

**Tullow Community School**

**Transition Year Programme**

**Transition Year**

**What is Transition Year?**

Transition Year (TY) is a one year education programme available to all students who have completed the Junior Cycle. It is an optional programme in our school. It provides a bridge for students to move from a state of dependence at junior level to a more independent and active role with regard to their education and their future. The TY programme gives an excellent opportunity for students to mature, to get better insights into work and adult life and to develop a wide range of skills and competencies.

**Department of Education**

“Transition year programmes are intended to facilitate the integrated development of the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical, social and vocational capabilities of each individual student through structured learning experiences. The general aim of the Transition Year is the preparation of young people for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society”.

*(Guidelines for Transition Year.)*

**Aims**

The TY programme is broad and aims to combine traditional academic subjects with work experience and social development. It aims to integrate these activities with a view to:

* Assisting students to take responsibility for their own learning and decision-making
* Provide students with experience of the work environment
* Provide opportunities for personal growth through participation in various social activities voluntary work
* Encourage students to develop a positive approach to learning
* Provides students with opportunities to develop their personal, intellectual, spiritual, social, physical and emotional life in a caring, stimulating and varied learning environment.

**Objectives**

* To help students to discover their inherent talents and skills and to foster a spirit of leadership amongst the cohort.
* To facilitate students in making better-informed subject choices for Senior Cycle.
* To provide a transition between Junior and Senior cycles.

**Application**

Transition Year is an optional programme and students must apply for a place. The Guidance Counsellor meets all 3rd year classes to explain the Leaving Cert options. These include subject options, L.C.V.P. and Transition Year. Interested students and their parents are invited to an information meeting about Transition Year in January/February. Interested students must then complete the application form. Each student is then interviewed.

Selection is based on:

1. Interview
2. Discipline Record
3. Attendance record
4. Commitment to extra-curricular life of the school
5. Suitability for Transition Year

Students may then be offered a place. The final decision on selection rests with the Principal, Deputy-Principal and the Co-ordinator.

Students who are offered a place must sign a “Contract of Learning” in September. This is a reminder that students must abide by all the normal school rules but must also be prepared to participate in all aspects of the Transition Year programme.

**Financial**

Each student who is accepted into Transition Year is asked to pay a fee of €400. This is paid in three instalments, €100 when they accept a place. €150 by the end of March and €150 by the end of April. Approximately €35 is needed for a Transition Year hoodie. Another €100 is needed to pay for the Gaisce programme. This can be paid in instalments during the year.

**Spain**

We have hosted Spanish students in our school for the last few years. This year they have invited us to visit Spain. They are based in Pamplona in northern Spain. The cost will be €500/€600 approximately. €300 will need to be paid before November 1st and another €300 before February 1st. We need a minimum of 15 Transition Year students before we can organise it. We will be travelling in March.

**Assessment**

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Each individual subject will organise their own assessment appropriate to their subject. In Transition Year a variety of assessments are used. These include:

* Written assessment
* Practical assessment
* Oral assessment
* Projects
* Portfolio
* Presentations

**Certification**

At the end of the year students organise an Achievements Night. Parents, guardians and teachers are invited. Each student is allocated a display area to showcase their work during the year. Students will receive a School Certificate of Pass, Merit or Distinction depending on their achievements. Two trophies are also presented. One trophy is presented for the Best Transition Year Boy and one trophy is presented for the Best Transition Year Girl.

**Evaluation**

Evaluation of the Transition Year Programme is carried out throughout the year. Students are asked to fill in a Student Evaluation Form at the end of the year. Parents are also asked to fill out an evaluation at the end of the year. Teachers are also asked to fill out an evaluation at the end of the year. The co-ordinator collects and collates this information so that the programme is regularly updated.

