

# Stratford College Transition Year



## The Transition Year Programme

- Transition year is a one year programme between the end of the junior certificate and the start of the leaving certificate.
- The main goal of a TY programme is to promote maturity.
- Transition Year should assist each individual develop himself or herself as a person
- Transition Year aims to help young people prepare for adult life especially through contact with workplaces and career interests
- Through a Transition Year programme students should develop study skills that will enhance their performance in the leaving certificate exams.
- There is growing evidence from Third Level institutes that students who have taken a transition year are more self reliant learners.

## **We are dedicated to:**

- Providing a nurturing environment where each individual can develop self-esteem and sense of their place in, and responsibility to, society.
- Instructing Jewish students in their religion while fostering mutual respect for all traditions.
- Promoting personal achievement and academic success.
- Respecting the unique potential of every student and encourage each to maximise it.

## Will my son\daughter lose the habit of study in Transition Year?

One of the aims of Transition Year is to help the pupils take greater responsibility for their own learning and become less reliant on their teachers.

In Transition Year the pupils learn how to plan and execute their work individually and as part of a group.

In short they are encouraged to develop more independent study habits.

By working consistently at all of their assignments and by taking part in all aspects of the programme pupils will not lose the habit of study in transition Year.

*"Rather than have students lose any study habits, TYP can lay a solid base for learning in a more adult , responsible way."*

(Transition Year Programme, Resource Material, 1994. Department of Education).

## Will my son\daughter get homework in Transition Year?

Yes, but the type of homework will generally be different to that of other years.

In subjects like Mathematics, Irish , English and French, regular homework is given but in these and in many other subjects the pupils will be given projects and assignments to complete by specified deadlines.

These can be either group or individual projects and assignments.

In individual assignments/projects the pupils have to learn to work as part of a team, something which many of them find difficult to do.

They must plan and discuss the project together, divide out the work, carry out their research, review their progress at regular intervals, ensure that everybody does her share of the work and finally write up and present their project/assignment by the deadline.



Transition Year provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making

## Transition Year in Stratford College

We believe the Transition Year Programme is very worthwhile, as it gives our students the time and space to grow in maturity and self-confidence so that they are better equipped to deal with the demands of the Leaving Certificate, third level education and indeed life in general.

Students are expected to engage fully with the courses, assignments, workshops, work experience and community service so that they get the maximum benefit of the year. They will be encouraged to develop business and entrepreneurial skills and take part in the European youth parliament (EYP) and the President's (Gaisce) Award, thus developing useful skills for the future.



## How are Parents involved?

Parents' understanding of and support for student learning in TY is a key factor in a successful Transition Year experience. We arrange a meeting for parents of 3rd year students to discuss the Transition Year programme.

Parents should attend and contribute. Some parents make their particular expertise available to the school during the TYP.

Parents should be involved also in the school's evaluation of its programme. Parents should encourage their sons and daughters to avail of the numerous opportunities offered by this unique programme.

With its emphasis on development and maturity, all young people can benefit from the programme. Transition Year, in particular, can allow for the development of an individual's multiple intelligences-linguistic, logico-mathematical, spatial, musical, bodily-kinaesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist. The Transition Year programme can also develop key skills for the 21st century such as the -

***three Ts: thinking, teamwork and technology***



## Trips and outings in Transition Year

- 4 day/3 night to Delphi Adventure centre
- Swan leisure Rathmines
- Killearnan Ski Ireland
- Glencree reconciliation Centre
- Ski trip to Italy
- Irish national sailing Club Dun Laoghaire
- BT young Scientist
- Paintball
- Courts services
- Rosemary Smyth Drive Day
- Classics tour
- History walking tour of Dublin
- Geography Field trip to Kippure

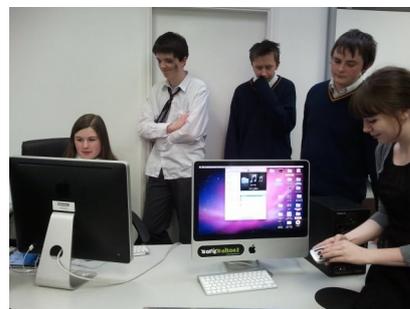


## Visiting Speakers

Visitors also come to the school during the year to speak to the pupils about various subjects or to hold workshops or demonstrations.

The following are examples of activities, which were held in the school previously or will be held in 2013/2014.

- First aid talk
- Aware– beat the blues
- An Oige
- Barrister visit for Law week
- Elvery's Powerteam
- Songschool
- Self Defense
- Drama workshop
- UCD Science talk



## What is the aim of the work experience programme?

The aim of the work experience programme is to prepare the students for the world of work. *"education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity."* Dept Of Education 1994-95

## How is the work experience programme organised?

Each pupil will work in their work experience placement over 5 consecutive Fridays during the year during normal school hours. Students are expected to find these placements themselves. However, the placements must be authorised by the school and full details of the placements must be given in writing to the school before the work experience programme begins.

## Are the pupils covered by insurance while on work experience?

Yes. The pupils are covered by the schools insurance policy while on work experience on condition that the placement is either obtained or authorised by the school.

## How is the performance of the pupils acknowledged at the end of the year?

Students will keep a Transition Year Digital Portfolio which they will be interviewed on at the end of year.

