



**St Aidan's Community College
Transition Year Programme**

2017– 2018

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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. **Modules** which are a mixture between the subjects students can choose for senior cycle and those which give students life skills. The modules are Drama, Safety, IT, Engineering, Construction Studies and Technical Graphics which pupils will complete over an 11 week period. Finally there are **half year subjects** of Geography/History and Business/Accounting

Core	½ year	Modules 11 weeks
Irish	Music	Drama
English	Physic	Safety
Maths	Home Economics	Engineering
Religion	Art	IT
Career guidance	Business Studies	Tech Graphics
PE	Civic	Construction
French	Fitness	
SPHE	Accounting	

History	Chemistry	
Geography	Biology	

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	Sciath na Scoile
CAT 4 Exam	CIT open day
CIT Experience	Career Exhibition
Reward Trips	Drugs workshop
Collins Barracks Work experience	

Pastoral Care Team

Programme coordinator: Mr. E. Breen

Year Tutor: Ms R. Desmond

Class Tutors

Ambrose	Mr J. Doyle
Conall	Ms J. O Donovan
Eithne	Ms. J Furlong

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 40% written exam and 60% 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

There are 2 set assessments throughout the year

- Mid-Year 18th to 21st Dec with reports sent home in January
- Summer

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.

Students Work & Awards

During the Transition Year Parent teacher meeting on the 9th of November student work will be on display and teachers are encouraged to present the work done by the Transition Year Students. Transition year awards will be presented at the school awards night in May.

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

Nov. Work placement is from Monday 20th to Friday 24th of November

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 A & B)
- On securing work placement students return the Employer Information to the Transition Year coordinator. (see appendix c)
- 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 d)
- Employers complete a Student review to be returned to the school. (see appendix e)

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. 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
- List of activities the student took part in
- 4 speakers reviews
- 5 Activities reviews
- 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 • 4 speakers reviews • 5 Activities reviews 	<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 • 2 speakers reviews • 3 Activities reviews 	<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 • 1 speakers reviews • 2 Activities reviews
Academic Points from 5 core & 3 ½ year subjects	448 To 368	367 To 224	223 To 96

