

St Aidan's Community College

Transition Year Programme

2021– 2022



Aims and objectives of the Programme

Transition year programme is designed to provide the integrated development of the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical, social and vocational capacities of each pupil. The principle objective of the Transition Year is to prepare young people for their role as participative and responsible members of society. The Transition Year offers students the opportunity to review and consolidate the work done in the Junior Cycle, explore new areas and methods of study, and make more mature and informed choices regarding their future development and learning.

Aims of the Transition Year Programme are:

- **To provide a better chance for all our pupils**

The extra year brings extra maturity and students are encouraged to take more responsibility for their learning and involvement in a variety of activities throughout the Transition Year programme.

- **To help pupils start again, catch up, aim higher, and go further**

When a pupil goes straight from the Junior Certificate to the Leaving Certificate programme, there's very little time to help those who've developed late, lost their way, fallen behind, or sold themselves short. Students are given a chance in Transition Year to study all the subjects available for the Leaving Cert

programme so they can make an informed decision for their Leaving Certificate. Students are also encouraged to get involved in areas of interest through the variety of additional modules and courses offered.

- **To help pupils become Autonomous Students**

We live in a Learning Society. Life-long learning is already a feature of life and work in the modern world. We offer encourage students to become better learners, by using a variety of the assessment methods offered by teachers allowing students to put this new knowledge into practice.

- **To encourage pupils to aim for a third-level qualification**

Transition year allows students to investigate what they would like to do after school life with work experience and with their career guidance class and visits to the local colleges and university.

Programme Content

St Aidan's Transition Year Programme builds on pupil's knowledge and skills from the Junior Cycle and allows them to gain new experiences and skills. The subjects pupils complete are split into three groups: **core subjects** which pupils will complete throughout the whole year and **Options** possible Leaving Cert subjects and **Modules** which give students life skills to help them develop the tools to look after their physical and mental wellbeing.

Core	Options	Modules 10 weeks
Irish	Engineering	Home Economics
English	French	Safety
Maths	DCG	Art
Religion	Geography	Drama
Career guidance	Business Studies	Book Club
PE	History	Games
Meditation	Biology	Philosophy
Learning to Learn	Construction Studies	Street Art
Tutorial	Accounting	Gardening
History		
Geography		

Pupils will also participate in a variety of additional programmes:

Drive for Life

Work Experience

The Gaisce Award

First Aid

AIB School Bank

Janssen Partnership

School Tour

Reward Trips

CAT 4 Exam

CIT open day

CIT Experience

Drugs workshop

Pastoral Care Team

Programme coordinator: Mr. E. Breen

Year Tutor: M Quane

Class Tutors Ide D. O Neill

Bridig B. O Meara

Assessment

Transition year allows for a variety of assessment to be used and teachers are encouraged to use as many of the following assessment methods. All subjects have 70% written exam and 30% using a variety of the following assessment methods this is to encourage students to experience the variety of learning styles and to find new talents

- A project
- A portfolio
- An essay
- A report
- An interview

- An oral presentation
- Self-assessment
- Keeping a learning journal
- End of unit exam

Reports

Students will be assessed by continuous assessment, with reports sent home twice a year at:

- Christmas
- Summer exams in early May

Reports for modules will be inputted at Christmas and May. Grades must be inputted as a percentage for core and option subjects so points can be calculated using the ordinary level CAO point system using Irish English and Maths from the core subject and 4 from the option subjects. The module subjects will give a statement of Pass Merit and Distinction.

Teachers also nominate 3 students from their class after each assessment the nominated students will receive a certificate of achievement and be offered a place in a reward trip.

Rewards

Teachers can nominate 3 students from their class after each assessment for modules this is in February and May after the assessments. The nominated

students will receive a certificate of achievement and be offered a place in a reward trip on condition they have 85% attendance rate or above and have no outstanding STX and overall good behaviour.

Work Experience

Work experience is a key element of Transition Year it allows students to examine careers and see first-hand how their chosen career functions. It helps develop students work ethic, social and communication skills, learning new skills and talents, learning the jargon of the job and make valuable contact in the area of their choice.

They are also afforded the opportunity to investigate the different pathways to achieving their career path in career guidance. Students become more aware of the importance of the subject choice in relation to the career and college options available to them.

Timeframe

Sept. to Oct. During this time students prepare their CVs and cover letters in Career Guidance class with the help of the Guidance Counsellor.

Canvass for work placement in desired area of interest

Dec. Work placement is from Monday 13th to Wednesday 22nd of December

Procedure

- Work experience is run with the help of the career guidance class where students are given help to formulate a C.V. and cover letter. Students are also encouraged to investigate the college courses required for their chosen work placement.
- When students have a completed CV and cover letter they are given a Letter of introduction from the school and the insurance letter. (see appendix for example)
- On securing work placement students return the Employer Information to the Transition Year coordinator. (see appendix for example)
- During their placement students complete a work experience diary for each day and an overall review at the end about how they found the whole experience. (see appendix for example)
- Employers complete a Student review to be returned to the school. (see appendix for example)

TY Celebration

In May we celebrate the work and achievements of the students in TY, at the celebration we present the students with their TY folder. The Folder reflects the participation of the student and willingness to get involved and challenge themselves throughout the year. Their parents will be invited for the celebration and student work will be displayed with photos of the different activities

The Ty folder includes:

- Certificate of Achievement at 3 different levels Distinction, Merit and Pass. It also includes their attendance rate up to the week of the celebration.
- CV and cover letter and employer review
- First Aid cert
- Drive 4 Life Cert

- Subject certs
- Activities certs that student took part in throughout the year.
- Gaisce and other certificates issued by teachers for work above and beyond what was expected

Award	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Attendance	90% min	80% min	79 & below
TY folder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV and cover letter and employer review • First Aid cert • Drive 4 Life Cert • List of activities the student took part in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV and cover letter and employer review • First Aid cert • Drive 4 Life Cert • List of activities the student took part in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CV and cover letter and employer review • First Aid cert or Drive 4 Life Cert • List of activities the student took part in
Irish, English, Maths & 4 Options	392 To 322	321 To 259	258 To 140

Feedback

Throughout the year student input is welcome and encouraged with a monthly meeting with Maors to discuss issues and ideas for the program from the student. At the end of the year we also do a student survey and parent survey at the TY celebration. (See appendix for example) the findings are discussed with

management and staff in September to help plan for the year ahead and are discussed with the whole staff at the following September meeting.

Planning

Planning takes place throughout the year and a core team of the Coordinator, Deputy principal and Career guidance teacher with an open invitation to all staff. The views of the Maor is fed into the group by the coordinator.

