

**Welcome to
Coláiste Bríde**

**Transition Year
Programme
Information
Evening
2017-2018**

**TY Co-ordinator;
Ms. Margo Whelan**

Frequently asked questions

The Transition Year Programme aims to promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as responsible, participative and mature members of society.

Q. What is the purpose of the Transition Year Programme?

“Transition” year is a great name for this voluntary year. The student transitions into personally, socially and educationally. One of our primary aims is to promote maturity in our students and prepare them for early adult life.

- Maturity through their studies; we strive to make students more self directed learners through the development of general, technical and academic skills.
- Maturity in relation to work; we strive to develop the students in work and careers by developing work related skills and work experience.
- Personal maturity; we provide opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility. With this, we try to develop greater social maturity, developing “people” skills and a greater awareness of the outside world.

Q. Is the Transition Year Programme suitable for all students?

With its emphasis on maturity and development, all young people can benefit from the programme. TY can allow for the development of the individual's multiple intelligences; linguistic, logical, mathematical, spatial, musical, interpersonal, dramatic etc...

TY involves the three T'S; **Thinking, Teamwork and Technology...**

Ty involves the three E'S; **Experience, Enterprise and Energy.....**

Q. How many students accepted/ what is process of selection / can parents appeal a decision?

Coláiste Bríde's TY program is extremely successful and popular. For many years, we ran two classes (24 per class) totalling 48 students. In recent years, we noticed a huge increase in the numbers and therefore we introduced a third class. Current numbers stand at 83 students. We are willing to run a third class again this year if enough students want to take part. You will be asked to fill in a very basis application form along with a €20 application fee and return it to the office ON OR BEFORE MARCH 16TH, 2017. All applications will be examined and considered.

Q. What about Exams?

Assessment is a key part of any worthwhile learning process. Transition Year gives us the opportunity to move beyond the narrow focus of end-of-year written exams. The emphasis here is on varied and on-going assessment. Project work, port-folio, exhibition and entry of competition is as much a part of our assessment as written exams. In short, many of the subjects are assessed in class tests, some in competition (Mini-company and Junk Kouture) and more on performance (drama and Art and Craft exhibition).

What subjects are studied?

Subject	Numbers of classes
English	2
Irish	3
Maths	5
French/German	2
P.E	2
Mini-Company	4
Religion	2
History/Geography/Ag. Science	3
Computers	2
Careers	1
Science	2
Music/etiquette/Business	2
Home Economics	2
Art & Design	4
Folder work	1
St. Aidan's Primary School	2
Activities	3
TOTAL	42

Example of a TY timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9.00	St. Aidans	Science	Geography	P.E	Maths
9.45	St. Aidans	Science	Computers	P.E	Folderwork
10.35	Maths	Careers	Maths	Art	German
11.25	Irish	Home Ec	German	Maths	Mini-comp
12.05	German	Home Ec	Religion	Irish	Mini-comp
1.35	Etiquette	Religion	Activities	Etiquette	Spanish
2.20	Art	English	Activities	Geography	English
3.00	Art	Maths	Activities	Computers	Geography

Much of the above timetable is self explanatory, but there may be a few that need explanation.

St. Aidan's/ St. Senan's Primary School Work Experience: The students go directly to St. Aidan's/ St. Senan's Primary school at 8.50am on the morning they are timetabled. They will be divided up into smaller groups by the primary school teachers and they act as teachers with the younger students and help them one on one with basic literacy and numeracy exercises. Both TY and primary students love this experience and it benefits both groups.

2 week work experience:

The TY students will go out on two separate weeks work experience. One week in November and one week in March. The student will organise these two work experience slots themselves. The school will provide insurance certificates and other paperwork needed for the employer. This work experience is invaluable to the student for the experience as well as helping them later in the year with their leaving cert subject choices.

WORK EXPERIENCE – 1798 Centre and the Castle Museum.

Each week (Thursday and Friday) for the whole school year, two students from the Transition Year group go to help out in the 1798 Centre. This is a part of the organised work experience that we set up for them. Each student gets a least one chance to undertake this work experience.

Voluntary Work at the Enniscorthy Community Workshop.

TY students also take part in an 8 week module in the Community Workshop. They undertake a module of their choice e.g arts and crafts, make up, dancing etc... and teach and entertain the clients of the workshop for the eight week module.

Subject to changes in the Garda Vetting Laws

Voluntary Work in St. Senan's Primary School;

Homework Club and Team teaching.

Some students can sign up for Homework Club every Monday and Tuesday evening. This is done between 3-4pm so the girls are using their own time for this project. This work can be included as work experience in the Gaisce Awards.

The team teaching is done every Tuesday morning between 9.15 and 10.15. This is a program to improve numeracy and literacy and has benefits to both the "teacher" ie the Ty student and the primary pupil.

Activities; Each Wednesday afternoon (this day changes from year to year) an activity is organised for the group. Sometimes the students will be together as a group. Other times, we divide them into groups to undertake a module that interests them. Below is the list of some of the Wednesday activities of the past year to date;

- Wexford Enterprise Board Guest speaker – Mini-Company
- National Ploughing Championship, Athy
- Language bingo
- Film Week – Students write, act, produce and edit a short film
- Self Defence
- Reflexology

- Disability Talk
- First Aid week
- Hair care module
- Skin and make-up module
- Wexford Youth Theatre workshop
- Craft Exhibition
- Wexford Gaa fun day
- Carol Singing in St. John's Hospital.
- Dress rehearsal for the Fashion Show
- Drama module (8 weeks)
- Song and Dance module (8 weeks)
- Arts & craft Module (8 weeks)

There are many more...

