

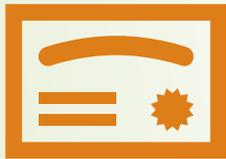
Coláiste Dún An Rí Transition Year 2026/27



Welcome



Senior Cycle Options



Leaving Certificate (Fifth Year)



Leaving Certificate Applied (Fifth Year LCA)



Transition Year Programme



Why Choose Fifth Year/LCA?

Students may opt to go directly to Fifth Year if the student:

- Is mature enough to cope with Fifth Year
- Knows what subjects they want to study for Fifth Year
- Knows what they want to do after Leaving Cert
- Does not like school and doesn't want to do the extra year but wants to do the Leaving Cert Exam/LCA Assessment
- Is better suited to a ridged course structure
- Is better suited to the LCA programme
- Further information on Fifth Year subject choice will be provided to students in class



What is Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)?

- ▶ The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two-year programme
- ▶ Aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.
- ▶ Continuous assessment over the 2 years
- ▶ The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence, which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.
- ▶ Students can progress to third level after the LC though PLC courses.





LCA versus Traditional LC

LCA

- ▶ **Work Experience** one day a week. 4 placements in 2 yrs.
- ▶ Practical/ project work
- ▶ Continuous assessment (Tasks/Key assignments)
- ▶ Small class sizes more one to one tuition
- ▶ Irish/French completed in 1 year (Irish exemption still retained)

Traditional LC

- ▶ Academic/points orientated
- ▶ Direct entry into College
- ▶ LC exam counts for majority of marks
- ▶ Generally bigger classes
- ▶ Irish compulsory for 2 years

Who would benefit from the LCA Programme?

- The Leaving Certificate Applied is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes.
 - Students who would take all ordinary level subjects at Leaving Cert. aspiring to a grade O6 (grade D under the old system).
 - Students who find difficulty with learning by rote rather than learning by doing.
 - Students who have difficulty with essay type answers.
 - Students with poor attention span and retention skills.
 - Students who are definite about wanting to pursue an Apprenticeship or enter the workforce directly after L.C.



In Coláiste Dún an Rí we offer our LCA students a variety of subjects under the following different headings...

Vocational Preparation

- **English and Communications**
- Enterprise
- Guidance (Vocational Preparation and Guidance)

Vocational Education

- **Mathematical Applications**
- Information and Communications Technology (I.C.T.)
- **Hotel, Catering and Tourism**
- **Agi Science/Horticulture**

General Education

- Art/Music
- ****Irish (Year 1)/ French (Year 2)**
- **Social Education**
- Leisure and Recreation
- Religion
- PE with their year group
- Construction Studies-elective module

**students can retain exemptions from Irish



RECAP – WHAT IS LCA



What is Transition Year?

- ▶ The Transition Year Programme is a unique one-year programme that promotes the personal, social, vocational and educational development of students and prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.
- ▶ *(Transition Year Guidelines, 1994, Department of Education).*
- ▶ TY provides a bridge to enable students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with Junior Cycle to the more independent learning environment associated with Senior Cycle.





What is Transition Year?

