



Transition Year 2017 - 2018

JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE
Our Lady's Grove
GOATSTOWN

Susan Connolly

Transition Year Co-ordinator
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History of Transition Year



- Introduced in 1973
- 163 Schools by 1993
- Mainstreamed in 1994 incl. J&M College
- 91% of Secondary Schools
- Approximately 35,500 Students
- Certified by the School
- Compulsory in J&M College

What is Transition Year?



- Transition Year (T.Y.) is undertaken by those students who have completed the Junior Cert.. It is intended as a year of study which provides a transition to the challenges of the senior cycle and gives students the opportunity to learn, mature and develop.
- This year introduces students to a range of experience beyond the scope of the traditional Senior/Leaving Certificate curriculum and develops student's aspirations for higher education and life ambitions.
- There is a **strong emphasis on academic subjects to ensure continuity of a study ethic into Senior Cycle.** There will be homework and they will have examinations in their subjects.
- Attendance is strictly monitored.



What are the benefits of T.Y.?

- Challenges facing our young people
- Changing attitudes to education
- Need for skills-based learning
- Low age profile of Irish students
- Time to mature and develop
- Space to reflect and plan
- Develop new skills
- Leaving Certificate topics are covered in main subjects.
- Make informed subject choices for 5th Year
- Research shows T.Y. **is** working as students do better in the Leaving Certificate if they have taken Transition Year.

Principle Aims of Our T.Y.



- To provide a transition to the senior cycle and give students the opportunity to learn, mature and develop.
- To promote education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.
- Introduce students to a new range of experiences beyond the scope of the traditional curriculum and encourage higher educational, occupational and life ambitions.
- To promote general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
- To provide an education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.
- To develop study and research skills to enable students to become more effective learners and foster self-management skills.

Our T.Y. Programme



The programme is divided into 5 areas:

- 1. General studies - Irish, English, French, Maths ,Science, History, Geography, Spiritual and Mental Wellbeing, Art, Music Technology, Culinary Skills, Business Studies.**
- 2. T.Y. specific activities including Chinese Language, Driver Education, Legal Studies, Elocution, Crafts, MOS, Computational Thinking, Theory of Knowledge.**
- 3. Work Experience.**
- 4. Community Work, Fundraising, First Aid and Gaisce.**
- 5. Leisure pursuits including Self-Defence, Aerobics, Yoga, Tennis Sailing and Horse riding.**

These areas are divided into core subjects which run for the duration of the academic year and modules or short courses and are subject to change from year to year.



Core Subjects

- Irish, English, Maths, French, History, Geography, Science , Spiritual and Mental Wellbeing continue throughout the year.
- Students are expected to complete homework and assignments in the same way as any other year in school.
- There are formal examinations in November, February and May.
- Reports are sent home three times a year.

Sciences



- All students will have modules in Physics, Chemistry and Biology
- Students are encouraged to enter the BT Young Scientist Exhibition
- There is a school based science competition and exhibition
- Student projects are entered into the Sci - Fest. at Tallaght I.T.



Modules

- These are shorter courses which all students will get the opportunity to participate in:
 - Art / Culinary Skills/Music Technology
 - Legal Studies / Business/Applied Maths
 - Elocution/ Work Experience/MOS



Elocution

- “Express Yourself” communications skills course
- Duration 10 weeks
- Emphasis on presentation and communications skills
- External teacher
- Option to do a Royal Irish Academy Exam (extra cost €50)

T.Y. Specific Activities



- These courses are unique to TY and continue throughout the year.
- Microsoft Office Specialist – Microsoft
- Chinese Language
- Computational Studies/Drivers Education
- Theory of Knowledge/Classical Studies

Microsoft Office Specialist



- MOS is an industry standard qualification and prepares students for the global workforce
- Students are registered by the school but work on their modules in their own time
- An exam at the end of each module is administered by the school
- Students are issued with Certificates as they complete each module
 - **Word Expert**
 - **Excel Expert**
 - **PowerPoint Specialist**

Chinese Language



- YCT Level 2 and 3. (Mandarin)
- Accreditation from Beijing
- Exams held in UCD November and May

Computational Thinking



- Combines the creativity of human thinking with the power of computers for problem solving
- Important in areas like physics, business, engineering and bioinformatics
- Students learn how to program in Python

Theory of Knowledge



- New course aimed at students who are considering a professional third level education.
- Preparation for third level academic research and writing
- Understanding different ways of approaching problems
- Pushing academic standards and excellence

Work Experience



- This is undertaken by Students during the weeks:-
- **20th – 24th November 2017.**
- **28th May – 1st June 2018.**

- Student's in consultation with their parents organise their own placement and must provide details to the Guidance Counsellor . School Insurance covers this activity. A letter is available in the school office.

