

TY TRAILBLAZHER AWARDS

2025-2026



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THE AWARDS

The TY TrailblazHER Awards celebrate the achievements of female TY students across the island of Ireland.

We believe that success comes in countless forms, and our mission is to encourage every student to pursue their unique passions and make their mark on the world. These awards exist to shine a spotlight on the exceptional dedication and accomplishments of those who have transformed their schools and communities throughout Transition Year.

From the classroom to the community, from the stage to the sports field – we're here to celebrate the trailblazers who are already changing the world, one achievement at a time.

Why TY Awards Matter

In our fast-paced world, we're constantly striving to do more, be better, and reach new milestones. But how often do we pause to truly celebrate what we've already accomplished?

The TY TrailblazHER Awards create that essential moment of recognition. A chance to step back and take stock of all that young students are capable of.

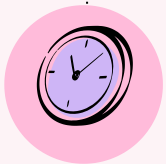
So take a moment and celebrate a TrailblazHER in your school or community!

KEY DATES



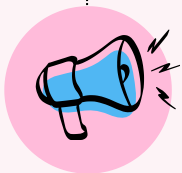
8 DEC 2025

NOMINATIONS OPEN



13 FEB 2026

NOMINATIONS CLOSE



23 FEB 2026

FINALISTS ANNOUNCED



9 MAR 2026

TY TRAILBLAZHER AWARDS
TU DUBLIN, GRANGEGORMAN

THE AWARD CATEGORIES



SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who brings her A-Game on the field and beyond.



COMMUNITY HERO OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who sees a problem and does something about it.



LEADER OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who doesn't just follow her dreams – they lead others to theirs.



PHOENIX OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who shows that strength isn't about never falling, but it's about rising again.



ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who has an idea, and turns it into reality.



STEM INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who codes the future, solves sticky problems, and makes science look like magic.



CREATIVE OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who commands every canvas, stage, and creative space, making every moment unforgettable.



WELLNESS AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR

A TrailblazHER who inspires others to prioritise their physical and mental health.



TY TRAILBLAZHER OF THE YEAR

This ultimate award, for the TrailblazHER who blazes her own trail.

This student exemplifies excellence across multiple areas or has made an extraordinary impact during their TY.

This is the person who makes you think: "If they can do all that, what's stopping me?" They are not just excelling – they are lifting others up too. They are the embodiment of what it means to be a TrailblazHER.

The winner of this award will be selected from among the nominations received in the other categories.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

WHO CAN BE NOMINATED

A student can be nominated if they meet the below criteria:

- They are a registered female TY student in a school across the Island of Ireland.
- The achievement they are being nominated for occurred during their Transition Year.
- They are able to attend the ceremony with their class or a guardian over 18 years of age.
- The nominated students will be required to complete the Data Consent Form (if under 18, their guardian must complete this form).

WHO CAN NOMINATE

We accept nominations from:

- An employed staff member at a secondary school in the Island of Ireland.
- A community member who regularly engages with the student in relation to the achievement they are being nominated for (E.g. a sport instructor, an employee from a volunteer organisation, a music coach...).
- The person submitting the nomination will be required to agree to the Data Consent Form.

UNPACKING THE AWARD CATEGORIES



SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who brings their A-Game everywhere - on the field and beyond.

This award celebrates students who don't just play to win, but play to inspire. They are the teammate who lifts others up when they're down, the competitor who shows true sportsmanship, and the leader that puts equal parts of perseverance and heart in every performance.

For this student, excellence isn't just about personal bests, it's about bringing out the best in everyone around them.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The students showed active participation in school or outside of school sports during TY.
- They have demonstrated excellence in any sport, whether individually or as part of a team.
- They exemplify the spirit of sportsmanship, inspire teammates and peers, encourage others to get active, and contribute positively to their team or sports community.
- They exhibited dedication, perseverance, and exceptional skill in their chosen sport.
- They won competitions, broke records, significantly improved their performance over the year or demonstrated exceptional sportsmanship.

COMMUNITY HERO OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who sees a problem and does something about it.

This award celebrates a student who doesn't wait for someone else to step up. They are the ones turning ideas into action, rallying others around causes that matter, and proving that one person really can make a difference.

Whether they are organising a beach clean up, mentoring younger students, or championing local issues, they are rewriting what it means to be a community hero – one act at a time.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The student actively contributed to their local or school community through service projects, volunteering, advocacy, or activism.
- The student must have initiated or participated in projects that address community needs and have a measurable positive impact.
- Their actions should reflect a commitment to inclusivity, progress and making a difference.
- Bonus points for inspiring other people in their school or community to take action too.

CREATIVE OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who uses their creativity to make an impact beyond their own practice. This award celebrates a student who has Whether through visual arts, music, writing, design, performance, craft, or any other creative pursuit, this student has found ways to connect, inspire, or bring people together through their work.

