

Colaiste Muire
Tuar Mhic Eadaigh
Co Maigh Eo

TY Programme – Daingnithe 26.08.21

Mission Statement

In Coláiste Muire we aim to develop the full potential of every student in a learning environment where fairness, understanding, success and discipline are pursued.

This policy is based in the school’s fundamental aim to foster in students an attitude and appreciation of learning to serve them for life. Students are encouraged to strive for excellence at the level of their full potential.

Coláiste Muire encourages students to abide by the principle:

“Treat others as you yourself would like to be treated”

In doing this, we hope that all our students learn to assume responsibility for their own behaviour, tolerate and value diversity, respect themselves and each other and become responsible contributors to society.

Transition Year Programme Overview Overall Aims:

The following aims are interrelated and interdependent and should be strongly reflected in every Transition Year programme: 1. Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence. 2. The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning. 3. Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

Transition Year is a one year school based programme between Junior and Senior Cycle .

It is designed to act as a **bridge** between the two by facilitating the smooth transition from the more **dependent learning** of the Junior Cycle to the **more independent self-directed learning** required for the Senior Cycle.

Benefits of TY

NCCA Researchers compared the results of students who did their Leaving Certificate and found the following

- TY students did better in the **points system**.
- There is a need for skills-based learning
- There is a need for time to mature
- More **informed** Leaving Certificate subject choice are made after completion of TY.
- Students who have completed TY show greater autonomy at Third level in areas such as;

Study skills / self-directed learning

Group work, project work, develop research skills & presentation skills

ICT skills

Communication skills

TY Mission Statement

The overall mission of Transition Year is “to promote the personal, social, educational and participative and responsible members of society”. Our programme aims to:

- Encourage our students to develop life skills that will best prepare them for the world of work and community involvement beyond their school years.
- Experience a year where the emphasis will be on personal responsibility and the nurturing of creative, caring, reflective thinking, articulate and self-confident young people.
- Develop the capacity of our students to learn independently with a self-directed approach to their learning by developing an awareness of their own educational needs.

* Career guidance and support provided to aid the decision making process regarding LC subject choices.

- Provide our students with opportunities to broaden their educational experiences beyond the classroom within a safe working environment.
- Facilitate the further development of the professional relationship between teaching staff and students.
- Promote and advance the holistic development of our students through the use of a broad range of teaching and learning methodologies and strategies.

- Enable students to discover their individual talents and abilities necessary to master the skills and attributes to facilitate a smooth transition from Junior Cycle to Senior Cycle.

Coordinator: Dympna Ní Mhaoileóin

Core team: Dympna Ní Mhaoileóin

Annette Ní Chathain

Grainne Ní Fhlannabhra (Príomhoide)

Liam De Búrca (Year Head)

The following conditions apply:

- The Transition Year is a compulsory year in Colaiste Muire.
- TY students are important ambassadors for the school and are expected to uphold school rules at all activities.

- Students and parents must sign a contract of behaviour.
- An initial deposit of €250 is required (incorporating the Bonding trip(s) and Geometrix.
- Work experience is organised by the student and verified and confirmed by the school.
- TY students are important ambassadors for the school and are expected to uphold school rules at all activities.

Homework

A key objective of our TY folder is to help the students keep a record of the work carried out in each class throughout the year. Homework includes reading over the material covered in each class, as well as written work, practical work, revision and portfolio work. Homework may also include independent research work in some subjects. If a pupil is absent from class for any reason, it is the student's responsibility to find out details of the work missed. This applies to pupils who miss class due to sporting or extra-curricular activities as well as illness. The TY folder serves a supplementary purpose of providing a template for personal reflection throughout TY.

Curriculum

Core Subjects: are subjects that all students take for the full year, e.g. Irish, English, Maths, German, PE and RE. etc.

Subject Sampling: may involve giving students a taster module of the Leaving Certificate subjects available in the school to help them make informed choices when making their subject choices later.

Subject sampling may also expose students to new subjects that they have not experienced before. It includes subjects and modules devised both within the school and by external agencies supporting the programme in schools. For example in Science a sample of Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Agricultural Science may be sampled. In Construction Studies and sample of DCG may be used.

Transition Year Specific Modules: TY Calendar Modules includes "once off" activities such as specific work experience, trips, drama production, sporting events, open days, etc. School management in conjunction with the participating students decide upon the subjects and modules based on the needs of students, staff allocations and teacher's expertise as well as geographical location.