These activities change from year to year...

There are literally dozens of activities involved in Transition Year in Coláiste Bríde. The following are the highlights of the year;

- The Bonding Day
- Retreats
- The National Ploughing Match
- Attending International Rugby Game in RDS
- Making a film in Film Week
- Visit to the Opera
- Attending exhibitions in Dublin – Eileen Gray & Press photography
- Stand up comedy Show
- The TY Craft Exhibition
- Carol Singing in Wexford/St. John's Day Care Hospital
- Organising Christmas Quiz
- The Junk Kouture Fashion Show
- The X-Cel Young Entrepreneur Competition
- Kayaking/Canoeing
- Gaisce Awards
- Talent Shows
- Graduation Night

The Colaiste Bride Transition Years have had tremendous successes over the years at regional and national level. Our two greatest achievements would have to be the success of the Mini-Company X-Cel Awards which is a national competition for enterprise and the Junk Kouture Fashion competition which we won outright in 2012 and appeared on The Late Late Show. These are great achievements but there are MANY other elements of our Ty Programme.

Q How are parents involved in Transition Year?

Parents' understanding of and support for student learning in TY is a key factor in the Transition Year experience. The fact you are here learning and contributing is showing support in itself! Parents must always feel they can ring or make an appointment to see the co-ordinator/teacher/Principal at any point throughout the year. The door is always open.

Q. Is there a danger that students may loose study skills in T.Y?

There is always a danger if the school and home do not work to ensure that the essential skills are maintained during the Transition Year programme. As you can see, the core subjects are taught weekly and assessed by the teacher in class time. Other subjects like Mini-Company (setting up, running and writing report on your experience) is assessed in a County wide competition. T.Y students will be extremely busy but in a different way. Their brains will not turn to mush during T.Y, we promise!!!

The leap from the Junior Cycle to the Leaving Certificate is indeed a large one. It is very rare that a student who finds the leap from TY to Leaving Cert difficult, would not have found the move problematic had the moved directly from third year. Studies show that on average, students who complete Transition Year achieve 25 more points than students who don't.

Q. How can parents support their daughter in Transition Year?

- Encourage your daughter to make the most of the TY programme. It really is a year from which the benefits accrued directly relate to the effort put in.
- Demonstrate as much interest in your child's daily educational activities as you would when she is following a Junior Certificate or Leaving Certificate programme.
- If you have any queries or suggestions regarding any aspect of TY, please come and see the Co-ordinator or the Principal early.
- Familiarise yourself with all the "extra" and "optional" activities the school offers throughout the year. Your daughter will not have a lot of traditional homework so she may have time to take part in extra-curricular activities. Students often only convey the activities that they are interested in to their parents. Therefore many valuable opportunities may be missed or overlooked. The co-ordinator will send out regular updates on what extra curricular activities have went on the previous term. We hope your daughter will have tried them all!!!
- As already mentioned, your daughter may not have a lot of "traditional" homework. TY opens the door to other ways of

learning. She will have many projects to complete and competitions to get ready for, namely the X-Cel Mini-Company competition and the Junk Kouture dress competition. She may need a helping hand from Mammy, Daddy, Granny and the neighbour from time to time. If your daughter is bored or has little or no work to do throughout the year, there is something wrong and contact the school immediately.

- If you have interest in an area that you think would be beneficial, interesting, educational or just pure fun.....to the TY program, please let the co-ordinator know.... Especially if it doesn't cost much money!!!! If you know any famous or influential guest speakers, we would LOVE to have them into the school. Please let us know.

Q. How much does the Transition Year Programme cost?

The cost of Transition year in Coláiste Bríde is €320 per student. (Students do not pay voluntary contributions in Ty students already pay a €320 fee.) This is a very competitive price and value for money is second to none. This €320 pays for visiting speakers, coaches, admission on trips away, activities and modules etc... To date last year, the students have not been asked for any extra money...however, on occasions they may be asked for small contributions. We ask for €20 non refundable deposit with the application form no later than March 16th, 2017. Then on acceptance of your daughters place, we request €100. Finally, in August we require the final instalment. The Transition Year full fee must be paid by mid August (before students return).

Notes to parents;

TEAMWORK

Ty students engage a lot in teamwork during the course of the TY year. Students pick their own teams. This can be a fantastic experience for some but some find this very challenging as deadlines approach example the Mini-Company Final Day and the Junk Kouture Fashion Show. This is perfectly normal and can be expected. We always sort out disagreements at these times but do encourage your daughter to try and put together a team that will work well together.

CLASSES

Your daughter will be placed into a class by the school. Once your daughter is placed there, NO changes will be made. Therefore she may not be based in the class with her best friend from third year. As you can appreciate, placing all 80 students with their preferred friends would not be plausible. This sometimes can worry a minority of students on the first day back, but give it a week or two and they always settle in. TY is a great opportunity for students to widen their circle of friends.

With this in mind, students should not make plans to set up teams for mini-company or Junk Kouture dresses over the summer as they may not even be allocated to the same class.

Optional extra trips: (cost not included in the €320)

- Gaeltacht trip to Achill Island – 5 day trip. All expenses, food, activities, transport included; €200
- Foreign Trip – Nothing arranged yet. 3/4 day trip to foreign country. We will discuss with the students in September to see if there is a demand.

Final Note:

We strive to teach your daughter to think outside the box and therefore we endeavour to take them outside the box during Transition Year. Remember, TY is not for everyone but it certainly has its benefits for whom it suits. Thanking you for your interest and time.