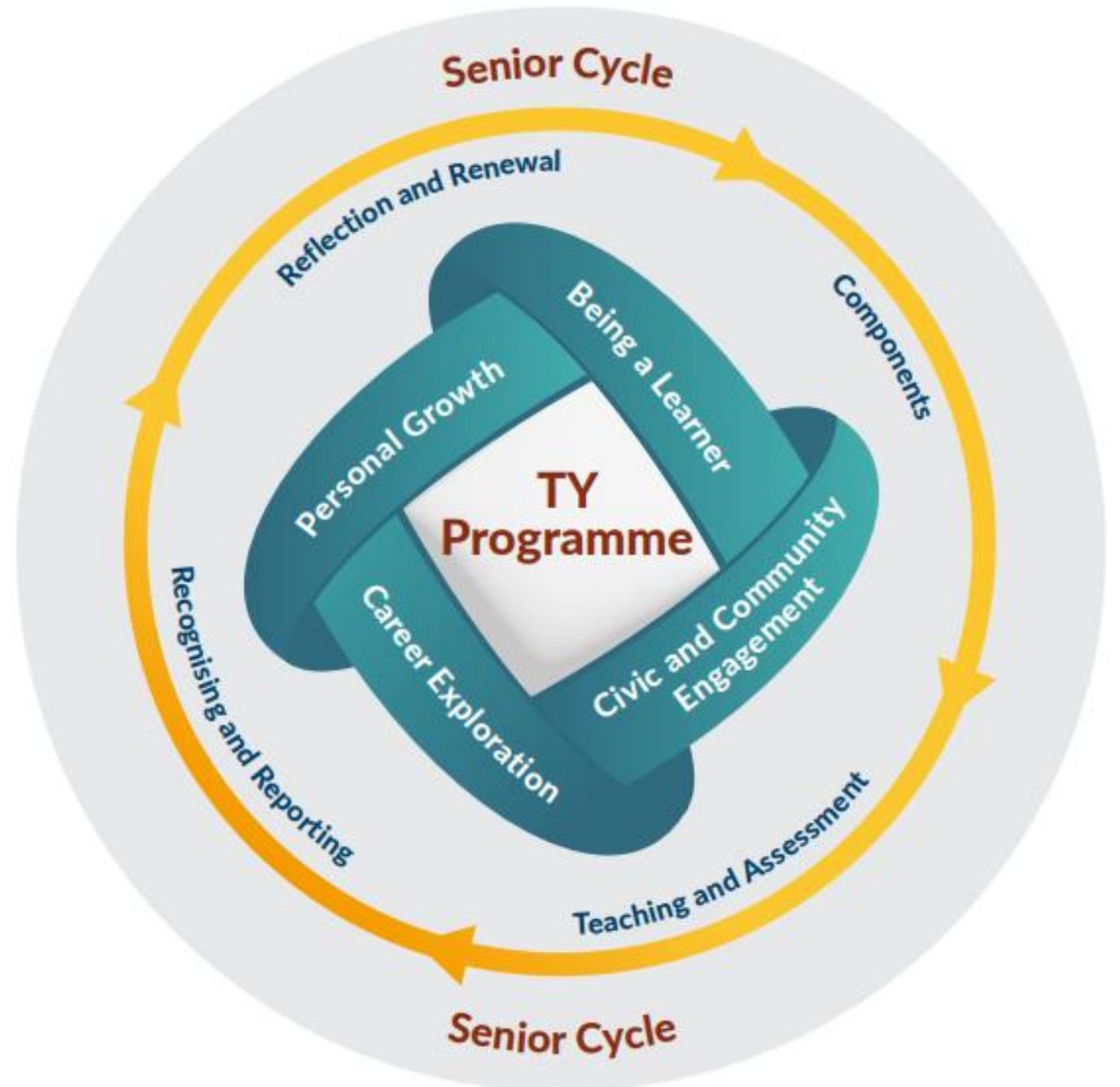
- ▶ It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.
- ▶ Currently some 48,000 students are partaking in Transition Year in 623 schools
- ▶ Each school designs its own Transition Year programme, within set guidelines, to suit the needs and interests of its students
- ▶ In establishing its own distinctive programme content, the school takes into account the possibilities offered by local community interests

AIMS OF TY

Education for **MATURITY**
with emphasis on
social awareness
& increased social
competence

Promotion of general,
technical and academic
SKILLS with an
emphasis on
interdisciplinary and
self-directed
learning

Education
Through experience
of **ADULT &
WORKING LIFE**
as a basis for
personal development
& maturity



TRANSITION YEAR

Some statistics

- Students who do Transition Year (TY) engage better with their studies for the Leaving Certificate than those who do not.
- The 2017 study suggest that students spend significantly more time on homework in fifth and sixth year and are more likely to persist with difficult questions.
- The findings may help to explain why teens who do TY tend to perform better in the Leaving Cert

(Drumcondra 2017)





WHY OPT FOR TRANSITION YEAR?

The purpose of TY

- The main emphasis is on **Learning from Experience**.
- Students develop **Project Work and Reflective Practice** and an e-portfolio
- Discover more about **job and career opportunities** beyond school.
- Students discover and develop **Personal Strengths**
- **Develop skills** that stand to participants for **LIFE**
- Promotes **maturity**.



WHY OPT FOR TRANSITION YEAR?

- Sample and discover **new subjects** – a **broader curriculum**
- Build a **solid foundation of skills** for the Leaving Certificate Programme.
- Take part in **outdoor pursuits** – including receiving the Bronze Gaisce Award from the President.
- Work as part of a **team** build a portfolio of skills
- Practice and develop **communication** skills.
- Practice keeping records and using **ICT**
- Make **informed choices** about Leaving Certificate subjects.
- Become more **motivated** to study for their Leaving Certificate.



