



***Welcome to the Transition Year hub! We hope you find the information contained in this section helpful if you are thinking of joining the programme or are currently participating in the year. This area provides students and parents with up-to-date information and a calendar of events for our vibrant Transition Year Programme, and all Work and Community Placement (WCP) documentation.***

TY is an opportunity to nurture your talents, discover new talents you never knew you had, explore new ways of learning, engage in new experiences, have fun, mature and learn, all of which will better prepare you for senior cycle. You will gain life skills, friendships and memories that will stay with you throughout your life so enjoy and embrace every second.

Two important points to remember on your TY journey;

***You get out of TY what you put in. Sign up for EVERYTHING, don't set limits for yourself and aim high!***

***With great freedom, comes great responsibility.***

## **Who is Transition Year for?**

Students with a genuine interest in a broad educational experience, where they can try an array of subjects that will help in choosing senior cycle subjects and a career path.

Students who want to become better equipped to cope with the self-reliant learning of third level education.

Students who want the challenge of work and community placement and the leadership opportunities that exist in Transition Year.

Students who are self-motivated, positive and willing to work hard.

## The TY Curriculum

### Overview of Programme

**Core:** English, Irish, Maths, Business, Modern languages and Global Citizenship.

**Specialisms:** TY Musical, Physical Education Sports and Stage Technology\*.

**Options:** Each class will rotate every 8/10 weeks. In this way, students get to sample all subjects. Subject options include; Chinese, Accountancy, Psychology, Agricultural Science, Art, Home Economics, Life Skills, Design and Communication, Construction, Engineering, World of Science, Yoga, Ukulele, Artistic Performance, Career Guidance

### \*Specialisms on Offer

#### 1. TY Musical

The TY annual musical is a unique opportunity for students to be involved in a creative process culminating in a public performance on a stage in a show combining music, singing and dancing.

Being involved in a musical will develop student's confidence, self-esteem and ability to communicate and above all else, students learn how to work with others in a productive, meaningful and fun way. The musical provides an opportunity for students to do things they have never done before and work with a professional stage, crew and a very real audience!

The musical is cited by students who've since left school, as a highlight of their career at St Peter's and the standard of our musicals is a testament to the effort and dedication of the TY students who select to do it every year. Some of our musical students have gone on to study musical theatre in college with much success on the national musical theatre circuit and two students have even made it onto the stage in Broadway!

## **2. Transition Year Physical Education Sports Specialism.**

The programme aims to enhance an individual's knowledge and understanding of all aspects relating to Physical Education while all the time building a student's self-esteem and teamwork skills.

These goals and others are achieved by students taking part in such endeavours as; Rock Climbing, Kayaking, Boxing, hiking in the Wicklow Mountains, Boot Camp (which is a 10 week fitness programme culminating in TY students running in the Annual Dunboyne 4 Mile Road Race at the end of March). At the end of the year all students will have had a myriad of sporting experiences, in addition to earning a number of coaching / participation certificates which will form a central part of their TY Completion Portfolio.

## **3. Stage Technology and Digital Media**

Students are introduced to the roles of the sound engineer and lighting technician in theatre, being able to work with professional standard PA systems and lighting rigs. Students will assist with all the technical areas involved in all types of school productions from the musical, St. Peter's Live, concert performances, assemblies, school videos and many more. In addition to live performance students will also have the opportunity to use advanced computer software to become adept at recording and then producing sound and video in the school's own recording studio. Stage technology also involves students in building staging, scenery, props and special effects for school performances. There are many aspects to this very 'hands-on' subject, you never quite know what you will be doing from one week to the next!

The course focuses on the study of creating and sharing media in a digital environment. This module provides students with the opportunity to actively use digital media technology, an area that has become an increasingly important feature of how students communicate and engage with each other and with the wider world. Students will begin to build websites and blogs, dive into the world of photography and movie making and participate safely and effectively in online tasks. Students should choose this specialism if they have a particular interest in digital technology and how it benefits the world we live in.