They are the one who shares their skills with others, and motivates fellow creatives to reach higher. Through collaboration, performance, teaching, or simply creating work that resonates, she uses her creativity to build connections within her school or wider community.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The student demonstrated exceptional talent and dedication in the creative arts during their transition year.
- The student used their creativity to engage with their school or wider community (through collaboration, taking part in school or community projects, sharing their skills, creating work that resonates with others...)
- Achievements should show how creativity can be a tool for connection, expression, or positive change.

STEM INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who codes the future, solves sticky problems, and makes science look like magic.

This award celebrates the innovator who sees problems as puzzles waiting to be solved. Whether they are building apps or engineering creative solutions, they are proving that STEM isn't just about formulas – it's about changing the world.

They are the one who make complex concepts accessible, turns theory into reality, and inspire others to believe that they too can be the scientists and engineers of tomorrow.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The student demonstrated exceptional innovation, problem-solving, or creativity in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM).
- The student participated in a STEM-related project, competition, or initiative during their transition year.
- They contributed by creating new solutions, developing prototypes, or conducting meaningful research with a measurable impact.
- Bonus points for collaboration on STEM initiatives or mentoring peers in the field.

LEADER OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who doesn't just follow their dreams – they lead others to theirs.

This award recognises the leader who sees potential everywhere and makes it happen.

They are the ones who bring out the best in every team, turn challenges into opportunities, and prove that true leadership isn't about being in charge – it's about empowering others to shine.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The students showed exemplary leadership skills during their transition year, either in school or the community.
- The student led or significantly influenced projects, events, or teams with a positive and inspiring attitude.
- They demonstrated leadership through the ability to motivate, organise, and empower others while achieving goals.
- They showed impact on the school or local community, with emphasis on innovation and inclusivity.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who has an idea, and turns it into reality.

This award celebrates the visionary who doesn't wait for permission to make things happen.

Whether they are launching a business, creating innovative solutions, or using their entrepreneurial skills to help the community, they are redefining what it means to be a young entrepreneur – proving that age is just a number when you've got vision, resilience and adaptability.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- Demonstrated entrepreneurial skills during their transition year, such as starting a business, developing a product, or launching an initiative.
- The student must exhibit creativity, innovation, and problem-solving abilities.
- They engaged in an entrepreneurial endeavour with a measurable impact or that showed strong potential for success.
- Bonus points for evidence of resilience, adaptability, and learning from challenges.

WELLNESS AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who champions wellness as a way of life and inspires others to prioritise their physical and mental health.

This award celebrates the advocate who understands that taking care of ourselves and others isn't just nice to have, it's necessary.

Whether they're creating mental health awareness campaigns, developing fitness programmes, or championing self-care initiatives, they are proving that wellbeing warriors come in all forms. They are the one normalising conversations about mental health and promoting wellness, one person at a time.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The student promoted health and wellness among their peers or community.
- The student organised or participated in initiatives related to mental wellbeing, physical health or nutrition.
- The student's contributions demonstrate leadership, creativity, and a measurable impact on encouraging healthier lifestyles.
- They inspired peers to prioritise wellbeing.

PHOENIX OF THE YEAR



WHAT DOES THIS AWARD CELEBRATE

A TrailblazHER who shows that strength isn't about never falling, but it's about rising again.

This award celebrates the fighter who faces challenges head-on and emerges stronger every time.

Their story isn't just about overcoming obstacles; it's about transforming those experiences into fuel for positive change and inspiration for everyone around them.

THIS AWARD IS A GOOD FIT IF:

- The student has shown exceptional resilience and determination in overcoming personal, academic, or social challenges during their transition year.
- The student must have turned adversity into an opportunity for growth and positively impacted those around them.
- Their actions demonstrated courage, perseverance, and the ability to inspire others to face their own challenges with strength.

FAQs

Is there a cost involved with the nominations?

No, it's free to nominate a students for the TY TrailblazHER™ Awards.

Who is eligible to apply for the awards?

Female students enrolled in Transition Year for 2025-2026, in a school across the Island of Ireland. Other specific eligibility criteria for each award are outlined in this booklet.

Can students nominate themselves?

Unfortunately, we don't accept self-nomination at this time. However we encourage students to talk to their teacher and ask to get nominated if they think they would be a good fit for one of the awards.

How many students can school staff and teachers nominate?

There's no limit for nominations, however you will need to submit an individual form for each nomination.

What happens if the nominated students can't make the ceremony?

At the time of nomination, please confirm that the student is available and willing to attend the awards ceremony with their school or guardian. Should unforeseen circumstances prevent their attendance, they will have the option to nominate someone to accept the award on their behalf.

GET IN TOUCH

If you have any questions, get in touch with us:
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Find out more about the awards on our website:
TUDublin.ie/trailblazher/tyawards/