Skills Development

Social and Interpersonal Skills

- Through project work & teamwork
- Co-operation & group work
- Voluntary work

➤ Personal Skills

- Maturity/Confidence
- Independent learning
- Leadership (Competitions/ Gaisce)

➤ Enterprise Skills

- Mini Enterprise (Group & Individual)
- Organising fundraising events

➤ Practical Skills

- DIY
- Art & Crafts
- Cooking

➤ Presentation Skills

- Self - At Interview
- Work - through projects
- Creativity Skills
- Time Management



Core subject layers

- Mathematics
- Gaeilge
- English
- PE
- ICT –
Microsoft
Office
- Career
Guidance
- Science
- SPHE

Subject sampling layer

- Business
- Accounting
- Home
Economics
- Engineering
- Music
- Geography
- History
- Art
- TG
- Construction
- PE LC subject

TY specific layer - Modules

- Basic First Aid
- Horticulture
- CSI
- Road Safety – Driver
theory
- Drama
- CHESS
- Community Care
- Talks on SVP, Racism,
Suicide, Mental Health

YEAR LONG MODULES

- **Junk Culture**
- **GAA Future Leaders**
- **BT Young Scientist**
- **Global Development &
Sustainability**
- **YSI**

Calendar layers

- **Work experience**
- **Outdoor pursuits.**
- **Drumming**
- **Bodhrán making**
- **Drama/Musical production/Dance**
- **Dublin Trip –**
- **Nursing Home visits to elderly**
- **Coaching Primary School games**
- **First Aid**
- **Martial arts**
- **Ice-skating**
- **Volunteering**
- **Peer education training**
- **Fundraising for charities**
- **Garda Programme**
- **TY Try a trade**
- **SkipNrope**
- **TY Film-making**
- **Mentoring First Years**
- **SVP workshops**
- **Dreamspace –Microsoft Dublin**
- **Soar workshop**
- **Sports coaching to 1st Year**
- **Christmas market**
- **CSI experience**
- **Gaisce**



Transition Year Curriculum

Subject Sampling*

Core Subjects

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Science

SPHE/RSE

- Sport and Recreation
- Guidance/Careers
- ICT – Microsoft Office Specialist Programme

- Business
- Accountancy
- Art
- CONSTRUCTION STUDIES
- Engineering
- DCG – subject to resources
- Geography
- Music
- Home Economics
- French
- History



3-4 School Day Trips during the year

- 1- Bonding Trip in Sept –Outdoor Adventure Centre
- 2- Christmas Trip
- 3- Subject Trip – educational/College Trip – DCU and landmark
- 4- End of Year Trip in May

- ▶ This has been provisionally booked for September
- ▶ It is optional and the cost is approx €50.
- ▶ The cost of Teambuilding trip is in addition to the TY fee.





Trip Abroad

- We are thinking of Skiing again next year. This will be optional.
- Deposit of 250euro to confirm your place - week of **January 2027**.
- **The price of €1300*** include the following, based in 63 students - 6 Days Ski Trip



Skiing in Andorra -with Saffron Travel

Fully Escorted JAN 21st to 26th JAN 2027

DATES: Jan 21st-26th

NUMBER OF NIGHTS: 6 Days / 5 Nights

NUMBER OF PAX: 60+

ACCOMMODATION: 3 Star Hotel

€1,300 approx

BASIS: Full Board (Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner)