## Calendar events:

Celtic Adventures, EMPOWER- Flip the Classroom, Poetry Slam, First Aid, Personal Safety- introductory and advanced, Shout Out Workshop, .b Mindfulness, SOAR, Movie Magic, ReCreate, Live Life, Barefoot Productions, DCU open day, Skills for Life Programme, SVP Programme, Microsoft Dream Space, Sports hikes/kayaking, visiting other schools musical productions and our own production on the big screen, Garda talks, STEAM talks from Dell and Intel

## Competitions:

AIB Build a Bank, Young Economist, Young Entrepreneur, BT Young Scientist, And Young Social Innovators.

## TY Teams and Leaders

In order to assist with the day to day organisation of TY and provide leadership roles for students in the year group, several committees have been established:

1. **PR team:** Website, Newsletter and photography.
2. **Leading Learning team** 'Lunch and Learn'- to guide junior students in their learning. Fact finders on programmes/speakers that would add benefit to the programme.
3. **Production team:** The event management crew coordinate all TY events
4. **Global Citizenship team:** To link in with the Green School Committee and Global Citizenship teachers to drive whole-school initiatives.

Each group nominates a leader. When the coordinator/staff member needs assistance in a particular area, they can contact the team leader who will ensure the task is completed.

## Leadership Opportunities:

Students also have an opportunity to participate in the following committees/programmes; Friends of the Elderly, Age Action, SVP, .B

Mindfulness, Gaisce, John Paul Awards, AWARE, Oral Health Peer Teaching, First Aid, Coaching,

## Teaching methods and approaches

The programme places a particular emphasis on;

- negotiated learning
- personal responsibility in learning
- active-based learning
- team teaching approaches
- group work: discussion, debate, interview, role play
- project work and research
- guest speakers and seminars
- field trips
- work and community placement

### ***A Note on Self Directed and Negotiated Learning***

One of the aims of TY is to facilitate the move towards self-directed learning. Students may have to research, explore and figure things out for themselves, with the teacher in a more supporting rather than directing role. Students are expected to take much more responsibility for their work, complete all assignments on time and carry out their work to the best of their ability in the hopes of developing more mature, responsible, diligent and flexible learners.

## Reflective Journal

Students are encouraged to reflect on their learning experience on a regular basis in their Reflective Journal. The Journal offers students a space to explore their attitudes, challenge their perceptions and formulate their thoughts. It is a valuable resource when compiling the Portfolio and preparing for interview.

***We expect all TY students to carry the Reflective Journal with them in every class, and for every workshop/guest speaker visit.***

## Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Assessment within Transition Year is school based. Assessment in TY provides accurate information about student strengths and weaknesses, and facilitates improved student performance through feedback, guidance and affirmation.

Ongoing continuous assessment across the programme is facilitated by continuous formative feedback via *ePortfolio*, *Competency based interviews*, *the Reflective Journal*, *WCP feedback*, *project work*, *participation and certification in an array of workshops and more traditional exams at Christmas and summer*.

## The TY Team and their Roles

The TY team is comprised of the TY Coordinator (Ms Edmonds), class tutors, career guidance and subject teachers under the support and direction of school senior management. The primary focus of the team is to support students to fully participate in and benefit from the programme. Ms Edmonds looks after the design, planning and implementation of the overall programme, and coordinates Work and Community Placement. Class tutors support individual class groups, provide pastoral care and monitor attendance and notes from parents. Subject teachers plan and deliver the individual modules of the programme and assess the learning.

## Communication

There are *three meetings during the year*:

Senior Options, European School Tour and Graduation night. We also hope that you will also be able to attend the school musical.

The TY calendar will be updated on a regular basis on the school website.

Please keep a note of the following contact details for reference:

**TY Coordinator Email:** [SEdmonds.spc@lmetb.ie](mailto:SEdmonds.spc@lmetb.ie)

## Work and Community Placement

### Aim of the Programme:

The aim of Work and Community Placement (WCP) is to provide students with a deeper understanding of the workplace and practical hands-on experience of the world outside school. It is a wonderful opportunity to try new areas, develop new skills, challenge perceptions and make very useful contacts for future endeavours. Students have an opportunity to make a real difference in their community by engaging with local social enterprise and charity organisations.

