



The **ULTIMATE** Transition Year Experience Come join us!

Join Ireland's Leading Overseas Volunteering Charity, with over 27,000 volunteers that have helped us build houses for 250000 homeless people and change the lives of over 65,000 learners through our Building and Education projects.

The Ultimate TY Experience

For 23 years, over **27,000** volunteers have joined our extraordinary Building Blitzes in South Africa. Now, we've designed a special one just for Transition Year students

The TY Experience: Volunteering Trip focused on working with impoverished communities to support children's learning

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

Duration: 1 week (20th - 26th February 2027)

Cost: €3,500 per person

Limited spaces available

Contact

info@melloneducate.com



Transition Year Blitz

What does The TY Blitz involve?

- Tutoring young learners in literacy hubs
- Classroom renovations and minor construction works across school grounds
- Helping with our school feeding programmes
- Making Friends, Making Memories – Spend time with South African teenagers and learn first hand the struggles they have in the developing world and how education shapes their future
- Tradition – Show them Irish sports and customs, giving them a taste of Ireland
- Cultural Day – Step onto Robben Island and be inspired by Nelson Mandela's courage and the triumph over apartheid.

81% of Grade 4 South African children cannot read for meaning – Our literacy programme is working to change this so get involved and make the change happen!



Transition Year Blitz

What is Included?

- Return flights Dublin – Cape Town
 - Packed lunch each day.
- Hotel accommodation on a B&B basis.
 - Internal bus transfers.
 - Packed lunch each day.
- Comprehensive security programme
- Admission to 2 visitor attractions in Cape Town.
 - Mellon Educate t-shirts and kit bag.
 - Insurance



Reasons to Join Our Trip

Transition Year is focused on personal growth, being a learner, civic engagement and career exploration – all of which you can explore and develop on our TY Blitz

- Skills – Improve your teamwork, leadership & communication skills
- Inspiration – Connect with children in underserved communities and come home moved, grateful, and full of perspective
- Confidence – challenge yourself, discover new strengths and gain confidence on your TY Blitz.
- Connection – Interacting with the learners is a humbling and eye-opening experience that enriches the lives of TY students

‘Our TY students arrive as young Irish adults but by the end of this intensive one week experience, they return as citizens of the world with a deeply informed sense of the challenges other young people of similar ages face in developing countries’ –
Niall Mellon, Founder of Mellon Educate

Daily Itinerary

Day 1 - Arrival

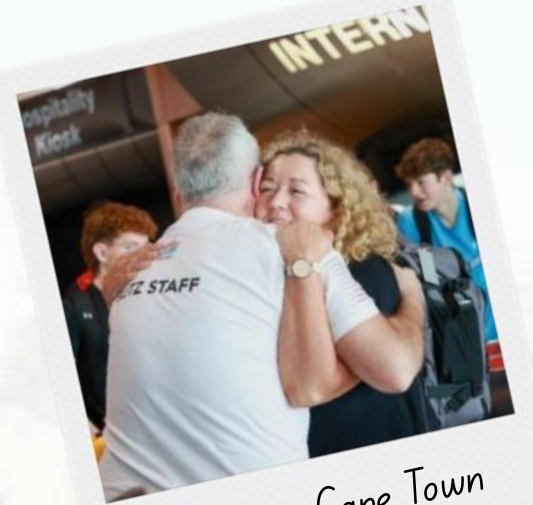
- Land in Cape Town and be greeted by our amazing South African Team.
- Receive your new uniform 'Kit' for the week as you become part of our Mellon Educate Family.
- Attend a briefing on the outline of the week.



The adventure BEGINS



Meeting the Mellon Team



Arriving in Cape Town

Daily Itinerary

Day 2

- You will be transported to a primary school in the township where you will be greeted by the learners and staff.
- You will attend a training session where you will be taught how to deliver one-to-one tutoring of the learners in our literacy hubs.
- Play games and interact with the primary school learners during break/lunch.
- Visit a home where a learner lives in the township and see firsthand the struggles that these children face.



