



Moate Community School Transition Year Students enjoy an activities and bonding trip to Carlingford.

On Wednesday 20th October at nine o'clock, Transition Year students met at the front gate of the school, along with teachers Mr. Hatton, Mr. Tormey and Ms. Costello before setting off on the eagerly awaited trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre.

The journey north was reported to be a 'good laugh', and the time flew by. In no time the group arrived at the Adventure Centre.

First impressions were great as the staff in the centre were really friendly. The students got settled into their rooms before setting out on the first activity, kayaking. Divided into groups, with wet suits and helmets they students threw themselves into the task and, following a short lesson by the trained instructors, had a 'good laugh'; apparently the phrase of the week. Mr. Hatton and Ms. Costello joined in too. There were races and competitions in the water, which proved to be tremendous fun. Unfortunately there was not a competition for the person who fell out of their kayak the most times, as the potential for winners of that prize were many, to sat the least! The water was freezing, but the students, numb with the cold did not care. Back at the centre dinner was ready to warm the tired bodies.



At six o'clock, however, the students were off again, this time for nightline. Each night at six o'clock there was a different activity organised. They walked in the dark up the mountains in our groups. The first night was hill walking lasting two and half hours. The instructors tried their best to scare MCS TYs by telling stories about a haunted house.

Some students say they succeeded. On the way down the hill there was a stop off at a cave, which all wanted to go through. It was pitch black and only about two foot high. This meant students had to crawl on their hands and knees in single file and feel their way out! The cave was terrifying but thrilling.

Back at the centre a friendly game of volleyball outside took place which, very quickly became extremely competitive between the boys, girls and Mr. Tormey! Tired bodies were ready for bed by eleven.

The next morning an alarm awoke the students bright and early. Refreshed and ready to go for another day's activities, these teenagers hopped out of bed. The first activity on Thursday was the High ropes challenge. This was a great activity which set pulses racing for the day ahead.

Everyone took part in the second activity that day, the challenge course. Along the course, students had to work together in teams to solve problems and complete the assigned tasks.

The nightline on Thursday night was a walk in a forest up the mountain. All groups took part in this activity together, walking for half an hour to get to the forest, and then each student was blindfolded before proceeding. In a line, placing one hand on the person in front and one hand on the guiding rope, students made their way along the trail. This bizarre but thrilling activity was the favourite of many students. Everyone went to bed excited about Friday's activities but sad that it was their last night at the adventure centre.



On Friday morning students engaged in their last activity, rock climbing and ab-sailing. In groups everyone got the chance to climb the rock four at a time. For many this was the most exhilarating activity of the trip.

All the students 'had a ball' in Carlingford and would love to go back there again. Blessed with great weather, they arrived back in Moate to be welcomed by the old reliables; their parents and the rain!