The digital portfolio is a log of all the work and activities completed by student's throughout the year and it will be regularly updated. At the end of the year, student's will be able to see how much they have improved in certain areas and it will also show other areas that may need further improvement.

The portfolio will highlight where student's own strengths and interests lie – its main aim is to enable student's to reflect on their own abilities and in doing so, become a more independent and self-reliant learner.



## Is an evaluation carried out on the programme every year?

Yes, it is important that any Transition Year programme is dynamic and meaningful to a changing cohort of students. Every year pupils, parents and teachers are asked to evaluate the programme and suggest changes. We use the results of these evaluations to modify and improve the programme.



*No matter what a person's previous experience of school has been, what a student gets out of TY depends hugely on the attitude he or she takes to it in the first place. If you are open-minded, you are more likely to see and grasp the opportunities. What you get out of TY will depend very much on what you are prepared to put into it.*

*There is growing evidence from third-level institutions that students who have taken a Transition Year are more self-reliant learners*



## What timetabled subjects and activities are included in the programme in Stratford College ?

ART	GEOGRAPHY
BIOLOGY	HEBREW & JEWISH STUDIE
CAREER GUIDANCE	HOLOCAUST STUDIES
CLASSICAL STUDIES	IRISH
COMPUTER STUDIES	MATH'S
ENGLISH	MUSIC TECHNOLOGY
ENTERPRISE	POLITICS
FRENCH	SPHE

## What's involved in different modules?

### **First Aid**

The Irish Red Cross give theoretical and practical instruction in basic first aid skills. At the end of a 20-hour course, students undertake a practical examination in order to receive the Primary First Aid Certificate.

### **Think Awareness Driving**

A one day certified course with an experienced and qualified team of driving instructors is designed to teach the importance of road safety and safe driving practices. Transition Year students sit in the driving seat and are taught driving basics in an 'off-road' course.

### **Outdoor Pursuits**

Students are taken for a 4-day 3-night trip to Delphi adventure centre in Mayo where they participate in surfing, kayaking, rock climbing, orienteering, abseiling, hill walking, archery, gorge walking and team building activities.

A number of six- week modules including skiing, sailing, aerobics and yoga offered to students. Modules in skiing and sailing are certified.

Students are also taken to the local gym "Swan Leisure" where they participate in spinning, circuit training, step-aerobics and combat fitness.

### **Dramatic Art**

A six week programme of drama is offered to students where they are encouraged to develop confidence and performance skills. Transition Year students are encouraged to undertake the responsibility of performing and producing a whole school production. This unit is developed and supported by a visiting professional actor.

### **Public Access to Law**

A practising barrister tutors a full- day outlining Ireland's legal system. The course concentrates on making the law more accessible and deals with both complex and everyday issues. This course is followed by a trip to the courts and a written assessment.

### **Business Mini-companies**

The business module gives every student a chance to develop her entrepreneurial skills. The course combines theory with the very practical application of setting up a "mini-company".

Topics such as idea generation, product development, market research, marketing and financial record keeping give the students a framework in which to set up and run their enterprise. Each student writes a written business report at the end of the module reflecting on what she has learnt from the experience.

In addition to developing their spirit of enterprise the students gain practical experience of working in a group under sometimes stressful conditions!

### **Computer programming– Scratch**

TY students are taught to use Scratch ([scratch.mit.edu](http://scratch.mit.edu)) as a graphical programming language for a module. Students have to create a Scratch project, a poster explaining their work and give a 5 minute presentation about their work at the end of the module. They are also expected to exhibit their work to other invited classes and teachers at the end of the module. At the end of the school year all TY students exhibit their work at Stratford SciFest - one day, locally hosted Science Fairs, supported and judged by the Science Foundation Ireland.

### **Chinese**

These classes are designed to introduce students to both aspects of Chinese culture and it's language. The units are suitable for students of all abilities. The focus is on self-directed learning, together with teacher-led instruction, awakening curiosity about the Chinese language and culture.

### **Song School**

Students write, perform and / or record their own songs during the workshop. Each student receives a CD of their song (s), along with a Songschool / IMRO certificate of participation.

### TY can give you the opportunities to

- Develop a variety of new skills
- Discover more about your own personal strengths- what you are good at
- Learn more about the working world through work experience
- Discover more about job and career opportunities
- Explore the possibilities offered by computers and technology
- Sample and discover new subjects
- Take part in outdoor pursuits
- Learn about working as part of a team
- Practice and develop oral communication skills
- Establish contacts with young people in other parts of Europe
- Learn through meeting people beyond the classroom
- Develop your own natural skills and talents
- Undertake project on topics that interest you
- Make informed choices on leaving cert subjects
- Practice meeting deadlines for assignments
- Engage in civic, social and political issues and form own opinion
- Visit Third Level colleges and workplaces
- Improve your skills of relating to people
- Become a more independent learner
- Become skilled at planning and doing homework on your own
- Develop more understanding and confidence about yourself as a person
- Develop more mature student teacher relationships
- Learn about leadership, co operating and dealing with conflict
- Become more motivated for the Leaving Certificate programme
- Add a valuable set of experiences to your CV
- Become a more mature person

