

The Transition Year Programme 2024-2025



Why participate in the Transition Year Programme?

One of the main benefits of the TY programme is that it develops **maturity** in students by;

- helping them to become more self-directed learners through the development of general, technical and academic skills.
- by developing work-related skills in relation to work and careers.
- providing opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility
- developing greater 'people' skills and more awareness of the world outside school.

Transition Year also helps students:

- discover their personal strengths
- improve self-esteem
- build interpersonal & team skills
- make wiser & more informed choices for Leaving Certificate and University
- extend learning experience beyond the classroom
- catch up in subjects which they find difficult (especially Irish, English and Maths)
- develop study skills for the Leaving Certificate
- explore the working world
- achieve improved Leaving Certificate results (students score on average 45 points better)

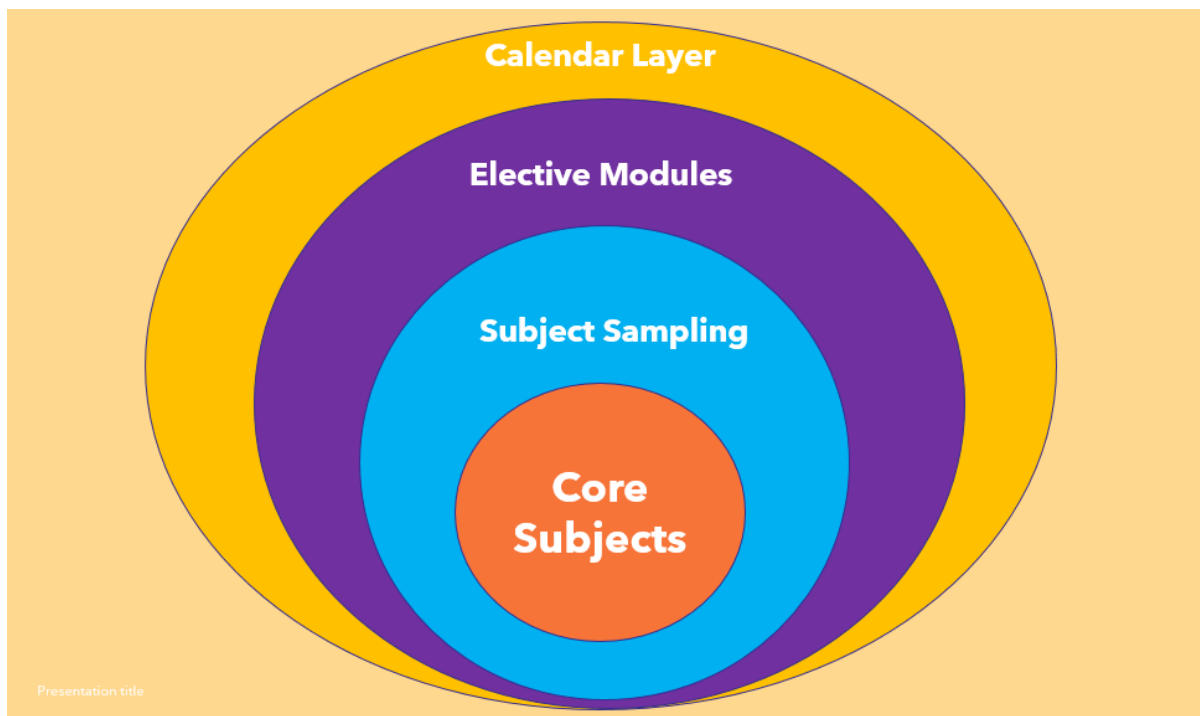
Why should I get involved in the Transition Year Programme?

The 2005 ERSI report found that, "on average, students who took part in Transition Year achieved higher Leaving Certificate exam grades and were more likely to go on to higher education than non-participants." Having an extra year means students are likely to think more about what subjects they should take for the Leaving Certificate and sample new ones.

In 2025, Senior Cycle reform will see the introduction of new specifications for some subjects, eg, Biology, Physics and Chemistry. This will mean that the written exam will no longer account for one hundred percent of the exam. Other assessment components such as a project or experiments will count for up to forty percent, giving students more options and alleviating the stress of the June exam. Doing Transition Year will give students a chance to work within this framework and practice sample projects/alternative assessments.

Programme Content

Classes are offered in Transition Year across three spectrums - core subjects, subject sampling and elective modules. We will also have numerous trips, speakers in and activities both in school and off site which we call the Calendar Layer.



Core Subjects

Students will study English, Maths and Gaeilge for three hours each per week with a view to expanding on skills learned at Junior Cycle and preparing students for Leaving Certificate.

English: the course content aims at promoting an awareness and appreciation in students of the five language genres that are central to Leaving Cert English. The language of narration, persuasion, argument, information and the aesthetic will all be explored and touched on over the course of the year.

One of the most important objectives of Transition Year English is to encourage students to read for pleasure and to prompt them to engage with socially conscious literature in an enquiring and critical way. Texts are chosen that address contemporary social issues relevant to their age group enabling them to see literature as more than simply the preserve of the classroom.

Gaeilge: Students will study a variety of modules including cultural and language aspects, through a mix of project work, group work and individual study.

These will include film studies, literature, logainmneacha and also a research project on the Gaeltachtaí. In addition to that student will complete two oral exams at the end of all three semesters.

Maths: will include a number of topics such as Statistics where students will work together on a group project. The students will be introduced to Complex numbers which is a leaving certificate only topic and will be assessed through an examination. Students will have the opportunity to individually research a Mathematician and will be assessed through the presentation of their research project. Students will explore Probability which bridges their knowledge of Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate material. We will conduct class experiments which would not normally be available in the Leaving Certificate due to time restrictions. Other topics that will be explored include Algebra, Abstract and Costing.