ROOM DISTRIBUTION: Quad, Triples and Twins for Students. Twins for Teachers

TRANSPORTATION: Coach as required by Itinerary

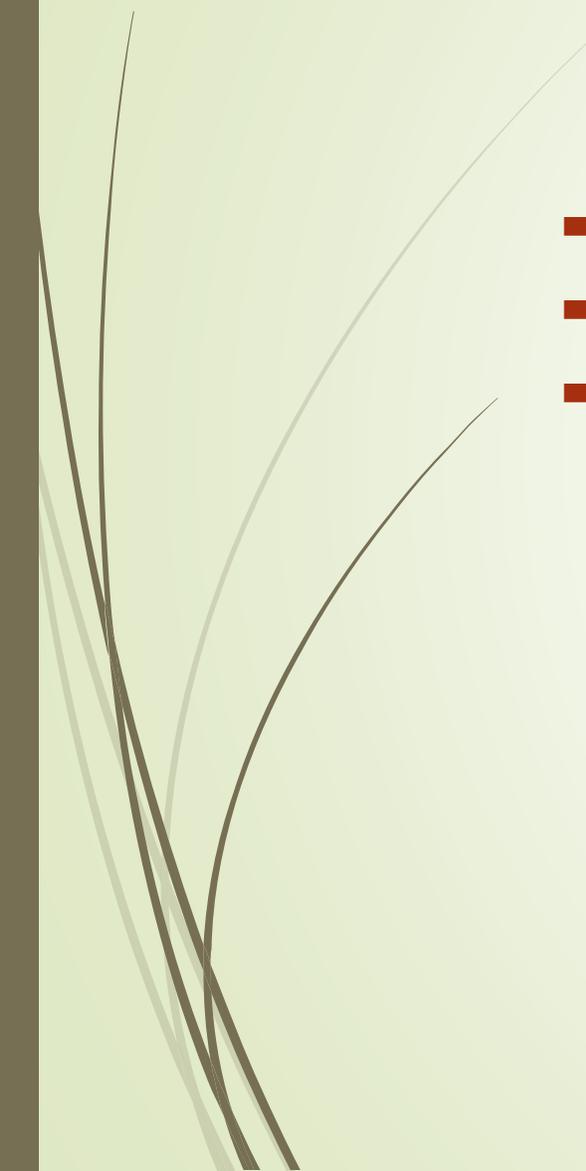
FLIGHTS: Aer Lingus or Ryanair

Ski equipment , ski pass and ski school included

Evening entertainment every night



What next?

- ▶ Students need to apply for TY and pay TY deposit
 - ▶ Parents will get an email from Mr Lorenz – gage interest in Ski
 - ▶ Only parents that respond yes will get more information from school
- 

Preparation For The World of Work

- **WORK EXPERIENCE placements (3 x 1 week periods in the year)**
- Students' responsibility to find a place of value in an area which interests them
- An extension of their part-time job is not suitable
- Opportunities to build up practical skills
- References on curriculum vitae
- Chances to impress potential future employers
- Networking



WORK EXPERIENCE

–3 MAIN BLOCKS

A discretionary extra week is allowed where authorised

- Work Experience 1: End of October
 - Work Experience 2: Mid-term at February
 - Work Experience 3; May/June 2027
-
- Students will do an online diary which is included in their Digital-Portfolio



WORK EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Allowing students to sample a workplace environment
- ▶ After the work experience students have attained valuable information that will help them decide on their specific career choice.
- ▶ Employers fill in an evaluation and attendance sheet. Teachers/Co-ordinator link in with workplaces.

Assessment

- ▶ A credit system will be used at TY Graduation Ceremony in May, students depending on their credits earned throughout the year will get certification for either:

