



**Transition Year Programme**  
**2020/2021**

## **A Message from the Principal and Deputy Principal**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are very pleased to be offering Transition Year to your sons in our school because we know it will be of huge benefit to them. Many of our students are young and, in the past, some were leaving school without really knowing what they wanted to do or become. For this reason, we introduced a compulsory Transition Year programme in September 2019. The programme has been a success. Transition Year gives the students an opportunity to experience what is outside the examination curriculum and to explore what opportunities might be available for them.

Transition Year is an opportunity to try different subjects and activities and to enter 5<sup>th</sup> year as a mature young adult, ready to commit to the study required for a successful Leaving Certificate. We put a lot of thought and planning into the introduction of Transition Year last year. We have completed a review of the year and may make some changes based on that. Students will study core subjects including English, Irish and Maths and will get an opportunity to try a range of subjects, which will help them make choices for 5<sup>th</sup> year.

This year students will be unable to do one day a week of Work Experience and one half day of activities due to the current restrictions. When the restrictions are lifted we hope that students will have an opportunity to visit College Open Days and other events.

We had planned to have a meeting of parents, students, teachers and some current Transition Year students. Unfortunately, the current crisis means that we can't hold this meeting at this time, but we plan to hold a meeting as soon as possible, to explain the year in more detail. Depending on how social distancing is at that time, we may have to rearrange when we do certain trips during the year.

We are absolutely committed to making the year one which students will enjoy and which will benefit them both for their Leaving Certs and in their future lives.

Ann Bray  
*Principal*

Noirin Lannon  
*Deputy Principal*

## **Introduction to Transition Year**

At Greenhills Community College we are delighted to welcome your son to our Transition Year programme. Last year we re-introduced Transition Year as one-year programme which ensures that students experience a smooth transition to the Leaving Certificate or Leaving Certificate Applied programme and beyond. It has been designed by our teaching staff and has been updated to cater for our student needs and the resources available to the school.

This booklet is designed to give parents and students an introduction to our Transition Year programme. It details the information on the Transition Year curriculum, modes of assessment and the supportive role that parents/guardians can play to ensure that all our students benefit greatly from the opportunities they are given during the year.

Students will be assessed throughout the year in a variety of ways which will include written examinations, oral presentations, aural assessments, project and practical task assessments. Students on the Transition Year programme will be closely monitored and a report will be sent to all parents twice yearly. Parents/Guardians of students who fail to submit project work are also notified. School certificates will be awarded to all students who complete the programme as part of the end of year graduation ceremony, where student successes are celebrated with parents and teachers. Students also receive certificates of participation for their involvement in various aspects of the programme over the year.

If there are any specific questions regarding any aspect of the Transition Year programme, please do not hesitate to contact the Transition Year Coordinator or any member of the school management team.

Noirin Lannon, Deputy Principal

## General Aim of the Transition Year

*“Transition year programmes are intended to facilitate the integrated development of the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical, social and vocational capabilities of each individual student through structured learning experiences. The general aim of the Transition Year is the preparation of young people for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society”.*

*(Guidelines for Transition Year)*

The Greenhills Community College Transition Year curriculum is one that will:

- ◆ Provide students with opportunities to develop their personal, intellectual, spiritual, social, physical and emotional life in a caring, stimulating and varied learning environment.
- ◆ Provide a transition between Junior and Senior cycles.
- ◆ To encourage students to achieve their potential in subject areas and learning experiences within the programme.
- ◆ To provide a broad and balanced curriculum including the provision of additional support in the core subjects where possible.
- ◆ To provide students with opportunities for personal and social development.
- ◆ To facilitate students in making better-informed subject choices for Senior Cycle.
- ◆ To assist students in taking greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making.
- ◆ To prepare students for the world of work, further education and life-long learning.
- ◆ To provide students with the supports and skills necessary to grow in self-confidence and develop a range of interpersonal and communication skills.

# Transition Year Opportunities

Transition year can give you opportunities to:

- ✓ Make informed choices about Leaving Certificate subjects.
- ✓ Develop a variety of new skills
- ✓ Learn more about the working world through work experience.
- ✓ Catch up on learning missed out during the Junior Cycle.
- ✓ Take part in outdoor pursuits.
- ✓ Learn about working as part of a team.
- ✓ Undertake projects on various topics.
- ✓ Practice meeting deadlines for assignments.
- ✓ Become a more independent learner
- ✓ Develop more understanding and confidence about yourself as a person.
- ✓ Learn about leadership, co-operation and dealing with conflict
- ✓ Learn through meeting people beyond the classroom.
- ✓ Awareness of social issues.
- ✓ Discover more about your own personal strengths – what you are good at.
- ✓ Discover more about jobs and career opportunities.
- ✓ Enhance ICT skills.
- ✓ Become a more mature person
- ✓ Add a valuable set of experience to your CV
- ✓ Sample and discover new subjects

# Transition Year Programme

The Transition Year Programme is made up of core subjects, sample subjects and activities.

Work experience will take place in a block of 1 or 2 weeks in 2021, as soon as Covid 19 restrictions allow. We would ask you to help your son find work experience but if you are having any difficulty we are in a position to help.

Last year, we ran an activity day once a week, on Wednesdays, where students participated in physical activities such as swimming or hiking, or go on trips out as part of the curriculum and extracurricular. We hope to reintroduce this during 2021.

## **Core Subjects** (these subjects are continuous all year)

- English, Irish, Maths
- Guidance & Well-being, Religion, Relationships & Sexuality Education

## **Sample Subjects** (these subjects are for half of the academic year)

- Business stream: Business, Accounting & Economics
- Science stream: Biology, Physics & Chemistry
- Engineering
- Construction
- Art
- History
- Geography
- German
- Active Leisure Studies
- Portuguese / Spanish

## **Active Leisure Studies sample activities:**

Swimming, Gym, Golf, Rock Climbing, Film Studies, Cycling, Windsurfing, Hiking, Skiing, Collins Barracks, Driver Theory Test Preparation and Cookery. This is not a definitive list of activities that will take place in the 2020/21 academic year. These activities depend on availability.

## Draft of Transition Year Timetable 2020 - 2021

Gaeilge	5 class periods
English	5 class periods
Mathematics	5 class periods
Career Guidance	1 class period
Tutorial	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Religion	2 class periods
RSE	1 class period
German / Art	2 class periods
Construction / Engineering	2 class periods
History/ Geography	2 class periods
Science / Business	2 class periods
Music / Coding	2 class periods
Mini Company / