

Transition Year Programme 2024/25

TY Co Ordinator

Paul Cahillane

St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise



From Each Their Best

TY QR Code

Please feel free to scan the QR code to gain access to our TY Brochure and Presentation.



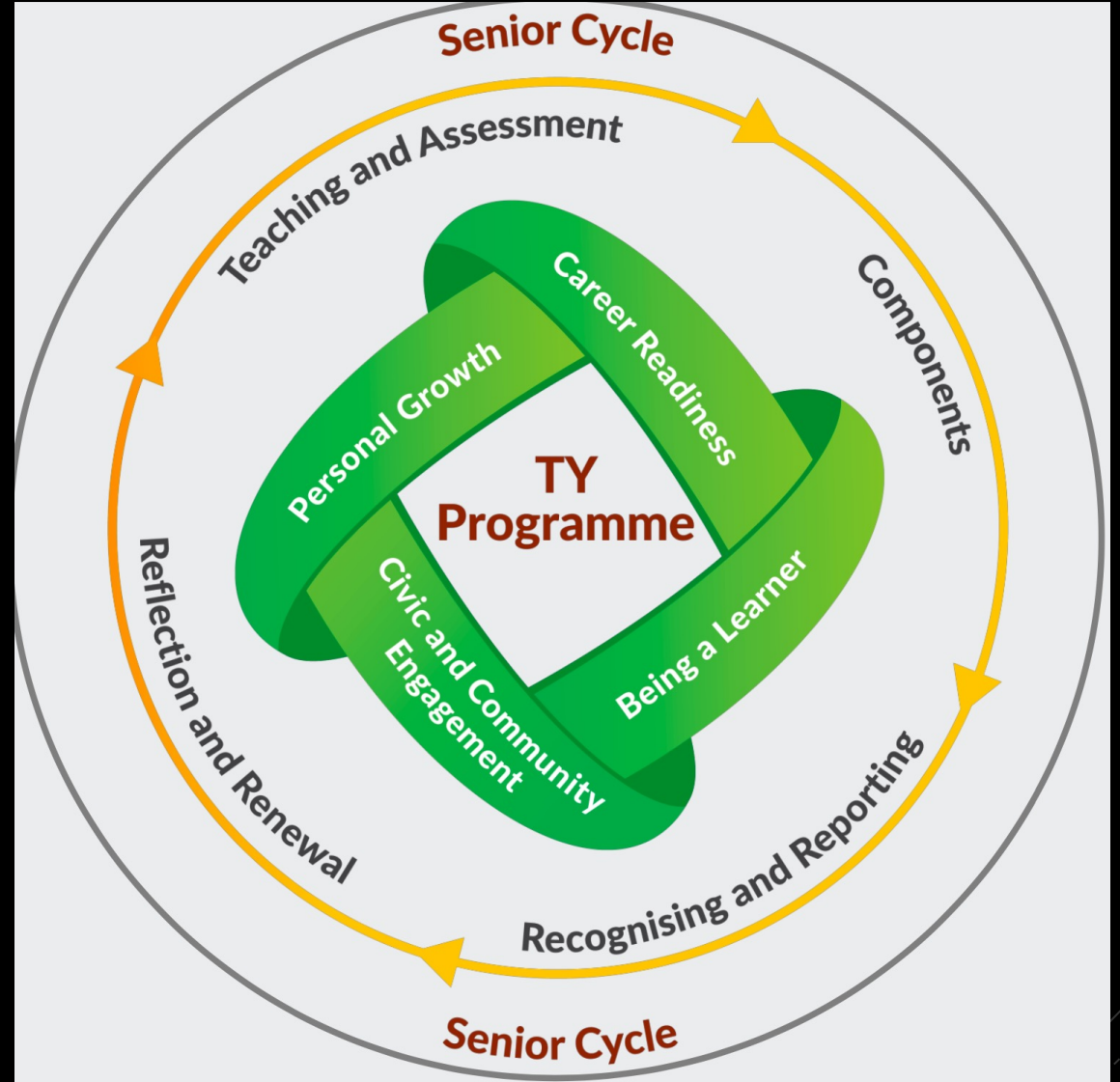
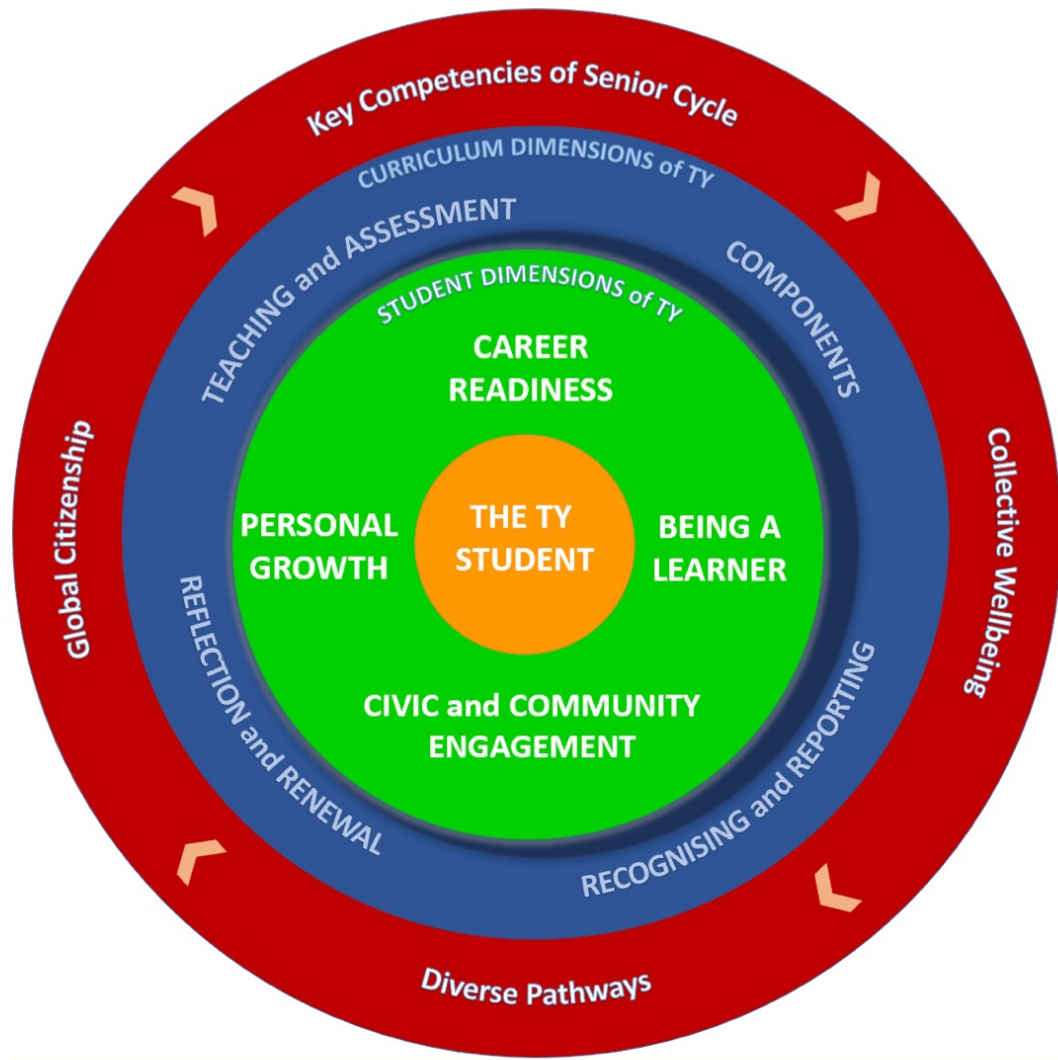
What is Transition Year in CBS?

