

Transition Year Programme 2025/26

TY Co Ordinator

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TY QR CODE

Please feel free to scan the QR code to gain access to our TY Presentation.



Transition Year

“Transition Year is not suitable for every student.” - PC

25% of students said their school had not given them enough information on TY - ERC

40% of students felt it wasn't what they expected - ERC

“For some students, TY was regarded as a turning point that may turn out to have changed their lives.”

The Transition Year Experience – Educational Research Centre

What is Transition Year in CBS?

One year school-based programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle



It offers students a chance to engage in independent self-directed learning

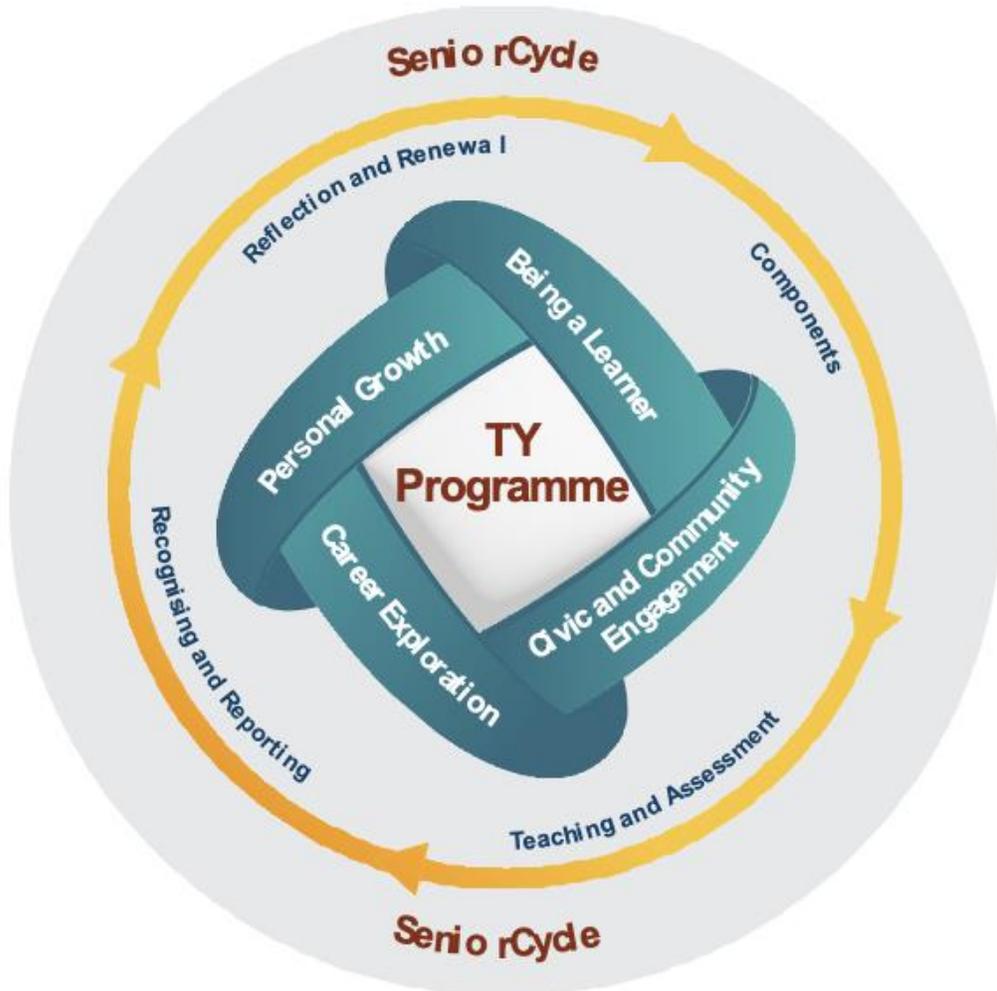


A chance to develop general, technical and academic skills



TY Theme 2025/26: Survive & Thrive

Transition Year 2025 – Student & Curriculum Dimensions



Student Dimension	Description
Personal Growth	Students mature socially and emotionally over the course of the year, developing in areas that include health and wellbeing, autonomy, identity, empathy and leadership.
Being a Learner	Building on their previous experiences, students begin to develop as senior cycle students, embracing opportunities and strategies for learning that work best for the student now and into the future.
Civic and Community Engagement	Students make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society. They learn to act on their responsibilities and exercise their rights as local, national and global citizens in ethical and sustainable ways.
Career Exploration	Students explore diverse future pathways in a guided and coordinated manner, gaining first-hand workplace experience, and developing career-related competencies.

