

## *Comenius Personal Profile*

My name is Grace O'Doherty. I am 15, and go to school in St. Mary's College in Arklow, which is a town in South-East Ireland, near Dublin.

I am in Transition Year, or fourth year, which is a year we can choose to do after our third year exams. We don't have any official exams in this year, and instead we do a lot of project work, and get the chance to try different types of subjects that we never had before, such as Comenius, European studies and Y.S.I. (Young Social Innovators), which is a project where we try to help our communities and improve life for people in Ireland.

Our Y.S.I project is based on people with disabilities. As part of our project we went into our local shopping centre in wheelchairs, to see first hand how it feels to be a wheelchair user, and also to see how people treated us. It was good fun but it was also really hard, and it made us realize how it feels to be in a wheelchair. We also do drama, art and film studies, where we make and edit our own short films around our school.

Comenius is really good in our school because we get to make a lot of trips. We went to the Dail (our Parliament where politicians meet) which is in the capital, Dublin and got a tour, and also an interview with a local politician. It was interesting. Also I was one of 6 students picked to go on the Comenius exchange, to either Iceland or Liverpool. I'm going to Liverpool in March, and I'm really excited because it's somewhere I've never been, and we get to go to London too.

My favourite subjects are French and German, because I love languages, and music. I'm in the German debate team, and we have to put on a German accent, which is really funny. Also as part of Transition Year I am doing Gaisce, which is where we take on three different activities for thirteen weeks.

I love music- I play Irish traditional violin, and I'm teaching myself how to play the guitar. Some of my favourite bands are Vampire Weekend, MGMT, The Killers and Biffy Clyro. I've started Gaelic football, which is an Irish sport, for my Gaisce. I also play on the school hockey team.

I live in the countryside, near Brittas Bay beach, which is one of Ireland's most famous beaches. It's really nice in the summer, and it's a really short walk from my house. Our house is about 10 minutes from Arklow, so I have to get a bus to school. I live with my parents and my two younger brothers, Mikey and Patrick. Mikey is 9 and Patrick is 5. They're like any little brothers so they're really annoying most of the time. I have a dog called Bella that's really crazy.

I really like doing Comenius as a subject, because we get to go on a lot of trips, which the other classes don't, and the projects are interesting, because we get to find out about different countries and their governments. It's also good that we have people coming to our school too..