One year school-based programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle

It offers students a chance to engage independent self-directed learning

A chance to develop general, technical and academic skills

TY Theme 2024/25: Growth



TY Vision

Our vision for Transition Year in St. Mary's CBS Portlaoise is to enable our young men to positively influence our community today, while equipping them with the skills to maximise their potential for tomorrow.



Why TY?

Increased responsibility and maturity

Challenging workplace ahead - early experience is a huge benefit.

Most increase Leaving Cert points

Encourages independence

Helps gain education experience to make considered choices for subject options

Explore job opportunities outside of school

Develop new interests, explore new career ideas

NOT because your friends are doing it!

Career Guidance in TY

Objective

The central role of our Careers programme in TY is to raise student awareness of their strengths, interests, skills and abilities.

Coupled with promoting a greater awareness of their sense of self, we provide information on future career opportunities, course/college requirements, the labour market, apprenticeships and the world of work, etc.

This ultimately leads to a clearer ability to decide on what subjects they are interested in studying for Leaving Certificate.

How do we do this?

- **Career Classes and workshops and webinars:** This year TY students covered numerous Career Guidance Modules (Personal development, preparation for Work Experience, Career fit Testing, Subject Choice workshops, Career Investigation and Work Experience Evaluation).
- **Visiting speakers from different career sectors:** Local entrepreneurs from the Laois area, guest speakers from Higher Educational Institutes, speakers to promote personal growth and development.
- **Visiting college campus such as Carlow IT, Athlone IT and Maynooth University.**
- **We piloted a Self-Assessment tool called Careers Fit Series testing this year.** This test combined assessing student's strengths in the areas of numerical ability, verbal reasoning and abstract reasoning. Followed by a questionnaire on career interests' assessment. The results of both were collated and the boys were given a report which detailed 16 different career possibilities. This Information is so useful to students to highlight their strengths, to explore future career options and research subject requirements which are necessary or beneficial to future career prospects.
- **Additionally, this report may prove extremely beneficial in supporting students with their senior cycle subject choice selection.**
- **Each student completed a career investigation to explore future career/college/course interests.**
- **World of Work preparation develops each students interview skills and students begin the building of their career portfolios through the creation of CV's and Cover letter.**

The TY Experience
is different to other
school years in 3
ways



Timetable



**Work
Experience**



**Calendar of
Activities**

1. Timetable

Core

Elective

Guided Reflective Practice

TY Specific Modules

Additional Growth Experiences



Student Dimensions

Personal Growth: Students develop socially and emotionally in areas that include health and wellbeing, empathy and leadership.

Civic and Community Engagement: Students make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society.



Career Exploration: Students explore future pathways in a guided and coordinated manner.

Being a Learner: Students build on junior cycle experiences, embracing opportunities and strategies for learning that work best for them.

Student Dimension	Components	Guidance for accommodation of components			
Being a Learner	Core <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maths • English • Irish • Physical Education (aligned to the aims of the Senior Cycle PE Framework) • SPHE 	The core components are mandatory to all TY Programmes. The time allocation for each core component should not exceed 2 hours per week.	Civic And Community Engagement	Our own community Local out-reach activities, community placement, social enterprise activities, education in cultural diversity	These components draw from TY specific modules, work and community placements and additional experiences.
	Elective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling of subjects and skills • Additional components that may need to be included in the school's curriculum 	The time allocation for elective components, in total, is the equivalent of 3 to 4 hours per week, depending on school context.		Our global community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for Sustainable Development • A meaningful student-led personal or collaborative action related to sustainable living 	These components can draw from planning time in the guided reflective practice class and/or a TY specific module related to education for sustainable development.
	Guided reflective practice Portfolio development, diary, self-assessment, student planning	Minimum of one class per week.		Work and Community Placement	An appropriate and feasible balance of work-based and community-based placements. A time allocation amounting to the equivalent of 2-4 weeks of the programme is suggested.
Personal Growth	TY specific modules	Students gain experiences from an array of modules. The organisation of the modules into semesters, or modules across the entire year is decided at school level.	Career Readiness	Career guidance and learning through placements	One class per week or classes timed to target key career-related events during the year.
	Additional growth experiences Guest speakers, Government supported developmental awards, induction, competitions, life-skills courses, school-wide events (plays, musicals, market days, etc), themed days or significant learning days.	The organisation of Additional growth experiences provided by the school need to be notified to students, teachers and parents as soon as feasible. Students who wish to participate in other learning experiences could also be accommodated within the context of their continued commitment to the school's TY programme.		Additional career-related experiences Guest speakers, Further Education and Training / Higher Education tasters, information days, Government supported developmental awards, certified short courses	Additional career-related experiences need to be planned and notified in advance of the school year where feasible, requiring a flexible and adaptable approach to the rollout of the programme.

2. Work Experience

Work Experience Days

CV Builder

Interview Preparation

Evaluations



Student Dimensions

Personal Growth: Students develop socially and emotionally in areas that include health and wellbeing, empathy and leadership.

Civic and Community Engagement: Students make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society.



Career Exploration: Students explore future pathways in a guided and coordinated manner.

