last speaker was a surgeon. He showed us very frightening pictures of what a car crash can do to a human body. He also showed pictures of some surgeries that he has done and other pictures where the patients looked unrecognizable.

These speakers really inspired me to be cautious on the road in future when I drive. They taught me not to put my feet on the dash board and also to make sure that the head rest is in line with your head. The talk was very inspiring and taught Loreto, Presentation and CBS boys that attended very valuable lifesaving skills and how to be both a safe driver and safe passenger.

This talk was very powerful and had a profound effect on all attending. It taught valuable life lessons about driving to young people and was an enjoyable day for all. Thank you to everyone involved in setting up this educational event.