



Clonakilty Community College Transition Year Parents & Students Information Guide

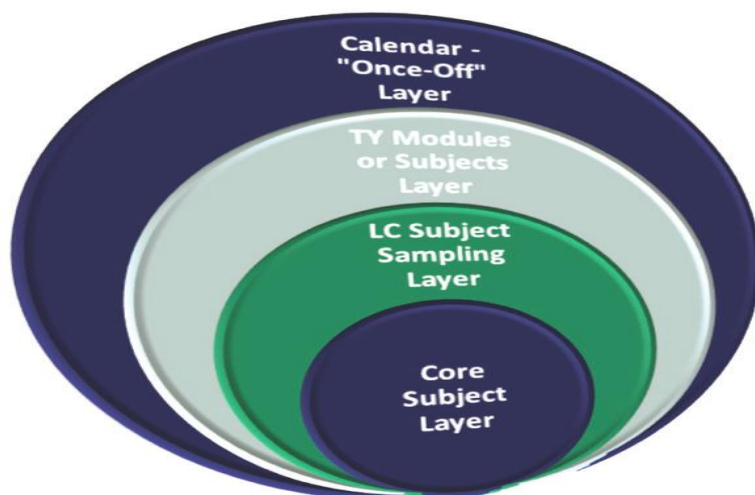
Our Transition Year is **compulsory**. A Transition Year offers pupils a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity before proceeding to further study and/or vocational preparation. It provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision-making

Pupils will participate in learning strategies which are active and experimental and which help them to develop a range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. The Transition Year should also provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect on and develop an awareness of the value of education and training in preparing them for the ever-changing demands of the adult world of work and relationships. We are very proud of our on-going commitment to the Transition Year Programme within the school and endeavour to improve annually. In our Ty we have the following aims:

- **Personal:** To help you develop your personality and character towards a more positive and confident self-image.
- **Study/Work:** To develop independent work and study habits appropriate to the Senior Cycle.
- **Career:** To become familiar with workplaces outside school and possible career paths.
- **Social:** To become more informed about society and more skilled at dealing with people.

TY COSTS: TY is a year that incurs extra costs – however most of the activities are optional. We communicate the cost of this year to parents in 3rd year so that you can plan for the forthcoming year. Should your family be experiencing financial difficulty we ask that you contact either Noel Kelleher, TY co-ordinator or Deirdre Collins, Chaplain.

How is TY structured: Our TY year is made up of the following layers:



Core Subject Layer: The purpose of the Core Subject Layer is to continue an academic focus in preparation for Leaving Cert. The Core Subject Layer contains the subjects, English Irish, Maths, French, Religion, Careers and Tutorial. A formal exam is given in English, Irish, Maths and French at Christmas and Summer.

TY Subject Sampling Layer: For Leaving Certificate there is a choice of twelve subjects from which students will pick four. All these subjects are run in modular format in Ty which gives the students a chance to sample each subject carried out over a seven week timeframe. Students are assessed at the end of each module which really has led to increased academic focus to transition year with a smooth transition to 5th year in mind. These subjects are Agricultural Science, Construction Studies, Engineering, Accounting, D.C.G., Art, Business, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physics and History.

TY Specific Modules: Students also get to enjoy a wide range of modules outside of the leaving cert curriculum like, Self-defence, Spanish, GAA Coaching, Active Leisure, Green Schools, I.T., Local History, Community Care, Driver Theory and Spanish and Metal Craft.

Calendar "Once –off" Layer: These are activities and events which happen over the year either on site or in outside centres. They include:

- A.I.B-. Build a Bank Challenge: which is a national competition for second level schools in the arena of banking.
- Retreat: In September all T.Y. students go on retreat as part of a bonding exercise.
- Debating : Credit Union Competition. Science Debating.
- Cork Sexual Health Centre: Sexual Health workshop on the topic of sexual health.
- Presentations: Each year we have presentations and speaker's to our school eg: Hope Foundation, Greater Chernobyl Cause, Just One Charity, Gaisce, H.S.E. Emergency Unit. Gardai Drug Squad. Pharmaceutical companies.