Receive a Warm Welcome



Learn about their culture



Make Friendships to Last a Lifetime



Experience the Living Conditions of the Children

Daily Itinerary

Day 3

- You will be transported to a primary school where you will be paired with learners to work on improving their literacy skills.
- Visit classrooms and see what the school is about.
- Play games and interact with the primary school learners during break/lunch.
- Assist with our school feeding programme



Daily Itinerary

Day 4

- You will be transported to a local high school – explore the high school and interact with your peers from South Africa.
- Engage in speed friendship and get to know the South African Teenagers.
- Play football and games, sing and dance.
- Attend a lesson in the high school.
- Visit one of the famous attractions Cape Town has to offer.



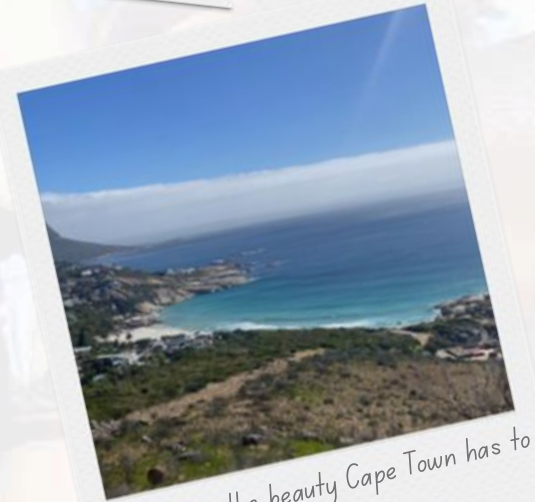
Make Friendships to Last a Lifetime



Bringing a touch of Ireland to the Playground



Discover What a High School Lesson Feels Like



Uncover the beauty Cape Town has to Share

Daily Itinerary

Day 5

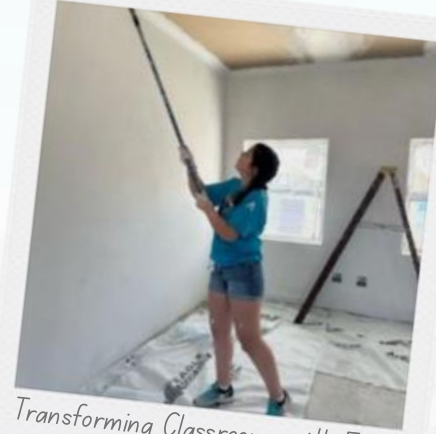
- You will be transported to a school site where you will be assigned a construction/renovation role (painting, paving paths, mixing cement, laying blocks, building walls and much more..)
- Work together as a team to help in the building/renovating process of this primary/high school



Turning blank walls into stories and smiles



Many Hands, one Goal, Endless Possibilities



Transforming Classrooms with Every Stroke



Building More than Just a Fence

Daily Itinerary

Day 6

- Explore Robben Island – Step onto Robben Island, where Nelson Mandela turned years of imprisonment into a legacy of freedom and resilience.
- Attend a gathering where you will be celebrated for all your amazing work throughout the week

Day 7

- Say your goodbyes to an amazing week and you will be transported to the airport for arrival back in Dublin



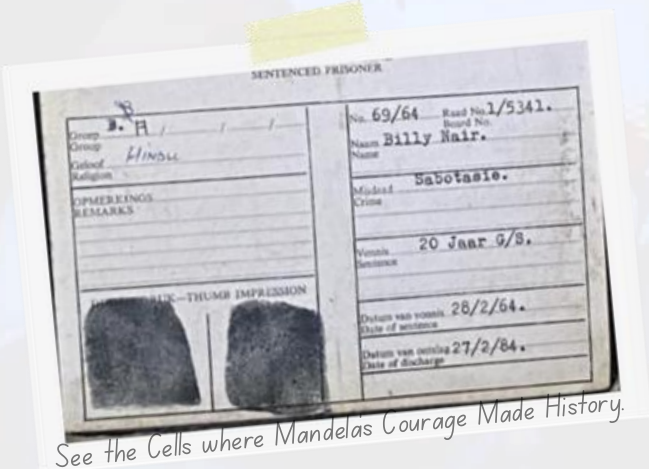
Celebrate your Effort, Shine in Your Success



From Effort to Applause: Be Recognised!



All your Effort, Appreciated and Celebrated



See the Cells where Mandelas Courage Made History.