### Schedule:

One designated day per week and two block placements.

Students work the hours requested by the placement within the following limits: minimum duration of 3 hours (i.e. 9am-12pm); maximum duration of 7 hours.

### Seeking placement:

It is the responsibility of the student to seek an appropriate position for work and community placement. Parents must be satisfied with the placement environment.

Students are notified of their responsibility at the end of third year and are *strongly advised* to seek positions over the summer period.

The first week of school is allocated for TY induction. Students who have not secured placement(s) over the summer can use this time to find suitable positions. The school is not able to facilitate work experience in school on designated work and community placement days and block periods.

Students are encouraged to find community placement and/or charity work.

All documentation is available for download from the TY section of the school website: A standard letter for employers, Garda Vetting forms, WCP Record sheet, Indemnity cover and WCP Guidelines.

### **Expectations of our students:**

Students shall attend placement on the correct days and at the times agreed with the employer.

They will follow all instructions given by the employer and colleagues to the best of their ability.

Students will contact the employer regarding absences or changes to dates outlined.

Students are representing both themselves and the school, and possible opportunities for students in the future. We expect all students to act in a mannerly and respectful way.

In order to make the process more meaningful, students are encouraged to reflect on their experiences in their reflective journal on a regular basis.

### **Out of regular placement**

Students are given the opportunity to participate in placement every Monday and for two scheduled block placements every year. On occasion, TY Specific programmes arise outside of the designated block placement weeks i.e. An Garda Síochána, HSE, Law Library, Dublin Airport Authority and College courses (this list is not exhaustive). Whilst not ideal in respect of potential conflict with planned TY programme activities and programmes of work, the school will *try* and facilitate placement in this regard, where possible.

If students wish to apply for the aforementioned additional work placement, they must **apply in writing at least two weeks prior to the date** in question by completing an *out of regular placement form*. This form is available for download from the school website or from Ms Edmonds. This process will enable the school to evaluate the merit of the proposed work experience. As a school we have a duty of care to protect teaching and learning in the classroom and the spirit of the TY programme. All applications shall be reviewed by Ms Edmonds. *No placement is guaranteed, and no student has permission to attend a placement without confirmation from the TY Coordinator.*

## Programme Direct Costs

The Programme Direct Costs Contribution is approved annually by the Board of Management of St. Peter's College and is intended to assist in defraying costs associated with the various activities and courses fundamental to the programme. The Programme Direct Cost includes Personal Insurance cover which is mandatory for all Transition Year students. It will be used to pay for buses and entry fees for day trips as they arise, and to pay for workshops provided in school time.

Further details will be provided at the information talks

The European trip is entirely optional and is therefore not included in the advance payment.

All payments are made through the school's online payment system Way 2 pay.

## Application Process

Third Year Students interested in applying for TY should complete an application form and return it to the Student Office. The selection criteria will include the student's behaviour record, work ethic, attendance and punctuality in the school over the *three years* of their Junior Cycle. TY applicants may be interviewed to assist in assessing the student's attitudes, interests, motivation and maturity levels towards the Transition Year programme in order to determine their suitability for inclusion in the year group. The TY Admissions committee will review all applications in conjunction with reports from Tutors, Teachers, Ceannaire and School Management. Students who are successful in securing a place in TY are informed by a letter of offer which they must formally accept in writing. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed by letter. Unsuccessful applicants are offered the right to appeal to the Principal. The Principals decision is final. Please note that offers are provisional until acceptance form and the TY

*Please see the TY Admissions Policy for more information.*

## **Other Important Documents**

Work and Community Placement guidelines

Work and Community Placement documents;

*WCP Letter for employers*

*WCP for Students and Parents*

*List of Transition Year College and Industry Programmes*

*Indemnity insurance*

*Garda Vetting*

*WCP Record Sheet*