- Careers Day is held each year in October in Cork which is very beneficial in guiding T.Y. Students towards future careers.
- Student Enterprise: Enterprise companies each year are a hive of activity before Christmas as they preparing their produce for the busy Christmas Market. Each company then gets to present to the judges at the West Cork Mini Company Awards.
- Our Annual Production: One of highlights of the T.Y. Year is the annual Production / Play / Musical. We have being writing and producing TY productions for the past nine years.
- Young Scientists Competition: There is always great interest in the national Young Scientist Competition where successful projects get to represent the school in the R.D.S. in Dublin in January.
- T.Y. Times: A group of students are responsible for the publication of a T.Y. Times booklet which highlights the activities of Transition Year from a student's perspective. The booklet is circulated to T.Y. students and their parents through the website.
- Young Social Innovator Competition: this is a national competition raising awareness of social issues.
- Bonding Day: each September there is a fun day of sport, games and quizzes to help bonding of the new T.Y. group.
- Outdoor Pursuits Trip: each year we offer pupils the opportunity to participate in an outdoors pursuit trip.
- C.I.T. Technological Experience: Ten students attend lectures in C.I.T. in April.

OPTIONAL COURSES: all pupils have the option of doing:

- **ECDL:** Over the past two years the school now offers the students the opportunity to do ECDL (European Computer Driver Licence). This is a European accredited computer certification.
- **Gaisce:** Students are given the opportunity to be involved in Gaisce, where students over the course of the year learn three new skills and the event culminates in a **25 km hike in May**
- **Safe Pass Course:** Each student is offered an opportunity to partake in a safe pass course before embarking on Work Experience in May.

HOW WE ASSESS IN TY: It is important to note that the type of homework/study given in T.Y. can vary greatly from Junior Certificate. Guidance will be given to all pupils in the area of research, meeting deadlines, oral & aural presentations, projects and traditional assessment during the year. Students will get homework in their core subjects and will have assignments to have finished at the end of each of their 7 week modules. Each module will be assessed as per the Assessment system below. We ask that all parents work with us in ensuring that their sons/ daughters attain their potential during their time with us in Transition Year. All term reports are available through the Vsware tab on www.clonakiltycc.ie.

TRANSITION YEAR CREDIT SYSTEM:	
SUBJECTS/ MODULES:	CREDITS
SUBJECTS: English, Irish, Maths, French, Religion, Careers.	10 credits for each subject
MODULES: Business, History, Geography, Accounting, Local History, Metal craft, PE, Art, Construction Studies, Engineering, Biology, Physics, DCG, Health & Safety, Tourism, Spanish, Self Defence, Green Schools, Chemistry, Work Experience, Community Care, Agricultural Science, GAA Foundation Coaching, Active Leisure, Desk top Publishing, IT.	5 credits for each module
Credits are given on a Performance Rating of : Excellent = 5 Very Good = 4 Good =3 Fair = 2 Poor = 1	
OVERALL RESULT: 80-109 = Pass 110-149 = Merit 150-190 = Distinction	

Contract of Learning: at the beginning of TY we ask all pupils to engage in a Contract of Learning:

- Actively participate in the opportunities offered throughout Transition Year.
- Develop work and study habits appropriate to the Senior Cycle.
- Establish positive and respectful relationships with fellow students and teachers.
- Participate in class work and complete homework and other assignments on time, to the required standard.
- Observe the rules and regulations of the School as per signed Code of Conduct in Student Journal. Failure to comply may result in exclusion from TY Activities.

What we expect of our pupils in TY:

- To comply with Contract of Learning!!
- 100% Attendance!!!
- Participation
- Project
- Interview
- Production
- Assessment

What we ask of Parents of TY pupils:

- To attend TY Parent – Teacher Meeting and Options talk
- Motivate students to participate. TY is different to Junior Cert where experiential learning opportunities are offered to pupils. Homework is often in the form of assignments, projects, presentations, orals and aural
- Support pupils by insisting on full Attendance. We work hard to try and eliminate the national perception that TY is a “doss year”.
- Do you have any particular expertise as a parent that you wish to offer our TY programme?
- We will ask you to evaluate the TY Programme at the end of the year.