



# St. Peter's College Secondary School



**Parent/Guardian Information Evening**

**March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019**

# Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

---

Dear Parent/Guardian,

To help prepare you and your son for an enjoyable and rewarding Transition Year, I have put together details of the TY course we offer in St. Peter's College, as well as additional information to help you better understand what can be done to enhance your son's TY experience

## **The Aims and Objectives of TY are:**

To provide Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.

The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.

Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

## **Applying for Transition Year:**

- Last week your son attended a presentation regarding the details of TY and was asked to talk to you regarding the pros and cons of opting for it.
- He was given an application form and this is due for return on March 29<sup>th</sup>, there is a box in the front office to return it.
- Questions posed to your son during this presentation are given below; they may help you in your conversation with him.
- It is crucial to explain to your son that TY is not an entertainment year; it is still a year of school. Yes, his experiences will be vastly different from what he is used to but he must commit to the programme to get the best out of it.

## Deciding to do TY?

- You need to stop and think very carefully about this decision.  
Consider the following:
  1. How old will you be sitting your LC in 2022?
  2. Do you know what subjects you want to do for your LC right now?
  3. Have you looked into college courses/careers that may interest you when you leave school?
  4. Are you mature enough to go into LC1 now?
  5. Do you need a change of scenery in terms of your class group that you have now?
  6. Do you want to experience subjects that otherwise you didn't have the chance to do in the JC?
  7. Is there a job you would like to sample out and see what it is really like before you make decisions about your future?
  8. Does your attendance hold you back in school?
  9. Have you spoken to current TY students about their experience?

# Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

---

## Transition Year cost and other finances to consider:

- **The fee for TY for 2019-2020 is €450 per student.** The first payment of €250 is due by May 18<sup>th</sup> and the balance of €200 by August 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Payments can be made directly to the office or on VSware.
- A payment plan is not an issue should you wish to spread the cost, please contact Linda or Catherine in the front office and they will be glad to sort an arrangement out.
- School Journal will cost €10, School insurance (currently about €8 but may change), Gaisce (optional if your son participates in it €15)
- The TY fee covers all courses and trips your son participates in during the year.

## Please note:

- Your **son's attendance must be excellent** throughout the year. If for any reason he is absent, the school must be notified in the usual manner or he must have a note with him explaining his absence on the day he returns. These notes should be given to the Class Tutor during Tutor time.
- Should your son have issues obtaining Work Experience, the school will gladly help him organise some placement. The dates for Work Experience are clearly laid out at the start of the year so it is a good idea to plan ahead and be organised before a term begins. These dates are **cannot be changed**.
- If you feel at any stage your son is starting to disengage, contact the school immediately. A plan can be put in place to re-motivate him.

## What subjects will my son cover this year?

Each term, Gaelige, English, Mathematics, Computer Studies and PE will be studied by all students. In the case of Gaelige, English and Mathematics a new teacher will be assigned as they will begin a new module for that term relating to the subject. Mathematics lessons are streamed based on Junior Certificate performance so as to afford each student a comfortable learning environment.

Your son will experience the full complement of Leaving Certificate subjects, including additional non-curricular subjects that are exclusive to TY only. **Each term he will receive a new timetable** (available on VSware before a new term will begin). The "sampling" of Senior Cycle option subjects will help better inform your son what subjects he is best suited to for the Leaving Certificate.

TY exclusive modules include; Driver Theory, Nutrition, Mindfulness, Consent workshop, Meditation, Psychology, Sports Psychology, Film studies, Programming, Literacy and Media Studies. New modules will be added this year and a proposed new module selection and rotation system.

## Module Assessment:

In most modules your son will be required to complete one or more of the following:

- Individual or group presentation
- Written work based on their module experience
- Completion of a module booklet
- Assessment specific to module requirements

**Term reports:** Your son will have a Term report for the first four terms of his Transition Year, this is available on VSware at the end of each term. Check into it regularly to keep an eye on his progress.

# Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

---

**Please note and explain the following point clearly to your son:**

**Failure to complete module requirements will result in Module Incompletion** and your son may be excluded from TY trips and events. Your son's attendance and participation in the TY programme may also result in him being disallowed from attending a trip or TY activity. Please discuss regularly with your son how they are progressing through the year and notify the school should you feel he is losing focus or motivation.