- Students should get their placement in a work area that may interest them in the future e.g. veterinary practice, hospital, law firm or primary school.

- The school has the right to veto work experience.

- Students also get the opportunity to apply for work experience at the RCSI (Mini-Med), Engineering and Physics in UCD and Trinity College RTE etc.

- There are opportunities during the year to attend Open Days in various different colleges or do online courses with CTYI in DCU

Thursday Afternoon



- **Tennis and Self Defence**
- **Yoga, Pilates, Salsa Aerobics and Toning**
- **Couch to 5k fitness**
- **Climbing Wall Sandyford**
- **Zip It Forest Adventures**

Tuesday Afternoon



- Students have the option of doing any combination of the following activities:-
- Horse riding – 9 weeks(optional)
- Community Work – 10 weeks
- Sailing – 9 weeks (optional)



Horseriding

- Killegar Riding School Enniskerry
- Cost € 180 approx (Boots and hats provided)
- September – October (2017)
- A minimum of 15 students required
- Mount / dismount horse
- Walk, trot and canter
- Basic jumping
- 9 week course



SAILING

- Surf Dock – Grand Canal Docks
- Cost € 135 approx - March – May 2018
- Minimum of 15 students required
- Sailing, stand up paddle board, windsurfing and kayaking
- Wetsuits and buoyancy aids provided
- 9 week course

Community Work



- Students can opt to do horse riding and/or sailing
- If they opt not to do any of these activities they undertake community work on Tuesday afternoons
- Community work is organised by the student in consultation with their parents and documentation must be provided to the school
- Any community work of 13 weeks or longer fulfils the community element of the Gaisce Presidents Award.

Activity Week September



- Matrix Day
- Law Day
- Emergency First Aid Course
- Larch Hill Adventure Centre

Gaisce: Presidents Award



- Gaisce is the National Challenge Award from the President of Ireland to young people between 15 and 25 years of age. It is non-competitive, applicants set their own goals and compete with themselves.
- There are 4 main areas:
 - **Community Involvement**
 - **Personal Skills**
 - **Physical Recreation**
 - **Adventure Journey**
- The Gaisce Bronze Medal is especially suited to T.Y. as it fits well into the personal development programme and takes 6 to 9 months to complete i.e. September to May, the duration of the school year.

Drama Production



- One Act Drama Festival – St. Andrews, Booterstown
- Students write and perform their own drama
- All students are encouraged to get involved
- Drama writing in English class

Day Trips/Events



- Walking tour of Dublin Docklands
- Fundraising/Paired Reading with Primary School
- Trips to museums/art gallerys/cinema
- Mock Trial competition
- Visiting speakers
- Forensic Science
- Comhairle na nOg
- Axa Road Safety

Overnight Trips/Tours



- Gaisce Aventure - Knockree Hostel
- Ski Trip Italy – Easter 2017
- French Exchange

Getting Involved



- Gaisce
- Science Competitions
- Mock Trial Competition
- Iveagh Scholars
- Fundraising
- Chinese Studies
- Work Experience



Assessment

- On-going class tests
- Oral Presentations
- Examinations / class tests three times per year with report
- Formal parent-teacher meeting
- Project work
- Folder of Achievement Assessment
- Presentation of awards at schools award ceremony
- Parent evaluations

Finances



- The finances of T.Y. are incorporated into the School Accounts System, which comes under the control of the Board of Management. **The fee for T.Y. is €300.**
- **This payment is due by Wednesday 31st May 2017 and can be paid on line or by bank draft/postal order.**
- **No optional activities or trips can be undertaken if the TY Fee is not paid in full.**

Finances



- The fee charged for T.Y. finances the running of the T.Y. Programme within the school and goes towards the following courses and modules:
 - **MOS**
 - **Early Driver Education**
 - **Art/Craft Materials**
 - **Activity Week (Excluding Larch Hill)**
 - **Aerobics, Yoga, Tennis and Self Defence**
 - **Elocution**
 - **Forensic Science**



Optional Extras

- Driving Day –Mondello €60
- Gaisce fee and adventure overnight trip €35
- Any other events or trips (French Exchange, Theatre etc.)
- Ski Trip
- Horse riding / Sailing/ Larch Hill
- Students pay for bus fares to local events/city centre



In Summary

Transition Year

- Has proven to be very successful
- Is a great experience for students
- Provides many new skills and opportunities
- Prepares students for the challenges ahead
- TY is compulsory



Thank You

Any Questions?