Being a Learner: Students build on junior cycle experiences, embracing opportunities and strategies for learning that work best for them.

Work Experience Guidelines

Two different work experiences

Must be suitable and hope they would be in line with future career/ study/ personal development goals

Organised by students themselves

Garda vetting required if working with children or vulnerable adults

Insurance from school covers most activities check

If other opportunities present throughout the year no problem. Just email to let us know the details and dates

3. Calendar of Activities

Weeks are very busy with activities in TY at CBS.

We have plenty on offer for students, with some extra opt ins available as our Guidance Dept mentioned previously.

Some students opt into everything and make the most of the TY experience.

Unfortunately, others opt into very little.

Try to encourage participation as much as possible, the experience can pass them by otherwise.

Activities

SciFest

Bogathon

Public Speaking & Debating

Robotics

Christmas Shoebox Appeal

Musical

Microsoft Dreamspace

Qualifications

Gaisce Award and Experience

Self Defense

First Aid

Microsoft Office Specialist

Drivers Ed

TY Graduation

Introduction to Barista

Workshops

Film Making

School of Life

Fundamentals

Self Reflection

CV Builder

TY Retreats

Minecraft Education

Forensics

Guest Speakers & Trips

Local Entrepreneurs

University Campus Tours

Brilliant Mondays

Focus Ireland

Carlingford Adventure Centre

Richard Sadlier

BT Young Scientist

European Tour

Transition Year Assessment



Behaviour & Attendance



**Engagement with class activities including
class exams / projects / presentations**



CV & Interview



ePortfolio Reflection



Extra Curricular



Work Experience

Staying up to date with TY

Students – Our TY Notice board is on Microsoft Teams – all important notices, applications for opportunities/ activities/ work experience will be shared here.

Students can communicate with me via Teams messaging.

Parents - School App, Instagram & Twitter - Announcements and real time updates are shared via these accounts.

Parents can communicate with me via email or schedule a call/meeting.

Transition Year Fee

**The total fee for TY
this year is €500.**

**€250 is due March
15th with acceptance
form with €250 due
May 25th.**

**All bus trips are €10
per trip.**

**Now Included:
Gaisce (overnight
trip/activity/meals)
€75 approx.**

**Not included:
Carlingford €200
approx. is due on
return to school in
September.**

**Not included:
European Trip**

Students

The trips are enjoyable and the different classes are a good experience

I enjoy it because we get to do lots of new subjects and workshops, we also get to go on fun trips.

I enjoy TY because it is fun and there is not much I don't like about it

Getting to try new things, good craic

It is fun getting to go on trips and experience things I would never have done in 5th year

It's given me an idea of what the real world is like

I'm enjoying it because of all the new experiences I've been able to have, as well as all the trips and activities we've been able to do.

Because it opens a lot of opportunities and activities I haven't even taught of doing before ty.

I like that we got 2 weeks of work experience and the trips so far was really good

Get to try new things.

It's a break year where I can try new things

I'm learning a lot about myself and what I actually want to do for a career and also just figuring out what my priorities are. Since I've that extra bit of time to myself and improving on my goals outside of school.

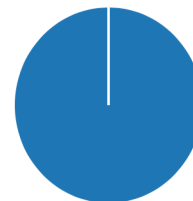
TY Evaluations

1. Do you believe the TY programme in St. Mary's CBS has been beneficial for your son?

[More Details](#)

● Yes

● No



Parents

Has given him the opportunity to think about what he would like to do after school following the work experience The mini co has allowed him to build his confidence

I think even the trips to Dublin, Cork etc. are beneficial in giving them a bit of independence and learning time keeping (meet back for the bus), managing their own money, navigating new areas etc., all night seem simple but are basic life skills.

I think that in our current co-vid environment that TY gives my son a chance to reevaluate his direction in what is or should be a relaxed year in order for him to grow as a person

My son has enjoyed all the programmes especially the work experience. I think it has given him an insight into different areas and possible opportunities to pursue re studies and future employment

Parents

He loved the bogathon and cork trip. He also really enjoyed the barista training and has started drinking Mochas! He always liked art but never did it so it was lovely to do graffiti and make pottery. First aid was v interesting

Opportunities to try new activities, outside the comfort zone, focus on developing independence and identifying own strengths and preferences. Some fun activities added to the enjoyable experience.