Subject Sampling

Students will have a chance to sample as many subjects for Leaving Cert as they wish. Teachers can cover ten percent of the actual Leaving Certificate course in Transition Year which allows students to experience tasters for each subject.

- Art/Home Economics/Music
- Business/Accounting/Economics
- DCG/Engineering/Construction
- Physics/Chemistry/Biology
- Leaving Cert PE/Computer Science
- French/German/Geography/History

Elective Modules

Students can choose up to four electives which they study for an hour a week for the year. These electives cover a wide range of areas which will appeal to different students in different ways, covering possible careers, hobbies, digital upskilling, introduction to areas of STEM, lifestyle etc...

- Horticulture
- Photography
- Car Maintenance
- Hair & Beauty
- Childcare
- Animal Care
- Artistic Performance
- Scifest
- Junk Kouture
- Information Technology
- Digital Media Literacy
- Coding
- Robotics
- Lego
- Virtual Reality
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)
- Climate Change
- Sustainability
- Philosophy
- World Affairs
- Politics
- Criminology
- Debating
- Charity Work
- Yoga/Judo
- Enterprise

Calendar Layer

The trips, visiting speakers, activities and workshops are planned in advance of the year. We try to fit in as wide a variety of interesting activities to suit all interests while keeping costs low. In 2024-25, we are hoping to book in the following activities;

- Bonding trip to an Adventure Centre in September
- A Theatre trip to Trim Theatre/ The Solstice Navan
- Registration with GAISCE, the Presidents Award, and activities to fulfill the award
- Food School – a company who train students at front of house catering
- Barista Workshop – teaching students to brew coffee
- Soar Workshop – a day long wellbeing retreat for young people
- Visits to Trim Castle,
- Kayaking on the Boyne
- University Trip for the day

- Visits to the Epic Museum & Kilmainham Gaol Dublin
- Trip to the Ploughing Championships
- Forensic Workshops on historical events
- Navan Driving Experience, following a module of Drivers Theory, this is one to one driving lessons for students
- Toastmasters – training students on public speaking
- Jembe Drumming and African Dance Workshops
- Entry into Scifest, a nationwide Science Competition
- Special Olympics Polar Plunge – Dip in Sandycove in December to fundraise
- Enterprise Trip
- TY Show in Dublin
- School production in 2024-25
- Leadership Training – Mentors, Green Schools, Student Learning Team, Student Digital Team

Work Experience

Work experience is an important part of TY. Students get the chance to pursue their interests and consider where those interests might take them. There will be six Fridays at the beginning of the year when TY students will be in school taking part in various activities. This will allow time for planning their two twelve week blocks of work experience, every Friday throughout the year.

What about Exams?

Assessment is a key part of any worthwhile learning programme. Transition Year is an opportunity to move beyond the narrow focus of end-of-year written exams only. The emphasis is on varied and on-going assessment.

There will be written exams twice a year at the end of Semesters 1 & 3 for the core subjects, English, Maths and Irish. There will also be continuous assessment in place for Semester 2 which will include project work, portfolio work, class tests, oral presentations and digital assessment. Three academic reports will be sent to parents/guardians and there will be a ParentTeacher Meeting during the year also. At the end of the year, there will be a graduation which will include awards for student engagement throughout the year and it will be an opportunity to view and exhibition of students' work. There is a credit system in place for TY.

Credit System

In order to ensure that students gain most from the year, we have in place a Credit System in which students will earn credits for attendance, participation, academic diligence, effort, teamwork and leadership. A total of 500 credits can be earned by students through full participation in all aspects of school life. Students can gain a distinction, a merit, a pass or a participation only certificate at graduation. Here is a full breakdown of the credit system;

Attendance & Punctuality	90% minimum	50
Core Subjects	30 credits each Portfolio Formal Exams (Semester 1 & 3)/Formative (Continuous) Assessment Semester 2	90
Subject Sampling	10 credits per module Portfolio Continuous Assessment	80
TY Enrichment Modules	15 credits per module Portfolio	60
Work Experience	Attendance, Evaluation, Employer's report	60
Wellbeing: PE, RSE, World of Work	Participation Portfolio	30
Extra-Curricular: GAISCE	Sports teams, leadership, eg, mentors etc....	30
Portfolio	Interview, Content	100

How can parents/guardians can get involved?

Parents/guardians' understanding of and support for student learning in TY is a key factor in a successful Transition Year experience.

Some parents make their particular expertise in terms of careers or skills available to the school during the TYP.

The excessive cost of bus hire does restrict activities to a certain extent so we may call on parents to help with transporting students/friends to keep costs down. Students may also be asked to get public transport on occasion to keep costs down.

We would also invite parents and guardians to join us on trips/activities if available as supervisors. We can do garda vetting in the school for you. This would cut down on staff needed to go on trips and minimise disruption of teaching for other students.

We need parents/guardians to ensure their children engage actively in terms of at least 90% attendance (allowing for illness) and to avail of the numerous opportunities offered by this unique programme.

This is not a year to relax, in fact, students will be busier than ever. There will be homework, it may not be always written, but there will be presentations to make, speeches to write, portfolios to update and reflections to complete.

Parents/guardians will be invited to evaluate of the programme at the end of the year.

Costs

We have tried to keep costs of Transition Year as low as possible and have managed to reduce the cost to €425 for 2024-25.

The normal rental for lockers, purchase of the journal, cost of insurance and rental of books will be charged separately as for all students. It will remain at €150 for the coming year.

