Trinity College Continues To Help Tackle Disadvantage For Student Parents.

Trinity College has awarded a €1,000 grant through its Equality Fund to Carly Bailey, the Student Parent Officer in TCD SU. The fund is being used to award a number of student parents at both undergraduate and foundation course level places for their children in sports camps run by the Trinity College Sports Centre. Together with money raised by Dr. Katriona O’Sullivan of the Trinity Access Programme, 13 student parents and 20 children will take part in the pilot scheme.

The children will get to take part in different activities including trampolining, rock climbing and swimming. As a result, student parents will then be able to continue to participate in college during the February mid-term break.

Bailey, a second year Law and Political Science student who entered Trinity College through the Trinity Access Programme and a student parent herself, could see the need for such an initiative. “I am delighted that Trinity College has recognised the financial hardship that some of us face during school mid-term breaks.” Bailey contends that many student parents, particularly lone parents, are faced with little choice but to take up to a week off to care for their children, missing vital lectures, tutorials and study time simply because they are unable to pay the increased cost of childcare during this time.

Linda Stapleton, a fourth year student parent is delighted to have been accepted. “I think it’s a great initiative as my degree is a professional one where attendance is mandatory, so this makes a huge difference in being able to attend lectures whilst having childcare, easing the juggling mature student parents have.”

It is hoped that if the scheme is successful, permanent funding would be made available to help support student parents during school holidays which fall within Trinity term times. This would further demonstrate Trinity’s ongoing commitment to supporting access to higher education by non-traditional and disadvantaged groups.

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