The students get treated like young adults and it is helping them mature into young men

Lots of variety which has made the experience really enjoyable

He seems to be enjoying every minute of it

He's enjoying the less structured environment & spending valuable time experiencing new life skills

He has come out of his shell a bit and is more open to try new experiences Has enjoyed all the trips and the sense of freedom and ability to put in his own structure

Range of opportunities provided for him

He loves trying out different subjects and loves the trips

Ty trips ,guest speakers and work experience and home economics

He is very happy with all the activities and team work..and learning new skills..

2023

I'm enjoying it because it's giving me time to get more experience on what I like and I think the work experience has helped with that also I'm having a fun time in ty too

I am enjoying stuff in TY that I haven't done in other school years.

Enjoying the trips and most of the workshops,

I am enjoying it because of the major trips and some of the new subjects alongside the atmosphere of being ty

I find the workshops very enjoyable as I get to take in a lot of new learnings

I'm getting many new experiences and learning more a out myself

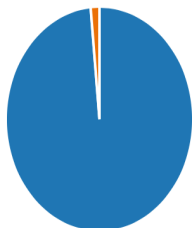
It's good fun and you get a break from proper learning

I'm enjoying the activity's and all the involvement with teams and talking to the younger years it's great fun everday

1. Are you glad you did TY?

[More Details](#)

Insights



I find it a fun experience overall I enjoy the classes and the work experience is great

Loads of new experiences I wouldn't have ever done otherwise, spending time and having the craic with classmates is great

I'm enjoying because it's not as stressful as a normal school year and we also have more freedom and responsibility around the school

I am making a lot of new friends and I'm really enjoying the trips. Also I am learning a lot about life skills and how the real life world works

I'm really enjoying the trips and am having a good time during work experience.

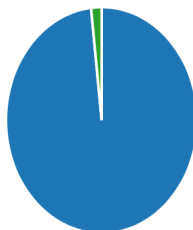
I'm enjoying ty because I'm trying new things and it good craic

First time I've been out in the working world. Enjoying the workshops and the new skills I'm learning. The trips have all been good, my favourite being Carlingford and the bogathon. Talking and having the craic with lads in my year I haven't talked with before.

2022

1. Are you glad you did TY?

[More Details](#)

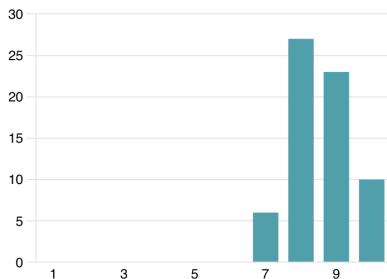


12. Rate your enjoyment of the year

[More Details](#)

Insights

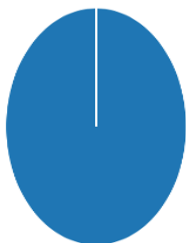
8.56
Average Rating



2021

1. Are you glad you did TY?

[More Details](#)



I am enjoying because it is a lot of fun with my friends going on trips and spending time socialising with peers and teachers. I've made new friends from ty. The work experience is good and shows you how hard work can be. I like mini company and how the teachers get so involved and make you work and give you tips on what to do,

Having fun and interacting with teachers and students more

Action packed with various activities

You get to try out new things

I get to learn a lot more for experience and am more sociable

I am enjoying Ty due to the various workshops we do frequently like the barista training as they they will be useful for me later on in life. The trips that are organised for us are Also amazing as they allow us to bond with other students that we may not know.

Next steps



Students must complete the online application form and submit it by Friday February 23rd at 1.15pm.



Students will receive an acceptance form on Monday 26th of February if their application is successful.



The acceptance form is then due on Friday March 1st. This will confirm your place.



€250 is then due by March 15th and the balance of €250 is due by May 25th 2024.

Admissions



The maximum number of available places will be dependent upon staffing, facilities and resources and will be determined annually by the Board of Management.



For acceptance on to the Transition Year Programme, the school must believe a student can benefit from participation in Transition Year and, equally, that his participation will not prevent any other student(s) from benefiting from participation.



Any decision in this regard will be taken by the Transition Year Admissions Committee & Interview Panel.



The Transition Year Admissions Committee may include Programme Co-Ordinator, Principal, Deputy Principal, Staff Member(s).



The Interview Panel will include Programme Co-Ordinator, Deputy Principal, Staff Member(s).