

# Transition Year Newsletter

## A JOURNEY BEGINS



### TRANSITION YEAR SUBJECTS

Mr Power (Principal) and Ms Gannon (Programme Coordinator) would like to formally welcome our inaugural Transition Year cohort. Cont. page 2.

### CURRICULUM

The final list of core subjects, leaving certificate option subjects and TY modular subjects have begun. Read more about the complete range of subjects. Cont. page 3.

### WORK EXPERIENCE, TRIPS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

As predicted with COVID-19, some changes to the previously-planned array of TY trips and activities were necessary. Cont. page 3.



### YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

A Parents Questionnaire was sent out via SMS/Forms in early September. The answers to all questions received are printed on page 4 of this newsletter.

## Welcome from Mr Power

It is my pleasure and privilege to formally welcome all students of Coláiste Cois Siúire back to school this academic year – particularly those students who are starting in the very first Transition Year in CCS. We are familiar at this stage with many of the changes to school life that have been necessary to enable staff and students to return to school safely at present. There has been some necessary change to the schedule of events for TY also, especially for the early months as the nation's back-to-school experience unravels. However, as we constantly move forward as a nation, we constantly move forward as a school community, and, I am confident that the school year will ultimately be remembered as one filled with growth, development, learning and positivity.

Transition Year, this year more than any other, should be viewed as an opportunity. An opportunity to fill gaps in your knowledge from March to May 2020. An opportunity to lay a solid foundation for senior cycle on which you can build in fifth and sixth year. And, of course, an opportunity to sample Leaving Cert subjects, TY modules, and to enjoy activities and other areas of holistic learning and development.

I wish you well in your year ahead. I hope you will invest your time, effort and self in the programme and, in doing so, will get the most from your Transition Year experience.



## WELCOME FROM MS GANNON

### TRANSITION YEAR COORDINATOR

Covid-19 has unfortunately had a considerable impact on how TY is normally run, however the scheduled TY programme for Coláiste Cois Siúire is dynamic, varied and provides great learning opportunities. We are confident that the timetable and any activities planned will be beneficial and meet the social, educational and developmental needs for all our students. We intend to proceed with TY with the same spirit, enthusiasm, and dedication as we would have if Covid-19 had not become an issue, and I ask for your support and understanding as we attempt to navigate these uncharted waters.

**“If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade.”**

TOM PETERS



## What TYs Will Achieve this Year

- Basic First Aid
- Photography Skills
- School of Life
- Fitness Freak
- Driver Education
- Zumba
- Introduction to Modern Dance
- Basic Athletics coaching
- Cake decorating demonstration
- Drugs Awareness Talks
- Boxing basics
- Motivational Talks
- Enterprise Talks and workshops
- Art workshops
- Coaching workshops in various sporting disciplines
- Certification in First aid
- Certification in GAA Future Leaders Programme
- A strong focus on student wellbeing (Project One Sky)

**More to be announced pending COVID-19 Restrictions**

## The Importance of the e-Portfolio

Each TY student has been given induction training on using Microsoft Teams and OneNote. These programmes are important for TYs to document their learning through their e-Portfolio on a weekly basis. The sections required to complete each week are:

- Weekly Reflection
- Work Experience
- Guest Speakers

Students should complete the template in each section to document their TY journey and to prepare their e-Portfolio for assessment purposes.



Winning Photography Image Captured by Stephen Wall, 4SB



School of Life

# Parents' Questions Answered

In early September the Parents' Association asked school management for a platform to allow TY parents ask questions relating to the TY programme in lieu of an information night which is unfortunately still not possible due to COVID-19. Below, please find the questions submitted and answers. Please note that some paraphrasing was required to preserve the anonymity of those sending in queries.

## WILL TYS BE GOING ON TRIPS?

As per an update on TY trips from KCETB/DES on 22/09/20, non-essential (curricular) trips are not yet possible. Parents will be kept informed of any updates.

## STRUGGLING TO FIND WORK EXPERIENCE

Please see page 3 regarding work experience. While not every student may be in their first choice placement many students are. The alternative asynchronous learning (staying at home, remote learning) is thought to be of lesser overall experience at present.

## WILL TYS STILL LEARN OTHER SKILLS (FIRST AID, DRIVING EDUCATION, COMPUTER CODING)

Yes, TYs will be studying computers, computer applications and coding on a weekly basis. First Aid, Drivers Education and a range of other activities will be included during scheduled activities each Thursday. See page 4.

## WILL TYS STILL HAVE THEIR MAIN LESSON SUBJECTS EACH DAY? I WORRY THAT THEY WILL NOT BE BACK ON TRACK WHEN THEY MOVE IN TO FIFTH YEAR.

TYs will continue to study their core senior-cycle subjects each week. The Dept. of Education has made specific mention of TY being an opportunity for students to catch up on third year work and to start work on senior cycle courses. This is a significant advantage this year.

## WHAT DOES THE €350 COVER?

All costs associated with Transition Year specifically: books, materials, activities, guest speakers, course costs, travel costs.

## I AM CONCERNED THAT MY CHILD IS STUDYING FRENCH. THIS IS NOT A SUBJECT THAT WILL BE STUDIED AGAIN IN THE FUTURE.

French is timetabled for one class per week. The group is divided into those who intend to keep French for senior cycle and those who might not. For those who might not continue to study a foreign language into the future, their course content will be an exploratory and holistic cultural experience aimed at creating a more rounded individual mindset – a key principle of TY.