

Photography Competition – The Raven, Curracloe.

By Sara Hanton

On the 25th of March the entirety of TY took a bus to the Raven Forest, which is beside Curracloe beach.

We were taking part in a photography competition, in which there were specific guidelines for various photos to be taken.

We were to, in groups of four, take two photos comparing textures from the woodland and beach, two for light in shadow in both environments, and one each of a story in one shot, perspective challenge, and human interaction with nature.

This was to have us focus on what is special in the mundane, I think, and comprehend how lucky we are to have a natural landscape amongst the industrialisation of everything in the modern era.

We spent roughly one or two hours in the woods and on the beach, exploring the nature and human impact on the environment as part of Wexford Week, as the forest and beach can be popular tourist destinations.

Additionally, the opening of the film Saving Private Ryan is known to have been filmed on Curracloe beach.

Wexford Week was, I believe, designed for us to have a greater appreciation of our locality, and seeing the beauty of our local nature was a huge success in doing this.

Taking photographs for the competition was also a great way for us all to focus on the nature and focus on the beauty of our surroundings in our locality as we all tried to take the best, most aesthetically pleasing photos.

We had our usual first break in the woods/beach also, which meant we had to be conscious of our surroundings and our impact on them, understanding the human influence that can be detrimental to the environment and making the decision to not be a part of that.

This trip was a great experience; forcing us to understand the beauty of nature and its importance, and the individuality of our locality, plus how lucky we are to live in a place where everything we could need is at our fingertips; how lucky we are to live in Ireland, a country that still has and embraces its green; its agriculture and natural rugged landscape. A place with personality not entirely touched by humanity; maintaining its loyalty to its origins.