



## **Transition Year 2009/10** **Information**

TY is an optional year taken by students who have completed their Junior Cert and are either not ready for Leaving Cert or would like a new challenge in their lives. It provides students with an opportunity to develop certain skills to help them decide on subject choice or career option. During this period of transition from Junior Cert. to Leaving Cert. TY helps to make this transition easier by providing the student with a wide range of subjects and activities.

Some students decide to do TY because of their age. For example, they may feel too young when they would be due to leave school, or they may feel they need an extra year to develop academically in one of the Core subjects in Leaving Cert - English, Maths, Irish, French/Spanish.

Other students may decide to do TY to help develop their self-esteem, confidence and maturity. TY helps to facilitate this through the outreach aspect and extra curricular activities. These include: Gaisce, The Presidents Award Scheme, voluntary work with disabled children, working with senior citizens, Enable Ireland. etc. Students also gain valuable experience working in industry. Students are placed for one week in a job of their choice. This helps them decide if this is the career option for them, and, if it is, then their LC subject choice helps them to take this a step further. TY helps students to take control of their learning process by encouraging them to 'Learn how to learn'. Guiding students in their work and allowing them time to take part in projects and research achieves this. This can be of enormous value later in education as the student has matured in this learning process.

Due to the uncertain nature of the economy and of job creation students may decide to stay an extra year in school so as to 'hold back' from entering the college scene and job market until the 'crisis has subsided.

## **Living Scenes**

Living Scenes involves the students meeting with senior citizens every Friday morning and taking part in art, drama, music and literature. This has been very successful in breaking down barriers between young and old alike and is the only project of its type in Ireland. This project is now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year in the school and is one of the highlights of the TY year.



Living Scenes Carol Service

## **Mini Company**

Students set up a Mini Company within the school and run it under the Junior Achievement Programme. The students elect a Managing Director, Finance Committee etc. This Company is then entered into the regional finals in Sligo where their work is judged. This year the students have reached the Sligo showcase where they will present their project T.I.F.S (Tourist Information For students).



Mini Company display

TY helps students to empower themselves to become active and participative members of society if they take the year seriously. If they do this then TY is a valuable year of self-evaluation and a maturing process

## **Gaisce: The President's Award Scheme**

All students are registered to take part in the Gaisce programme. Each student must complete four categories to receive this award which is presented by the Mayor of Galway on graduation night. The four categories are;

- Community Involvement: This involves the voluntary work programme within the school.
- Personal Skill - Guitar lessons, art, computers etc.
- Physical Recreation - Walking, football, basketball etc.
- Venture Project - Trip to the Aran Islands

On completion of the four criteria the student will receive her bronze award.



On The Aran Islands

## **Work Experience/College experience**

Students will take part in a work experience programme twice in the year. They may decide to try out a job in which they are interested in pursuing later in their lives or they may decide to go to college for a week.



Working with RTE

## **The Following are Points of Relevance to TY 2009/10**

### **Mission statement**

- To promote the personal, social and educational development of the student
- To develop certain practical skills
- To prepare the student for their role as responsible and participative members of society

### **New Experiences**

- New academic subjects
- Broader view on learning
- Extra curricular activities
- New challenges
- Develop new interests and skills
- Relief from academia
- Paired Reading
- Mini Company

### **TY Subjects**

- Maths
- Irish
- English
- French/Spanish/Italian
- Art
- Home Ec
- Information Technology
- Science project with NUIG
- Music
- PE (Swimming, Health and wellness, CPR)
- Religion/Humanities
- Career guidance
- Living Scenes
- Business Studies
- Junior Achievement

Due to the nature of Transition Year, subjects and courses can change during the year as they become available to schools. This gives the programme an added dynamic as it allows the students to face challenges in the curriculum.

## **Trips**

- Delphi Out Door Activity Centre (28<sup>th</sup> 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2009)
- Dublin (Overnight)
- Tour of Aran Islands (Overnight)
- Retreat to Esker (Overnight)
- All students in school pay €75 Book Hire, €30 Locker, personal accident insurance and photocopying and an Educational contribution of €60
- TY students pay €300 to cover all trips, accommodation, activities and transport.
- This can be paid in one installment or throughout the year.
- Full payment by March 1st 2010

There are a number of web sites which you may view to gain a greater insight into the Transition Year Programme. The following may be of interest to you in helping make the right decision for you.

1. <http://www.ncte.ie/transition/index.html>
2. <http://www.ncca.ie/index.asp?locID=281&docID=-1>
3. <http://ty.slss.ie/>

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## **Photo Gallery**

