



Transition Year Information Night May 2019

Dear Parent, a TY Info Night took place on Tuesday 14th May where information surrounding our current planning for TY 2020 was presented. Below, please find a summary of some of this information along with questions and responses that were generated at the meeting.



Our TY Journey so far...

Research on Best Practice



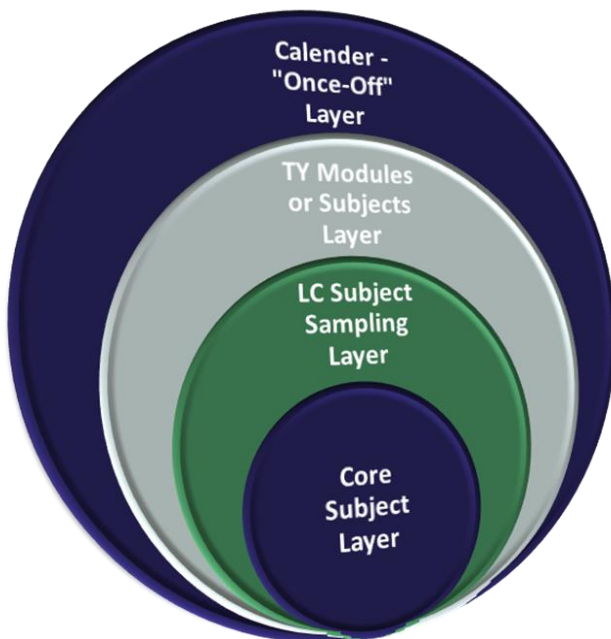
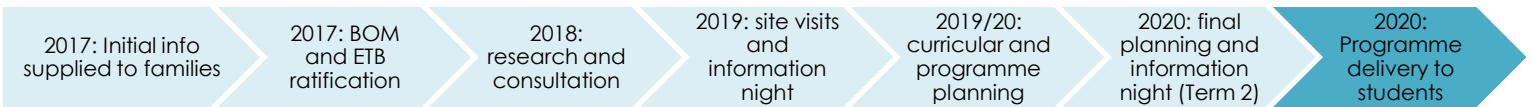
Site Visits to other Schools



Guidance from Dept of Education and Skills



Timeline for programme delivery



Advantages of Transition Year for Students

- NCCA and ESRI studies show an increase in LC attainment: average increase of 40-50 LC points for those who complete TY
- Chance to improve on core subjects: to catch up AND get a head-start for Leaving Cert
- Subject sampling for LC: more choice afforded for senior cycle
- Shift from summative assessment to formative assessment
- Opportunity to mature physically, mentally and emotionally in advance of LC
- Students become more independent, confident and self-directed learners
- TY Modules introduce new relevant life-skills and experiences
- Teamwork, collaboration and bonding
- Student wellbeing

Questions from Parents		Responses
<input type="checkbox"/>	What will the subject choices be?	The subject choices will be a combination of familiar core subjects, senior cycle option subjects, specific modules (Driver Ed, First Aid, YSI, Gaisce, Junk Kouture, etc.) and once-off events (trips etc.).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Can Horticulture be included?	The programme will be built around the needs and wants of our students and what will benefit them most. If horticulture (or any subject for that matter) is perceived to be beneficial, we will examine the feasibility of including it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there an opportunity to develop confidence and public speaking?	Public speaking, oral presentation and confidence-building is central to a TY programme. Students will have many opportunities to develop these areas.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is a foreign trip definite?	It will not be mandatory, however, the logistics around providing an optional trip will be strongly considered and ultimately subject to student/parent demand.
<input type="checkbox"/>	What happens if a child does not want to participate in TY?	We are working hard on planning a successful student-centered programme that, research shows, will be of enormous benefit to our students in 2020 and beyond into senior cycle. More information will be forthcoming, and we would urge students and parents alike to keep an open mind on the long-term merits of TY.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Are new books required for TY	No, any materials required will be provided for in the overall TY costs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do TY students have an advantage over students who go straight from 3 rd to 5 th year?	Yes, research as recently as 2018 shows that a student who has completed TY can earn between 40-50 extra points in the Leaving Cert in comparison to a student who goes straight to 5 th year after Junior Cycle. TY is a time for academic, social, emotional and personal growth and maturity. It prepares students for the challenge of senior cycle and helps them to better-cope with these challenges.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Can you decide if TY will definitely go ahead with such a low number of parents present [at the meeting] and not getting their input if their son or daughter would be interested in it?	Transition Year in CCS must be a compulsory programme in 2020 and our journey towards delivering this programme is well underway. The vast majority of parents and students of our 2 nd year cohort have been extremely enthusiastic and supportive of the implementation of TY. Another information night will be scheduled for the second term of 3 rd year where parents will have a further opportunity to view more concrete curricular planning.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Does TY create opportunities for my son/daughter to do different or new Leaving Cert subjects?	Yes, it is entirely possible for a student to remediate their ability in a core subject, introduce themselves to a new optional subject or identify a new pathway towards higher education. In addition, with the introduction of TY, the option subject bands for 5 th year in 2021 will have more freedom to be constructed around your son/daughters' subject choices.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is it possible to bring students to another school so they could see a TY programme?	Following the meeting on May 14 th we immediately made contact with another school where we had conducted a recent site visit. If it is not possible to facilitate such a visit this year (at short notice) we will plan a trip for our students for next year where they will see first-hand what the outcomes of a successful TY programme look like.
<input type="checkbox"/>	How much will TY Cost?	Average TY programmes cost between €300-€1000. Our current <i>projection</i> is a cost of €350 per student. A full breakdown of what this entails will be provided at our 3 rd year info night (in term 2). Payment plans will be an option for families if they so wish.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Is there assessment in TY?	Yes, assessment is a core part of TY. There will be class tests as usual, however, in place of a large-scale summative exam (like the Junior Cert) there will be ongoing Portfolio-based assessments. Students may graduate from TY with a pass, merit or distinction.