

Young Americans come to the Abbey Vocational School Donegal Town

The Young Americans descended in Donegal Town on Thursday night last. Families from the local community took these young people into their homes for four nights over the weekend. These students from all over the world gave workshops to the students of the Abbey Vocational School and students from the local primary schools in the St John Bosco Centre in all of the performing arts throughout the weekend. Their message to our students was – “to be the best you can be at whatever it is that you do”. Their positivity, energy and enthusiasm was infectious. The students had the time of their lives as they learnt to sing, dance, write music and generally be happy.

On Sunday afternoon, the climax of the weekend was a show in the St John Bosco Centre at 4.30 pm. The Young Americans performed the first half of the show and the 184 students performed the second half. It was breath taking, over powering and many people described it as emotional. The Young Americans were as good as, in fact better than any Broadway Show that ever was seen – their versatility and talent was amazing. The audience members were blown away by it. The students who performed the second half equally created a similar reaction. They shone on the stage – they all looked so engaged energised and enjoyed every minute of their performance. The talent was outstanding but more than that was the fact that every single student was valued and gave it everything on the stage.

The Young Americans were the brainchild of the Principal Geraldine Diver who had worked with them previously. She brought the troop to the Abbey Vocational School as she knew the students would get so much from it. “It really is such a valuable experience for the students, it leaves them with life long memories and gives them a wonderful sense of self confidence and positivity. The whole event is uplifting for everybody involved, we all loved having them”. On the night of the show she was presented with an award from the cast of the Young Americans and said of the students that she was proud of each and every one of them and that she was privileged to be part of this weekend and the students involved. She said the students were an amazing group of young people and that there is great hope for the future of the country and times ahead looked good as our students here are reflective of what young people can give to society – dedication commitment energy drive and fun!

The Principal of the Abbey Vocational School would like to thank Sorcha Begley and Patrice Rooney of the Abbey Vocational School who played a large role in the organisation of the entire event. They were central to its success. Thanks also to the many host families who looked after the young Americans. The staff of the St John Bosco Centre were outstanding in their help – thank you to them for all of their hard work

The feedback from the community was exceptional with so many parents and families thrilled with its success. The feeling of positivity and the general uplifting atmosphere that was felt as people went out the door at the end of the night said it all. Thank you to the Young Americans for coming to our school!!