TY Vision

"At St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise, our vision for our Transition Year programme is to empower our young men to make a meaningful impact on their community today while unlocking their full potential for the future."

"Through innovation, resilience, and excellence, we aim to help develop their skills and improve their mindset — ensuring they are not only prepared to navigate its challenges but to lead and excel within the modern world."

"Survive & Thrive!"



Why TY?

Increased responsibility and maturity

Challenging workplace ahead - early experience and enhancement of skills is a huge benefit.

Most increase Leaving Cert points

Encourages independence

Helps gain education experience to make considered choices for subject options – 80%!

Explore job opportunities outside of school

Develop new interests, explore new career ideas

NOT because your friends are doing it!

The TY Experience
is different to other
school years in 3
ways



Timetable



Work Experience &
Community Engagement



Calendar of
Activities

1. Timetable

Personal Growth

Being a Learner

Civic & Community Engagement

Career Exploration

Personal Growth

Continuity

- Physical Education (PE)
- SPHE

The time allocation for PE should be aligned to the Senior Cycle PE Framework.

SPHE should be once per week, not exceeding one hour per class.

TY specific

An array of modules that provide experiences for the development and growth of the student

The organisation of the components into semesters, blocks or across the entire year is decided at school level, including provision of experiences aligned to the values, ethos and pastoral care of the school.

Additional growth experiences

For example: guest speakers, government supported developmental awards, induction, competitions, school-wide events, such as plays, musicals, market days and themed days.

Students who wish to participate in externally provided learning experiences could also be accommodated but once it is within the context of the school's TY programme.

Some additional growth experiences may only arise during the year and would need to be notified to students, teachers and parents as soon as is practical.

Being a Learner

Continuity

Supporting student learning and development in the areas of Mathematics, English and Irish.

The class time allocation for each of these subjects should not exceed two hours per week. A school can build on the learning associated with these subjects through additional TY components or other areas of learning, within the parameters of the TY Programme Statement.

Elective

Modules that support, for example, sampling of senior cycle subjects and other areas of learning and development

The combined time allocation for these components is the equivalent of three to four hours per week, depending on school context.

Additional learning experiences

For example: study/research skills, themed learning days, life-skills, literacy and numeracy initiatives.

Some additional learning experiences may only arise during the year and would need to be notified to students, teachers and parents as soon as is practical.

Portfolio Development

Supporting and guiding students to fulfil the purpose of the TY portfolio

One class per week. Primary function is to support students in developing their TY portfolio over the year. The component may also be used, if feasible,

Student Dimension

Components

Guidance for accommodation of components

Civic And Community Engagement

Our own community

Local out-reach activities, community placement, social enterprise activities, education in cultural diversity

These components draw from TY specific modules, work and community placements additional experiences.

Our global community

- Education for Sustainable Development
- A meaningful student-led personal or collaborative action related to sustainable living.

These components can be supported through for example, a TY specific module related to education for sustainable development or another relevant student experience.

Work Placement

Community Placement

An appropriate and feasible balance of work based and community-based placements.

A time allocation amounting to the equivalent of two to four weeks of the programme is suggested.

Career Exploration

Career guidance

One class per week or classes timed to target key career-related learning or events during the year.

Additional career-related experiences

For example: guest speakers, tasters in apprenticeships/traineeships/ further education/higher education, information days, government supported developmental awards, certified short courses.

Some additional career-related experience provided by the school may only arise during the year and would need to be notified to students, teachers and parents as soon as is practical.

Subject/Module/Dimension	Hours
Personal Growth	
Portfolio Development	1 (Comp Rm) (Same Time) (Fri)
PE	1
SPHE	1
Religion	1
Computers	
Art & Set Design	2 (8 weeks) Musical
Dance	2 (8 weeks) Musical
Music	2 (8 weeks) Musical
Option	2 (8 weeks)
Film Studies	2
Robotics	2
Mini Company 1 & 2	2
Being a Learner	
Maths	2 (Same time)
Irish	2
English	2
MF Languages	2 (Same time)
Online Practical Certs	2 (Same time)
Biology	2 (8 weeks) (Same Time)
Physics	2 (8 weeks) (Same Time)
Chemistry	2 (8 weeks) (Same Time)
SciFest	2 (8 weeks) (Same Time)
Coding	2 (8 weeks) (Comp Rm)
Woodwork	2 (8 weeks)
DCG	2 (8 weeks)
Drama	2 (8 weeks)
History	2 (8 weeks)
Accounting	2 (8 weeks)
Home Economics	2 (8 weeks)
Geography	2 (8 weeks)
Civic & Community Engagement	
Education for Sustainable Development	2 (8weeks)
Education in Cultural Diversity	2 (8weeks)
Road Safety Matters	2 (8weeks)
Volunteering	2 (8weeks)
Career Exploration	
Careers 1 & World of Work	2 (Comp Rm) (Same Time)
Careers 2 & World of Work	2 (Comp Rm) (Same Time)
Financial Literacy	2
Choose Safety – Young People at Work	2
Total	28 Hours

