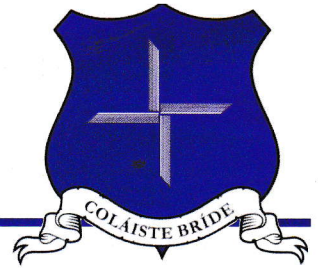


COLÁISTE BRÍDE

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford Tel: (053) 9234245

Email: office@colaistebride.ie Website: www.colaistebride.ie



18th August, 2020

Transition Year

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As another Transition Year journey begins - all I can say is that this year will be different from all the others that have gone before. That is NOT to say that it will be any less exciting or action packed. But the last six months dealing with the Covid-19 Pandemic have meant that we certainly will have challenges and obstacles to overcome in organising and preparing for Transition Year. I want to assure all parents that the Programme Co-ordinator and the four TY tutors have been working very hard to make sure that as much as possible will be organised for your daughter (adhering to Department of Health Guidelines) and huge efforts will be made to give TY students the best possible experience.

I spoke with incoming TY parents at the information evening in early March this year. Much has changed since then, namely the Team Teaching module in the primary schools and the Foreign School Tour have both been cancelled as a result of the Pandemic. However, we will work diligently to make sure that your daughter will experience many other great opportunities as the year unfolds.

Community Work/Work Experience - Every Wednesday for the full school year.
A revised programme of events is being compiled as part of the TY Programme this year. TY students this year will spend one day a week on Community Work/Work Experience. This will allow us to reduce the class sizes in Transition Year and further ensure the safety for all our students.

For the month of September, your daughter will be asked to find Community work every Wednesday. This work can be ANY type of work whereby she will be helping someone in the Community. For example, this could be helping the local tidy towns committee to clean up the local village, clean up your local beach, clean up the GAA pitch, weed a local public garden, babysit for a friend or neighbour. The list is endless and as long as you are helping in the local community - all work is acceptable. Students must have a mentor (someone who will sign a form to say this work has been completed).

Principal: Ms. Kiera O'Sullivan

Deputy Principal: Mr. Niall Moynihan

Work Experience will begin in October whereby your daughter will try to arrange work experience in a career area of their choice. I will help them with this when we return, organise Garda Vetting, letters from the school etc. All Work Experience will be organised in September (I will be helping them get organised) so it is more important that your daughter begins to think about and organise some Community Work that will commence in September.

In relation to school trips involving bus transport - All school bus trips will be carried out in line with the Department of Education and Science roadmap in reopening our schools,

- All school bus trips will follow the Department of Transport guidelines. Students MUST sit with their assigned partner on every trip and follow all relevant rules for social distancing and hygiene on every trip.

Please see the school website for all the relevant information and procedures to be followed in the "Letters to Parents, Guardians and students" section. (www.colaistebride.ie) Our bonding trip will take place on Sept 11th, 2020.

You will be asked to complete a permission slip (distributed on the Induction day), allowing your daughter to part-take in ALL the activities organised for the year ahead. It will be assumed that she will take part in every activity unless you the parent/guardian send in an email stating otherwise. If your daughter cannot attend a trip, please let me know by email in advance where possible. Please state in the email the date, trip location and a brief reason for not attending (e.g family occasion/medical appointment etc). If your daughter is sick on the day of a trip, please send an email explaining her absence on her return to school. Participation in all aspects of TY is a major part of the Transition Year Programme and important.

Behaviour

As you can appreciate, activities involving large numbers of teenagers can be tricky at the best of times. With the expanding numbers of participants in our TY programme, all school rules will apply to keep your daughter safe while in our care.

Namely;

- Your daughter's behaviour and attitude will be expected to be excellent at all times.
- Your daughter will be expected to be on time for every activity and bus collection point, listen and obey all rules and instructions from supervising teachers, stay with their group at all times, (no student is ever to be on their own), treat all teachers, staff and bus drivers with respect, act politely and behave properly at all times.
- Buses are expected to be left the way they find it.
- **All Covid 19 rules and regulations must be adhered to at all times.**

- Students must wear full uniform when requested to do so and treat each other properly and with respect at all times.
- No student may wear a nose ring at any time for health and safety reasons.
- Bullying of any sort will be treated severely.

We have an action packed year ahead for your daughter to enjoy and participate in. Our aim is to help your daughter grow, mature, develop and gain all sorts of wonderful experiences during this very important year. Please encourage your daughter to push herself, try new things and be open to new experiences. TY is a new way of learning. She may find certain aspects of TY difficult and struggle along the way, but she will look back and learn from these experiences.

If parents/guardians have any queries or need to speak to me regarding any aspects of Ty, please feel free to email me on margo.whelan@colaistebride.ie I will get back to you as soon as possible.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and enthusiasm towards our Transition Year Programme in Coláiste Bríde during these uncertain times. We look forward to meeting your daughter and helping her have an exciting and rewarding Transition Year.

Looking forward to meeting your daughter on Sept 1st for our Covid Safety Induction & Procedures Day. Your daughter will receive lots of information that day and need not worry about anything. All will be explained on the day.

Yours Sincerely,

Margo Whelan

TY and Programmes Co-Ordinator, Coláiste Bríde.