Distinction

Higher Merit/ Merit

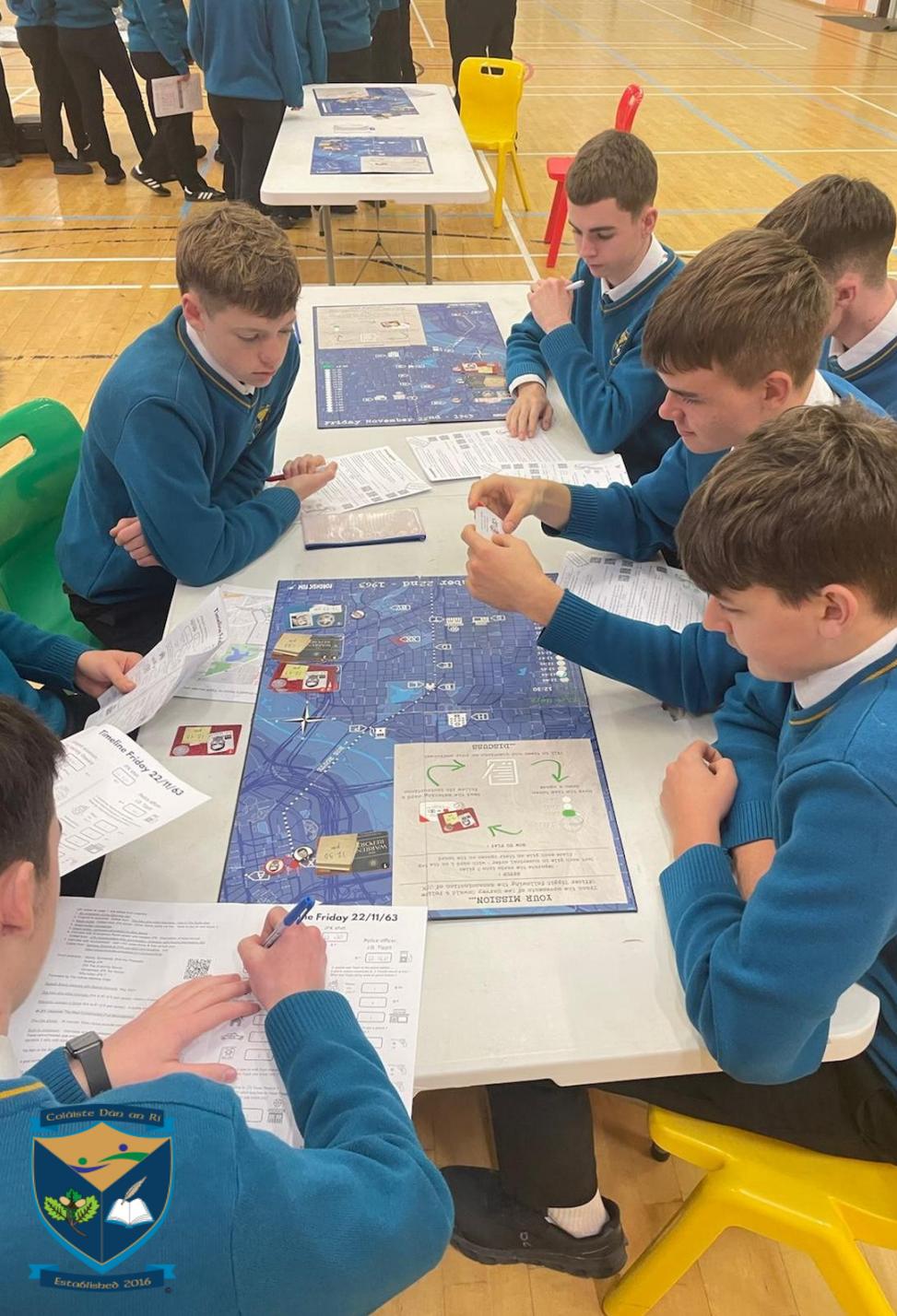
Pass

Participated

- ▶ Credits are awarded for the following:

- ▶ Exams in subjects at Christmas and May
- ▶ Classroom based assessments
- ▶ E-Portfolio's
- ▶ Work experience
- ▶ Participation
- ▶ Attendance and punctuality





Communication With Parents/Guardian

- Year Head / TY Coordinator
- TY Core Team
- Journals - to record homework, absence notes and communications to and from teachers
- Term reports
- Parent/Teacher/Student Meeting
- Information meeting regarding school tour
- End of Year Graduation/TY Night



THE CHALLENGE OF TY.....

- We endeavor to keep the programme as creative and as innovative as we possibly can
- *An openness and enthusiasm for new opportunities will be encouraged and expected*
- An opportunity for a new start and to mature
- *You represent the school in formal external environments: your conduct will always be expected to reflect this*
- TY is NOT a 'doss year'. It's an opportunity you should seize
- *Not a 3-Year LC but an opportunity to develop academically*
- **You only get out of it what you put into it**





WHAT IS EXPECTED OF TY STUDENTS?

- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Uniform
- Openness and positivity – get involved
- Hard work
- Initiative
- Co-Operation
- Friendliness
- Do the Assignments given and on time
- Don't be out of class without permission and a signed journal
- MOST OF ALL: ENJOY IT

Admissions Process

- Policy ratified by the Board of Management
- Set number of places available – 96 maximum
- Application form and interview (if necessary)
- Admissions criteria
 - Student's previous record of attendance.
 - Student's previous record under the Code of Behaviour.
 - Student's previous record of participation in the school.
 - Student's attitude to and perception of the programme.

Admissions Process

- Recommendations made to the principal
- Offer of placement
- Confirmation of acceptance once TY cost are paid in full
- Waiting list
- Withdrawal of offer
 - Poor behaviour
 - Admission not in the best interest of the student and/or school community
 - Failure to pay TY cost
 - Poor behaviour in Junior Cycle

Admissions Process

- Complete the Online Application form and submit to on or before Wed 5th Feb.
- The applications will be assessed, and the Admissions Policy will be applied.
- School interviews will be organised if necessary
- If the interviews do not take place then enrolment into TY will be offered on the basis of the Application Form and the Admissions Policy



