123 Dargle View,

Bray,

Co. Wicklow

The Editor,

The Irish Times,

Tara Street,

Dublin 1.

4/9/13

Sir, -

 I wish to voice my objection to the article about teenagers published on 2nd September. Your reporter claimed that teenagers today do not know the value of money, that they are afraid of hard work and that they expect everything to be handed to them on a silver platter. This is both insulting and completely untrue.

 I am a sixteen year old secondary school student, so I feel qualified to respond. Each school day, I spend six and a half hours in class, where I am expected to pay full attention, complete assignments and retain huge amounts of information. Additional work is set to be completed at home. This takes about three hours each evening, bringing my ‘working day’ to nine and a half hours. On top of this, I must contribute to the household chores and help look after my younger sister. I regularly help to prepare the dinner and do much of the cleaning. Does your reporter really believe I am unfamiliar with hard work? I challenge her to find any adult who would work the hours I do for absolutely no money.

 I am particularly annoyed with the suggestion that teenagers don’t know the value of money. This is nonsense. The current recession affects all members of a household, not just the adults. All of my friends are acutely aware of how difficult it can be for our parents to make ends meet, and we are very careful not to ask for unnecessary treats. Far from expecting things to be handed to us on a silver platter, we take up summer jobs so that we can help out at home.

 I know that teenagers are an easy target, but I would expect a greater level of research from a newspaper like the Irish Times. Even a small number of interviews could have helped your reporter understand the reality of our lives.

 Yours, etc,

 Mary Murphy