## **Section 1: Transition Year Trips and Events**

This year in 2018-2019 TY students have 19 trips organised for them. They are a health mix of academic and fun based activities for all to enjoy. Attendance at a trip is subject to the following:

- A trip must be signed up to by your son, this is to avoid unnecessary waste of TY funds for students who are a "no show" on the morning of a trip.
- Your son's attendance must not fall below 85% (unless for medical reasons)
- Your son completes all of his project work/class requirements on time
- Behaviour and following the code of behaviour for the school.

Failing any of the above, your son will be **removed from the trip and required to stay in school for the day instead.**

## **What do you need to do?**

A permission letter is will be distributed in September that you and your son will need to sign and return to school. The letter will serve to provide permission for all trips throughout the Transition Year programme. It will also require you to give full details about any **medical conditions** and/or medications your son may require.

Trip attendance: Every trip we go on is at a financial cost, your son is expected to sign up to a trip before he attends it. In the event he becomes unwell or cannot attend **the school must be contacted** no later than 5pm on the **evening before the trip.**

You can message me directly on 0861415165.

## **Section 2: TY Work Experience :**

- It operates on the Tuesday of each term.
- Your son will experience **two rounds of Tuesday work experience** during his five terms in School. The Tuesday work experience **cannot** be swapped for a week block. It is timetabled into your son's academic calendar and therefore cannot be changed.
- He will have a **one week block** work experience at the end of term five from.
- The work experience forms must be completed and returned to your son's class tutor before Work experience commences.
- All work experience forms are given to your son **at the start of the year**. It is important that they are kept safe as copies will only available from the school website.
- School insurance forms (once the insurance fee is fully paid, which can be completed in the main office) are available from the front office or can be downloaded from the school website. Please note, School Insurance **does not cover** the following, **Farm work, Building Site work, any work on a Boat /water or any work that involves a blade or a knife.** Should your son wish to do a work experience where any of the aforementioned are present you will have to check if he is covered under the Employer's insurance policy or your own.

## Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

---

- Contact potential employers early and have your son issue them with the form and return it to the school.
- Should there be a difficulty in sourcing work experience please contact the school and we will assist you son.

Depending upon what TY class your is in the following schedule of work experiences will apply:

Term	Dates	Who is on Work Experience?
1	September October	4A and 4O (TY1 and TY4)
2	November December	4I and 4U (TY3 and TY5)
3	January – February	4E and 4O (TY2 and TY4)
4	February– March	4A and 4I (TY1 and TY3)
5	April– May	4E and 4U (TY2 and TY5)
5	May – June	All TY (Full Week Block) 4A, 4E, 4I, 4O and 4U

These terms of work experience are fixed and cannot be changed.

**Extra Work Experience:** Should your son wish to do an extra work experience, the procedure is simple. He will need to get an “Extra Work Experience Form” directly from his Year Head. These are available from his Year Head only. This must be then completed and signed by the employer or parent/guardian outlining the dates he will be on work experience. Failure to complete this before the date of the work experience will result in your son being marked absent and will affect his overall attendance rate.

### **Section 3: TY extracurricular activities:** TY Gaisce: The President’s Award

- There are three levels of Gaisce Award: Bronze, Silver and Gold. Each participant must start and successfully complete the Bronze Award before they can progress to Silver and if they wish onto Gold.
- The Bronze Award : Each student must complete:
  - An overnight stay and a 25km walk, this is completed in Carne at the end of September.
  - 26 Hours of a Special Skill (1 hour per week, this is provided in school time through Microsoft Office lessons)
  - 13 Hours of a Physical Activity (1 hour per week), this again is completed in School through participation in PE lessons
  - 13 Hours volunteering (1 hour per week), this must be completed outside of school with a charity or a club.
- Please note: 1 hour can only be entered per week, if your son for example completed two hours of volunteering in one week, it will only count as 1 Gaisce hour.
- Diary entries are very easy to complete: your son will open a Gaisce Account in School using his name and mobile phone number as his password. He can enter his Gaisce entries at the end of each computer lesson over the course of the year.
- Application to complete the Gaisce course will be open in September to all TY students.
- €15 will be required from each student who wishes to do Gaisce. This is usually sorted by the end of September.
- If your son does not complete his Gaisce by May 4<sup>th</sup> he can do so over the Summer Holidays.
- [www.gaisce.ie](http://www.gaisce.ie)

# Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

---

## Section 4: Modular rotations and subject details:

Each term your son will receive a new timetable with a new list of subjects for him to participate in. Subjects that are exempt from this are detailed below:

1. **Enterprise:** now is the time for your son to form a group and think about a business they would like to run. By the October break the best plans will continue on to do Enterprise and all other students will complete Business modules in the place of their Enterprise lessons.
2. An Enterprise group can be formed with any of your son's friends from any other TY class and they will work together on their project for the year (assuming they are successful in making it past October review).
3. We are trying to implement module selection for this coming year of 2019-2020. A triple class will hopefully be timetabled where your son can select one of the following modules to work on for half of the academic year. After Christmas they can select a new module for the remainder of their year. The modules we hope to run are:
  - Computer Programming
  - St. Vincent de Paul community involvement
  - Cycling and cycling Safety (bike and safety helmet required)
  - Technical Graphics (Exclusive to students who **did not** get to opt for it for the Junior cycle)
  - GAA Future Leaders

## Section 5: General information

- If your son is considering moving to a European Country to take part in an educational programme, the school will need a letter directed to his Year Head outlining the exact dates he will be away. Please make sure to talk to the Year Head in advance as they will have to adjust your son's attendance for that period of time.
- Applying for extracurricular courses: a lot of institutions and Government Departments offer TY specific experiences and courses. Some have a cost involved and this will have to be covered by you as it does not factor in with the TY-budget. The majority of these have very specific deadlines and require detailed insurance forms. Please check the dates and allow time for us to sign and return forms as well as organising your son's insurance. The Defence Forces also offer week long courses and information regarding this is available online. A list has been supplied below of other courses your son may be interested in.
- The school tour or TY-tour is organised currently by Mr. Mooney. Mr. Mooney usually meets with the TY-year group in the first term to discuss their tour. The school Tour is an extra cost to students and does not factor in to the fee of €450 assigned to Transition Year.
- To make the most out of the Year will require planning and the determination to make full use of it, if you feel or your son expresses at any stage that he is beginning to disengage with the year please contact me or his Year Head immediately. Usually involvement in an extracurricular activity or a focused work experience helps them along and re-motivates them to re-engage.
- In school activities and committees: Your son may need to develop his social skills and a good way to do it is to get involved in a school based project such as Rotary project, Build a Bank, Readers/Scribes for the House and Mock Examinations, Green Schools, Library Committee, SVP or if there is something your son would like to explore and work on he can suggest it to me in September.
- **Garda Vetting:** under new legislation Garda Vetting is required by all persons who are 16 and over where they are going to work or be on work experience in a place with Children or vulnerable individuals. All

## Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

Primary Schools require Garda Vetting. If your son wishes to go on placement in a Primary School please contact the school regarding their Vetting procedure, if they are happy for us in St. Peter's to get your son Garda Vetted we can arrange this for him with no problem. You need to allow **four weeks for vetting to be completed**. The procedure is outlined below for you:

1. Two forms must be collected from the TY office NVB1 and NVB3.
2. Both will be completed by you and your son and returned to the school where we write to the JMB to secure vetting for your son.
3. An email will be sent to you the parent/guardian for completion
4. Vetting is then secured and can be printed for the school.