Materials needed - Cost

- Cost - **€260**, this includes SOAR, Movie Magic, First Aid, and lots of other workshops, insurance and Journal
- There is no Book Rental Scheme in TY
- Please note that the TY fee does not include the cost of buses to trips – at this point in time we cannot confirm trips so we cannot include the cost of buses in our budget
- Where financial circumstances are difficult we have the option of setting up a payment plan
- TY Ball – There will not be one arranged by the school and therefore any event of this kind will not be supported by us in any way

Breakdown of costs:

Expenditure – cost per student

First Aid & Manual Handling	€30
Various Workshops	€200
ICT	€90
Journal, Insurance etc	€30
Miscellaneous	€30
	<hr/>
	€380

Total based on 96 students = €36,480

Income –

Fee = 96 x €260	
Total	= €24,960
School grant	= €8,640
Total Income	= €33,600

- *Expenditure covers the basic costs, more costs will arise during the year as opportunities present themselves and different subject departments request funding to enhance the learning taking place in class.*
- *Income very much depends on full compliance from all students.*



Volunteering

Taking responsibility

Work Experience

Communication With Adults

Caring for others

Finding new friends

Skills & opportunities Gained In TY

Trying new things

Experiencing new subjects

Taking on Organisational roles

Developing independence

How Parents Can Help

- ▶ **TY is not a “doss year”, set the tone and offer encouragement**
- ▶ **Encourage your child to**
 - ▶ Actively participate in all the year offers
 - ▶ Step out of their comfort zone and try new things
 - ▶ Volunteer
 - ▶ Be proactive
 - ▶ Attend everyday
- ▶ Stay informed about what is happening in TY and be aware of what your child is doing
- ▶ Be prepared for homework to be different from traditional format for example, project work, reflections and portfolio work may be given
- ▶ Help your child identify and seek a suitable work experience, this is a massive step for a teenager. Start looking for this early
- ▶ We would welcome any suggestions you can give in relation to establishing community links, workshops, guest speakers or voluntary work students can get involved in





Quotes from students who did not do TY

- ▶ I should have done TY as Fifth is very hard and the jump is massive. I can't join TY now and I know it will be hard next year. (Fifth Year Student in CDAR)
- ▶ I enjoyed participating in work experience as it gave me insight into a particular job/career. I am better informed to make decisions about my future (e.g. subject choices and college courses) - (Current TY student)



Quotes from students who did TY

- ▶ TY let me think what subjects I wanted to do and improved my confidence. I feel I can work on my own when needed and I have a better idea what I want to do after school. (Current Fifth Year Student)
- ▶ I did TY but it didn't suit me. I didn't work because I didn't want to do it. I would have been better going to LCA because I found it hard to work in TY and LCA was better for me and the work more suited to me. (Student CDAR)
- ▶ **Go for it, If it's something that you are unsure of doing or half of your friends are doing it and the other half aren't, do it, it's got great opportunities for everyone, It's also a good thing to do if your someone who isn't normally talkative. The trips are fun, the people you will make friends with are amazing and the activities and opportunities are exciting and so worth it. (student 2024)**



What Parents said last year -

.....has grown and matured due to being given more freedom to work and experience tasks outside the classroom. He bonded and made special memories with his friends on the ski trip and with his teachers. Work experience has given him an opportunity to make more informed decisions about what he might like to do and not to do after his leaving cert.

- My daughter has matured, gained confidence, improved in communication and developed new skills
- Confidence in herself Made more friends from participating in projects and trips throughout the year Insight to a career path from work experience

What Employers said- from work experience

***** got on great!

I'd keep him if I could, a lot of the bits and pieces I do work better with two and he's very willing to get stuck in and help.

I've worked with tradespeople who weren't as capable as Luke. And he's a genuinely nice human.

► Great wee worker. No complaints. Is coming back over midterm for a couple of days.

Has been in each day, on time. Has been representing herself & school well

Heard Manager is very happy with *****. He is keeping the head down and working hard. Offered him work on a Friday after school and weekend.

Really happy, one of the best TY's I've had, great initiative. Getting on brilliantly with the pre-school kids, showing patience, care and kindness to all. All great skills for Montessori teaching

The Transition Year Programme
can develop key skills necessary
for the 21st Century –

The Three T's:

***Thinking, Teamwork and
Technology.***



On A Final Note...



ESRI REPORT

A report by the ERSI showed that students who do Transition Year score significantly higher points in the Leaving Cert.

Taking social background into account, the average CAO points advantage is up to 45 points



Thank You

