



*TY student Gabrijel Ivankovic met with Ms. Kilfeather to discuss the **Gaisce Awards** at Woodbrook College. This is the first year of '**The President's Award**' at Woodbrook.*

### **What is 'Gaisce'?**

Gaisce is a self-developing programme for young people between the ages of 15-25 and has been in existence since 1985. The award was started by the former President Patrick J Hillery and it has been continued by incoming Presidents. To date over 300,000 young people participated in the Gaisce programme. Gaisce's main aim is to ensure that they have a programme that will fit the need of every young person that wishes to participate in the Gaisce programme and to give each participant the best possible opportunity to do so. Gaisce's core values include empowerment, inclusion and equality, respect, and excellence.

### **The Gaisce programme at Woodbrook College**

Ms. Kilfeather manages and supervises the Gaisce programme at Woodbrook College. I met with her to ask her about her experiences with the programme.

#### ***Why did you get involved with the Gaisce programme?***

Here at Woodbrook College part of our mission is to ensure that students achieve their full potential and for students to give back to society. I believe that TY is an opportunity for students to work in areas outside of the academic curriculum. It is a year they should challenge themselves and test their limits. Gaisce is a great way to do this. I want to see all participants to see that they can achieve anything they set their minds to.

#### ***How would you encourage more students to take part with the programme?***

I think the best encouragement students can receive is from their own peers. As this is my first year running Gaisce, my hope is that all the current participants will keep a log of photos and experiences of their journey and they will be able to motivate next year's TY students to get involved. Other than guest speaks; some time off class could be a good motivator too but the time students put into their Gaisce journey should be done in their own free time.

In essence, the Gaisce programme allows our students to grow as individuals. Time and effort are required to meet the criteria of the gold, silver and bronze medals. Each award has different challenge areas. These areas include Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation, Adventure Journey and Residential Project. These challenges are used to give its participants unique experiences to develop their new skills and interests. For more information about joining this great programme, please see Ms. Kilfeather.