2. Work Experience & Community Engagement

Career Exploration

Work Experience Preparation

Work Experience Weeks

School & Wider Community Engagement

Evaluations

Work Experience & Community Engagement Guidelines

Two different work experiences - Organised by students themselves

Must be suitable and hope they would be in line with future career/ study/ personal development goals

Community Engagement opportunities both inside and outside school activities

Garda vetting required if working with children or vulnerable adults

Insurance from school covers most activities – please check

If other opportunities present throughout the year no problem. Just email to let us know the details and dates

3. Calendar of Activities

Weeks are very busy with activities in TY at CBS.

We have plenty on offer for students, with some extra opt ins available as our Guidance Dept can discuss with you if it is needed.

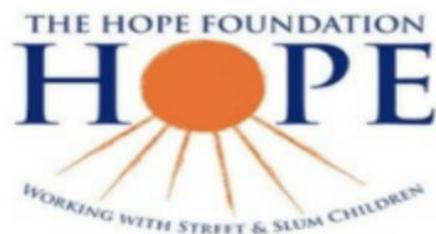
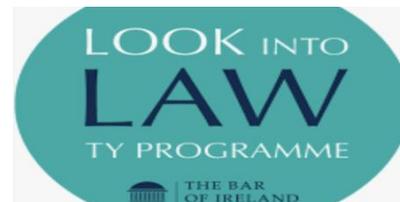
Some students opt into everything and make the most of the TY experience.

Unfortunately, others opt into very little.

Try to encourage participation as much as possible, the experience can pass them by otherwise.



YOU'RE NOT ALONE





Etiquette and Social Skills Training



Transition Year Assessment



Credit System



Behaviour & Attendance



**Engagement with class activities including
class exams / projects / presentations**



Portfolio Development



Extra Curricular



Work Experience & Community Engagement

Staying up to date with TY

Students – Our TY Notice board is on Microsoft Teams – all important notices, applications for opportunities/ activities/ work experience will be shared here.

Students can communicate with me via Teams messaging.

Parents - School App & Teams - Announcements and real time updates are shared via these accounts.

Parents can communicate with me via email or schedule a call/meeting.

Transition Year Fee

**The total fee for TY
this is year is €550.**

**Not Included:
Gaisce Overnight
Stay €75**

**Not Included:
All bus trips are €10
per trip.**

**Non-refundable €150 is
due March 7th with
acceptance form. The
remainder (€400) is
then due on May 16th.**

**Not included:
Carlingford €250
approx. is due on
return to school**

**Not included:
European Trip**

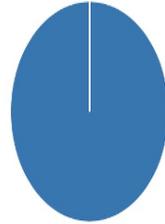
Parent Feedback

2024

1. Do you believe the TY programme in St. Mary's CBS has been beneficial for your son?

[More Details](#)

- Yes
- No



2023

1. Do you believe the TY programme in St. Mary's CBS has been beneficial for your son?

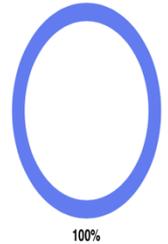
- Yes 30
- No 0



2022

1. Do you believe the TY programme in St. Mary's CBS has been beneficial for your son?

- Yes 18
- No 0



TY has allowed my son to mature, gain new skills and not have pressure of exams for 1 year. He has been able to gain work experience which has given him a new confidence.

Matured in the year, completed activities he hadn't done before. Enjoyed his work experience

He has had exposure to things that he would not normally have tried out.

It has been so beneficial because of the broad range of activities. In particular the musical, it gave him an opportunity to do something he never would have done otherwise and completely out of his comfort zone. He said it was an amazing experience and so much fun.

Became more confident and made new friends

The range of opportunities was impressive. He got to take part in a host of activities that he enjoyed and that also challenged him at times. He needed the year to reset after the awful time tragedies in recent times that affected this class group.