Core

- Maths
- English
- Irish
- German
- PE
- RE
- Work Experience

Subject Sampling

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business
- Home Economics
- Woodwork
- French

Specific Module

- GMetrix
- BT Young Scientist
- Drama
- Enterprise
- Yoga
- Zumba
- Jiving
- Horseriding
- GAA Coaching
- Gaisce - President's Awards
- Boxercise
- Hurling
- Golf
- Rugby
- Swimming
- First Aid
- Enterprise/Mini Company

“Once Off Layer”

- Trips
- Retreats
- Visiting speakers
- Junk Kouture
- Law Education
- Driving/Road safety.
- Radio Production
- Movie Making
- Etiquette
- Art
- Mountain Walks
- Outdoor Pursuits
- Bank/Credit Union

Communication

Management and The TY core team/ Pastoral Team meet regularly to discuss the progress of the class. The TY programme is discussed at the first staff meeting of the academic year. The teachers are briefed throughout the year via email regarding class progress and any programme updates. During general staff meetings the staff are briefed on any TY related matters deemed relevant to the teaching body.

Parents

There is provision in the calendar for a parent teacher meeting during the school year. Parents are briefed throughout the year via text/letters regarding any TY outings and/or programme updates. When necessary parents are asked to visit the school to meet with teacher(s) and/or coordinator to discuss any matters relating to discipline/pastoral matters.

Work Experience

Work experience takes place every Friday. Students are not expected to attend work experience during regular school holidays. It is the responsibility of the student to source their own employment. Students are encouraged to source a variety of work placements to maximise the learning experience. Employers are given an evaluation report to fill out throughout the duration of the placement to record student attendance/competence and overall aptitude of the student. General feedback is also sought and welcomed from the employer. In certain circumstances students may be allowed to work for a 'once off' period at a particular placement if this opportunity arises and is deemed valuable. This needs to be sanctioned by the school prior to commencement. See the appendices for more documentation pertaining to work experience.

Assessment

Assessment in Transition Year Methods of assessment in Transition Year are varied. Individual subject teachers plan their assessment methods annually to best complement the learning experience encountered by students in respective subject areas. Students will be subjected to assessment as per the rest of the year groups.

An overview of the assessment methodologies practiced in Transition Year includes the following:

- Written assessment
- Oral assessment
- Aural assessment
- Report Writing
- Skills Development analysis
- Practical assessment
- Transition Year Folder
- Homework assessed regularly by subject and module teachers
- Project based assessment – written and I.C.T. based.
- Paired and Group work assessment
- Creative project based assessment.

Students are informed by teachers of the different assessments that will form part of their overall end of year performance. Parents are informed of individual student progress at Christmas and summer with formal reports sent home from school. These reports include details of marks and grades achieved in each subject as well as a personalised comment from each teacher. Attendance details are also included on these reports and students are encouraged to aim for 100% attendance.

Transition Year Plan Finances

Prior to commencement of TY students are requested to pay an initial deposit of €250 (Geometrix and Bonding Trip(s)). Additional money is collected by teachers who organise trips throughout the year to cover the cost of the bus/activity etc. These costs are offset by fundraising endeavours throughout the year towards the TY fund, such as The 5K Race, Bag Packing, Non-Uniform day, Cake Sale etc.

Graduation

The Graduation ceremony which takes place where students are presented with certificates of achievement during their final week of term in May. Parents are invited to attend this ceremony.

Course Evaluation

The reason to evaluate our TY programme is to reflect and assess the quality and success of the programme. It also provides vital feedback and data to the system encouraging learning from the experience of the previous programme including planning, design and delivery. The coordinator in conjunction with subject teachers, management and students are all involved in the evaluation. Feedback from students is derived from written reviews and also formal/informal conversations with staff, students and parents. The programme is regularly reviewed and evaluated internally by the co-ordinating team in close cooperation with the school management, staff, students, parents, work providers and community interests. We are constantly engaging in self=assessment and are always seeking to find new ways of improving the programme content and delivery. We always strive to abide by 'best practice' as determined by Department of Education guidelines.

This programme/policy was agreed on the date noted below.

Signed: Gearóidín Ní Ghruinéil **Date:** 5-10-21
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Gráinne Ní Fhlannabhra **Date:** 5-10-21
Principal