What Have the Students Said



"The Blitz in February was single handedly the most incredible experience of my life so far. The relationships you make with your peers, and teachers, make everyone involved much closer, as you see things that are hard to digest, and it really puts things into perspective of how lucky we have it back home"

*- Daniel, 5th Year Student
Bremore ETSS (x2 time Volunteer)*



"The Mellon Educate TY Blitz was one of the best experiences of my life. The journey to get to South Africa was rewarding as I had already made so many friends and learned so many skills while doing my fundraising. Overall, this was an amazing week, and I would recommend it to anyone that is considering take part, as all the hard work is worth it"

- Neala, Bremore ETSS, TY Student Raffling prizes at a fair in Balbriggan



"It was an amazing opportunity to take part in, I wasn't sure what to expect coming into it but I enjoyed the experience thoroughly. I left with a much clearer perspective on how some of the less fortunate people in the world live and the importance of education in overcoming poverty"

- Senan, TY Student Belvedere



"When I first signed up for the TY Blitz everyone said how it would be a great week, that was the biggest understatement it was the most magical week of my life."

- Molly, TY Student, Manor House

What Have the Teachers Said



Your perspective on life will never be the same after you experience a week with the children in South Africa. I am so lucky that as a teacher I've been able to bring students to South Africa twice with Mellon Educate. You can see the immediate impact it has on your own students, and it is an amazing experience seeing them appreciate the struggles of their fundraising but recognising that these struggles are nothing in comparison to the struggles these learners go through – yet they show up to school every day trying to learn so they can have a better life'

– Emma, Teacher Bremore ETSS (2x Volunteer)



From the moment we began the journey—through the application process, the fundraising efforts and finally arriving in South Africa—the growth in our students was remarkable. They matured, developed empathy and gained a deeper understanding of development education in a way that no classroom could replicate. This experience was not only enjoyable and meaningful—it was transformative. It reminded us all of the power of education, connection and compassion. I would wholeheartedly recommend this programme to any educator looking to make a lasting impact.'

– Sarah-Jane, Deputy-Principal Bremore ETSS



Raising the money over the course of a year, both on my own and with the group of other teachers and students, was tough. But, importantly, I feel, it was a really worthwhile experience in that the effort put into raising the money made the students (and myself) realise the importance of directed labour in the service of others. So, the fundraising became, for me and many of our students and the other teachers in our group, a vitally important, tough but occasionally really fun and rewarding project leading up to the trip itself. But the real purpose of the trip, the work tutoring and building—I never thought I'd be teaching kids how to load a wheelbarrow!--and visits we did in the township schools, was really rewarding. It was tough at times, and hard work, particularly for the kids, but everyone of us enjoyed it and felt we made at least a small difference by being there'

– Kevin, Teacher Bremore ETSS

Confidence Building Fundraising

TY students gain countless skills even before they travel. It's challenging and requires effort, but it teaches them to work together and achieve a shared goal.

As one teacher said.. *'the fundraising became a vitally important, tough but occasionally really fun and rewarding project leading up to the trip itself. It was a really worth while experience in that the effort put into raising the money made the students realise the importance of working hard to help others'*



Raffling Prizes at a Fair



Bucket Collection at the Shop



Bag Packing in SuperValu



Bingo - For the Young and Old



Quiz Night

Fundraising Ideas

What works and what doesn't:

1. Host talent shows in your school – give the students a microphone and the event will run itself (€4000)
2. Bring the school community along for a monthly quiz night (€500)
3. Bingo – the young and the old love bingo (€2000)
4. Raffle – Reach out to the community for prizes – you can hold a raffle at all your events (€500)
5. Staffroom Tuck shop – Teachers need a pick me up always!
6. Whole school sponsored walk (€1800)
8. School Discos – Have a celebration on the last day of term! (€250)
9. Clothes donations – Do a clothes collection and get cash for the clothes (€3000)
10. Themed days: 'Anything but a bag' day/ Jersey day/ Pyjamas day (€250)

The struggles: It's not always easy, fundraising will be challenging but it makes the experience even more worthwhile – trust me!



Scan the QR Code and Apply Now!

Contact info@melloneducate.com

TRANSITION YEAR BLITZ