**Curriculum**

The Transition Year Programme is divided into four parts or layers. These include:

1. Core Subjects
2. Subject Sampling
3. Transition Year Specific Modules
4. Calendar Once Off Events

**Core Subjects**

* Irish
* English
* Maths
* Physical Education
* Religious Education
* Guidance/Pastoral Care

**Subject Sampling**

* Home Economics
* Accounting/Business
* Science: Physics/Chemistry/Biology
* History
* Environmental Studies/Geography
* Art
* Engineering
* Design and Communication Graphics
* Woodwork/Construction Studies
* Foreign Languages

**Transition Year Specific Modules**

* Computers
* Work Experience
* Mini-Company
* Junk Kouture
* Friends Programme
* Buddy System
* Gaisce
* School Bank
* Law and the Legal System

**Calendar Once Off Events**

* Team Building
* Theatre Trip
* Film Workshop
* Ploughing Championship
* Glasnevin Cemetery Tour
* 1916 Tour
* Enterprise Workshop
* Religious Retreat
* Zoo Workshops
* Robot Competition
* Student Enterprise Show
* Criminal Courts of Justice
* Midlands Prison
* Hairdressing
* Etiquette Training
* Tayto Park
* Paintballing
* Enamelling Workshop
* Zombie Make-up Workshop

**Transition Year Schedule (Subject to Change)**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Induction  Team Building | Mr. Condon | **September** |
| Retreat | Ms. McGee |
| Enterprise Exhibition | Mr. Larkin |
| SVP | Mr. Condon |
| English/History Tour | Ms. Kelly  Ms. Kealy | **October** |
| Zeminar | M. Kelly  Ms. Kealy |
| WIT/Walls | Mr. Condon  Ms. Corrigan |
| School Bank | Mr. Condon |
| Aware | Mr. Condon |
| First aid | Ms. J. Kelly | **November** |
| Ice-Skating | Mr. O’ Reilly | **December** |
| Etiquette | Ms. Carey | **January** |
| Hairdressing | Mr. Condon | **February** |
| Barrister | Mr. Condon |
| Court Visit | Mr. Condon | **March** |
| Zoo | Ms .J. Kelly |
| Chocolate Garden | Ms. Foster |
| Wood turner | Mr. O’ Shea |
| Driving School | Mr. Condon | **April** |
| Frisbee Competition | Mr. O’ Reilly |
| French Theatre | Ms. Carey |
| Enamelling Workshop | Mr. Kenna |
| SVP Youth Day | Mr. Condon |
| German Restaurant | Ms. Carey | **May** |
| Film workshop | Ms. S. Kelly |
| Special FX | Ms. Corrigan |
| Paintball | Mr. Condon |
| Tayto Park | Mr. O’ Reilly |
| Self-Defence | Mr. O’ Reilly |

**Work Experience**

Work experience is an integral part of the Transition Year Programme. There are two weeks of work experience, one in October/November and a second one in February/March. This provides students with real opportunities to develop and apply many of the skills they have acquired in school. The students organise their own work experience. This helps them to develop job search skills and communication skills.

**Sample Work Experience Placements**

McDonald & Sons Vets Burnside

Carlow Vet Clinic Nolan’s Tyres

Griffith’s Animal Shop PK Motors

Rathwood Irish Army

McCall’s Joinery Gardai

Tallaght Hospital Brophy Agri services

Carnew Community Care John Lucas Motor Parts

University Hospital Cork Glendale Nursing Home

Grange National School KPMG

Rathoe National School Tullow Community School

Ballon National School I.R.F.U.

Carlow Graphics Riverdale Nursing Home

Mary Maher Accountants Cairdeas

PDS Ltd Vetcare

Lynda Maher Hair Salon Kavanagh/Coleman solicitors

Orla Walsh Optician’s IT Carlow

Mount Wolseley Kilcreene Hospital

Vanilla Hair Design The Nationalist

Tullow Boys National school Tullow Girls National School

**Subject Programmes**

**Core Subjects**

**English**

Modules

Drama

Poetry

Film Studies

Fiction

Creative Writing

Public Speaking

Most of these areas of study are chosen from material that has been prescribed for Leaving Certificate English in previous years.

**Gaeilge**

The main aim is to encourage students to develop oral, aural and writing skills.