**Extracurricular Courses:** There are an abundance of activities and events your son can participate in outside of the normal class routing during his time in TY. Most of these events, do however have deadlines for application forms and will therefore require constant checking to secure a place. For any activities that operate outside of school (unless they are entire TY events) the school will not provide transport to or from the desired activity, nor will accommodation be arranged for your son. Please keep an eye on [www.tyireland.com](http://www.tyireland.com) for closing dates and application forms. Some course will require a copy of the School Insurance Form in your son's name, this can take up to a week to organise so please act early by contacting Catherine in the office as soon as possible. Examples of TY activities your son may be interested in applying for while in TY are:

<p><b>The Bar Ireland</b></p> <p>A one- week programme giving insight into a career as a barrister. 100 participants will be selected by process of a lottery and only one name to be entered per school. Costs are covered, except accommodation and transport to and from The Bar of Ireland's office each day.</p>	<p><b>Try Nursing TY Programme</b></p> <p>2- day programme in October.</p> <p>The programme takes place at WIT over two days and activities will include talks on nursing as a career, student presentations, nursing laboratory skills, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, first aid, clinical scenarios and a tour of WIT facilities</p>	<p><b>School of Veterinary Medicine TY Programme</b></p> <p>A 1- week programme for TY Students who are thinking of studying veterinary medicine. Programme is run in February each year. Aims to give students a taste of what it is like to be a vet student in UCD. Students get to sit in on lectures, attend laboratories and observe staff and students in the Vet Hospital</p>	<p><b>Mini Med TY Programme</b></p> <p>Applications close in Sept so apply early. Programmes run in Dublin (January) and Waterford (February)The Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI) offers a five day experience for Transition Year students interested in a career in Medicine. The programme covers a wide variety of topics and introduces students to both undergraduate and postgraduate aspects of a career in medicine</p>
<p><b>BEES TY Programme</b>Competitive application process closes October. UCC's School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Science offers students the opportunity to study and work alongside staff and students for a week to get a feel for areas like Plant Science, Zoology, Environmental Science and Geology. Students also visit the Eureka Centre, the Boole Library and get a guided tour of the UCC campus.</p>	<p><b>Pharmacy &amp; Pharmaceutical Studies TY Programme</b>Experience during one week what studying Pharmacy is all aboutTCD's School of Pharmacy &amp; Pharmaceutical Studies runs two programmes for Transition Year Students, in October and in February. Application deadline for these are in September and December restively. Formal applications should be sent to the transition year coordinator, Asst. Prof. Fabio Boylan (fabio.boylan@tcd.ie)</p>	<p><b>Chemistry TY Programme</b>Applications close when capacity is reached, so apply earlyTCD School of Chemistry hosts a week-long programme for 60 Transition Year students. The programme includes introductory lectures, experiments, presentations and a college tour. Programme usually runs near end of February but places fill up very early.</p>	<p><b>Physics TY Programme</b></p> <p>A week in November and two one-day events in MarchInformation is sent out to Schools in early September 2016. The deadline for receipt of Applications will also be announced in early September. For any queries please contact Helen O'Halloran on (01) 896 4141 or by email type@tcd.ie</p>
<p><b>Compute TY Programme</b></p> <p>Contact Christine.Stears@computing.dcu.ie / 01-7005237</p> <p>DCU's School of Computing runs programmes covering the following; Web design, App Inventor and Introduction to Programming. Students may elect to do only one stream. The overall content offers a broad range of computing skills.</p>	<p><b>Engineering Your Future TY Programme</b></p> <p>Applications open in January and programme runs in May</p> <p>EYF is a week-long, hands-on programme, for TY students who have an interest in science and maths. It is designed to introduce them to the exciting and diverse world of engineering. The event is supported by STEPS and hosted by a number of third-level institutes throughout Ireland.</p>	<p><b>Biochemistry &amp; Immunology TY Work Experience Programme</b>Applications close early, so apply earlyTCD's School of Biochemistry &amp; Immunology runs work-experience weeks for Transition Year students. Students spend half their week in a research lab with students &amp; researchers. The rest of the week involves group activities with talks, quizzes and visits to scientifically relevant sites on campus</p>	<p><b>Art &amp; Design Summer Courses</b></p> <p>Courses run during the summer holidays</p> <p>LIT's School of Art &amp; Design host a series of Summer Schools, including; Fashion Design (1 week) - Portfolio Preparation (2 weeks) - Introduction to Animation (2 weeks) -</p>

## Transition Year Information Evening 2019-2020

---

I hope your son gets the most out of his Transition Year and learns to develop academically and socially along the way.

Kind regards and wishing your son every success in the State Examinations this June,

---

Seán Rossiter

Programme Coordinator

PIE19/20

**Notes**