

Transition Year 2021/2022

St. Mac Dara's Community College



Mission Statement:

Within our transition year programme we aspire to build on the existing foundations of our college in order to **promote personal and social awareness and competence**. We aim to aid the development of **existing skills**, the acquisition of **new skills** and allow students to **grow and mature** in a **safe environment** filled with **variety and opportunity**.

Aims:

- To give students the opportunity to **discover and develop** their own individual gifts, strengths and talents.
- To become **more independent**, not only within the school but within their everyday lives as well.
- To **encourage responsibility and maturity** towards their studies and other aspects of their lives.
- To create **articulate young men and women, assertive and self-confident**, willing to get involved and make a difference in the world.
- To **nurture the caring, generous side** of our students promoting positive wellbeing.

Aims:

- To provide students with the ability to **recognise and improve upon their individual skills and qualities**.
- To encourage **team-work**, uncovering talents and capabilities.
- To understand their own **educational, social and personal needs** and how to cherish, nourish and progress them.
- To **gain competent coping strategies** for coping with the stresses of everyday life.
- To provide a **balance between the academic and non academic subjects** and provide creative experiences catering for a variety of different types of learners.
- To cater for the needs of individual students, providing support in a variety of ways and ensuring a smooth transition to 5th year.

Our Programme:

- **Core Subjects:** English, Irish, Maths & a Language.
- **Other Subjects:**
 - Politics & Society
 - Classical Studies
 - Future Leaders (GAA)
 - Environmental Social Studies
 - Agricultural Science
 - Science
 - Photography
 - Taekwondo
 - Computer Studies
 - Japanese
 - Food Studies
 - Mini Company
 - Art
 - Community Care
 - Development Education
 - Music
 - RSE
 - Life Skills
 - Technology

Key Areas: Work Experience

Work Experience will take place on Wednesdays.

Benefits:

- Students won't miss as much school time.
- Allows us to include more subjects on the programme.
- Prevents "early weekend" mentality.
- Charity events generally take place on Fridays.

Three blocks:

- Sept – Dec
- Jan – Mar
- Mar – May

Students must source their own Work Experience and must have their first block organised before returning in September.

*Block weeks are encouraged and lotteries will be entered to win places on sought-after courses.

Key Areas: Community Care

- Students participate in the “Fast Friends” programme with Cheeverstown House once a week.
- Students make new friends and learn to communicate and integrate with people in our wider community.
- Training/Education is provided before the classes begin.
- Students participate in various different events with their new friends throughout the year.
- Each year our students state that this is the most worthwhile aspect of the TY course.

Key Areas: Charity Work

Projects this year:

- Selling items for the Irish Society for Autism - €941.47
- Bag Packing for Down Syndrome Ireland - €997.82
- Rag Day for Cheeverstown House - €1200.00
- CMRF Cake Sale - €65
- Variety Show - €1915.00
- Carol Singing for Cheeverstown €901.89
- Barnardos Christmas Jumper Day - €1013.00

Total raised so far: €7034.18

*Extra volunteering is encouraged.

Key Areas: Other Projects

- Cheeverstown (Penpals/Christmas cards raising €300)
- Guest speakers Eamon Sharkey from GOAL (students raised €1226.40 for GOAL through a Jersey Day)
- David Nugent from thekidscoach.ie (Goal setting course 10 weeks & certified)
- Cameron Elliott Air Corps and Plan Africa
- Development Education ECO Bricks initiative
- Decorate door for Christmas
- Building benches for school yard through Technology
- Hike (Marley Park - Three Rock)
- Cycle Against Suicide committee (delivered lessons to first years/ Mental health booklets/ Cycled to Liverpool!)
- TY students published in the Sunday Times

Key Areas: Other Projects:

- School Magazine (lead by Linda Daly, Sunday Times Editor)
- GAISCE
- Yoga/Mindfulness
- Podcasting - Life after the Leaving
- ECDL
- Make that course
- Student Council Elections (Ran the election process for the entire school)
- Comhairle na nÓg
- Prefects
- Integral part of the schools covid response
- As I Am talk
- Ukulele
- UCD physics webinar
- Green week
- Pumpkin carving

Key Areas: Reflection

- **Reviews** are carried out regularly with all stakeholders. Our students, teachers and indeed parents.
- **Reflection** takes place regularly in the form of a diary.
- **Teacher/student Mentor programme:**
 - Students link in with a teacher to discuss areas such as:
 - Personal development
 - Social skills
 - Academic progress
 - Goal setting
 - Friendships
 - Relationships

Benefits of Transition Year:

- Develops **confidence** and **independence**.
- Allows students the opportunity to **experience the world of work**.
- Promotes **decision making** including **career paths**.
- Develops **social interaction** with peers and people from all walks of life.
- Allows students to **build on their strengths and talents**.
- Encourages students to **take more responsibility** and to appreciate things more.
- **Maturation.**

Assessment & Evaluation:

Teachers:

- Students get a **report** at Christmas outlining results of exams, projects or continuous assessment undertaken throughout the first term.
- Students undertake an **online portfolio** of work to be completed by a certain deadline. This counts towards their overall grade.
- Teachers complete **evaluations** for each student depending on their level of participation, attendance, punctuality and behaviour in their respective classes.
- Completed certificates will be presented at the graduation ceremony.

Employers:

- Complete **evaluation sheets** for the student upon finishing a placement.

Parents:

- **Monitor journals** closely for information on trips and projects. There is always work to be completed. **Sign journal** on a weekly basis.

Key Information:

- **Cost:**
 - **€160.00** over and above normal F.E.F (covers trips, buses, subsidies, guest speakers).
 - **€99.00** for ECDL.
 - **€180.00** approx. for two night bonding trip to the Rostrevor Activity Centre in September.
- **Lottery system for selection.**
- **Deadlines – To be confirmed**
- 48 students have access to the programme.
- Transition Year is a very worthwhile and positive year **if** students are willing to participate actively, willing to contribute and willing to take responsibility for their own involvement.

Testimonials

- “TY is an experience I will never forget. It is a year where there is no exam pressure, you get to enjoy school life and bond with new individuals, other than those in your circle of friends. We got to try out new subjects like Korean, Classical Studies, Agricultural Science and many more. You also get a chance to do work experience and gather ideas for your career when you are older. This helped me figure out what I like and don't like. When I was in TY we went on loads of trips. My favourite trip was at the beginning of the year in Rostrevor Adventure Centre. This really brought the group together. TY is also beneficial for those who are a little too young to do their Leaving Cert and start college.”
- Niamh Murphy 2018-2019

Testimonials

- “During my time in TY I got to have amazing experiences with all of my friends. I really enjoyed the year and hope others get the same joy out of it as I did. I had lots of fun all through the year and learned lots of new skills such as gardening and entrepreneurship. During my time I also got to work in careers I never knew existed and I know now which career I would like to follow.”
- David Perry 2019-2020