Modules

Irish Culture

Oral Work

Aural Work

Irish Films

Cheile Dancing

Irish Crafts

Irish Folklore

Songs

**Mathematics**

The main aim is to introduce students to some practical mathematics which has relevance in real life situations.

Modules

Algebra

History of Mathematics

Maths Development and Applications

Statistics and Probability

**Religious Education**

The main aim is to make students aware of different religious practices, traditions and rites of passage. Another aim is to help students to learn to respect each other’s’ religious background.

Modules

Exploring the Search for Meaning

Human Rights Awareness

Communities of Faith

Inspirational People

**Physical Education**

The main aim is to allow students to experience physical activities not included in the regular P.E. programme.

Modules

Ultimate Frisbee

Brazilian Jiujutsu

Self-defence

Indoor Gaelic football

Indoor Hurling

Golf

Swimming

Basketball

Soccer

**Guidance**

The main aims are to help students to explore their personal characteristics and values. Another aim is to help students to become more aware of their career interests and career options.

Modules

Career Interest Tests

3Rd Level Colleges

CAO System

Subject Choice

Interview Practice

College Visits

Work Experience

**Pastoral Care**

The main aim is to promote student well-being and to encourage good relationships within the class group.

Modules

Orientation/Induction

Team Building

Friends Programme

Buddy System

Aware Workshop/St. Vincent de Paul Workshop

**Optional Subjects**

**Life Skills/Home Economics**

The main aim of the programme is to learn basic skills for life in the area of Home Economics.

Modules

Home Baking

Basic Culinary Skills

International Cooking

Buffet for parents on Achievements Night

**Woodwork /Construction Studies**

The main aim is to develop a creative approach to problem solving in the design process. Another aim is encourage the development of a range of manipulative skills through processing wood and other materials.

Modules

Introduction to Hand Tools

Wood-turning

Wood -carving

Pyrography

**Engineering**

The main aim is to stimulate the students’ interest in Engineering and improve their confidence in working with engineering equipment and materials. The Robotic module is taught between the Engineering and DCG teachers.

Modules

Robotics and Control

Decorative Metalwork

General Benchwork Skills

Machining

Project Design

Introduction to Engineering Safety Practices

**Design and Communication Graphics**

The main aim is to develop practical skills associated with communication graphics, problem-solving and critical thinking.

Modules

Solidworks

Orthographic Projection

Isometric

Circuit Boards

Robot Design

Portfolio

**Art/Craft**

The main aim is to develop the visual and craft awareness of the students. Another aim is to introduce the students to the students to a wide range of contemporary crafts and designers.

Modules

Glass Painting

String Pictures

Stick Projects

Mosaic Mirrors

Decoupage

Pottery

Jewellery

Candle Making

**Junk Kouture**

The main aim is to make a high end fashion item from recyclable materials.

The students will enter the Junk Kouture competition.

Modules

Design, manufacture and model a fashion item

Produce 6 designs

**History**

The main aim is to promote an understanding of the present through the development of an historical perspective on issues of contemporary importance.

Modules

World War 1

1916 Rising

Women in History

Local History

World War 2

**Environmental Studies/Geography**

Modules

Water Pollution

Traffic Pollution

Global Warming

Biomes

Soils

Environmental Project

**Business/Accounting/Economics**

The mini-company is run from September to January. The main aim of the mini-company is to gain an understanding of how to run your own business.

From February to May the main concepts involved in Business, Accounting and Economics are taught.

**World of Science**

The main aim is to develop scientific enquiry through laboratory work and project work. Another aim is to enhance the students’ interest in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Physics

Mathematical Modelling

Egg drop Experiment

New Unit of Measurement

Building a Rocket Car

Chemistry

Rates of Chemical Reactions

Forensic Science

Flame Tests

Biology

Microbiology of Honey

Enzymes of Biotechnology

Circulation

Inside the Human Body

Yeast

Project

**Languages**

The main aim is to contribute to the students’ awareness of language as a system of communication.

Modules

German

French

Spanish

Cultures

Non-Verbal Communication

**IT/Computers**

Modules

Word

Spreadsheets

Excel

PowerPoint

Driver Theory Test