He loved the bogathon and cork trip. He also really enjoyed the barista training and has started drinking Mochas! He always liked art but never did it so it was lovely to do graffiti and make pottery. First aid was v interesting

Opportunities to try new activities, outside the comfort zone, focus on developing independence and identifying own strengths and preferences. Some fun activities added to the enjoyable experience.

The students get treated like young adults and it is helping them mature into young men

Lots of variety which has made the experience really enjoyable

He seems to be enjoying every minute of it

He's enjoying the less structured environment & spending valuable time experiencing new life skills

He has come out of his shell a bit and is more open to try new experiences Has enjoyed all the trips and the sense of freedom and ability to put in his own structure

Has given him the opportunity to think about what he would like to do after school following the work experience The mini co has allowed him to build his confidence

I think even the trips to Dublin, Cork etc. are beneficial in giving them a bit of independence and learning time keeping (meet back for the bus), managing their own money, navigating new areas etc., all night seem simple but are basic life skills.

I think that in our current co-vid environment that TY gives my son a chance to reevaluate his direction in what is or should be a relaxed year in order for him to grow as a person

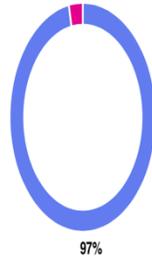
My son has enjoyed all the programmes especially the work experience. I think it has given him an insight into different areas and possible opportunities to pursue re studies and future employment

Student Feedback

2024

1. Are you glad you did TY?

Yes 63
No 2



2023

1. Are you glad you did TY?

[More Details](#) [Insights](#)

Yes 65
No 1

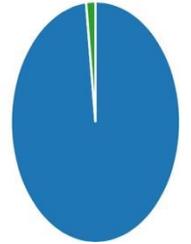


2022

1. Are you glad you did TY?

[More Details](#)

Yes 55
No 0
Other 1



I find it a fun experience overall I enjoy the classes and the work experience is great

Loads of new experiences I wouldn't have ever done otherwise, spending time and having the craic with classmates is great

I'm enjoying because it's not as stressful as a normal school year and we also have more freedom and responsibility around the school

I am making a lot of new friends and I'm really enjoying the trips. Also I am learning a lot about life skills and how the real life world works

I'm really enjoying the trips and am having a good time during work experience.

I'm enjoying ty because I'm trying new things and it good craic

First time I've been out in the working world. Enjoying the workshops and the new skills I'm learning. The trips have all been good, my favourite being Carlingford and the bogathon. Talking and having the craic with lads in my year I haven't talked with before.

I would say write down a list of things that you might be interested in doing - medicine, engineering, etc - and research any programmes, activities or work placements associated with that to get a sense of what it's like; because no matter how good our schools TY programme is the best experience will be what you've learned about yourself from trying these different things.

Take it as a year to try things you wouldn't usually do - put yourself out there.

I am enjoying because it is a lot of fun with my friends going on trips and spending time socialising with peers and teachers. I've made new friends from ty. The work experience is good and shows you how hard work can be. I like mini company and how the teachers get so involved and make you work and give you tips on what to do,

Having fun and interacting with teachers and students more

Action packed with various activities

You get to try out new things

I get to learn a lot more for experience and am more sociable

I am enjoying Ty due to the various workshops we do frequently like the barista training as they they will be useful for me later on in life. The trips that are organised for us are Also amazing as they allow us to bond with other students that we may not know.

8. Rate your enjoyment of the year

8.77

Average Rating



Next steps



Students must complete the online application form and submit it by Monday March 3rd at 2pm.



Students will receive an acceptance form on March 4th by 8am if their application is successful.



€275 is then due by March 7th to confirm your place and the balance of €275 is due by May 16th 2024.

Admissions – Suitability of Candidates

Application & Selection Process

- All students are encouraged to apply, but TY may not suit everyone.
- Application form & student reflection on their reasons for choosing TY.

Suitability Discussions

- **Student Conversations** – One-on-one discussions to assess motivation, engagement, and expectations.
- **Teacher Input** – Feedback from subject teachers, Year Head, and pastoral care team.
- **Parent Involvement** – Consultation if necessary to ensure the best decision for the student.

Key Considerations

-  Willingness to engage in experiential learning
-  Positive attitude towards teamwork & new challenges
-  Level of independence & self-motivation
-  Ability to benefit from TY structure

 **Final Decision:** The school reserves the right to determine suitability based on discussions and feedback.

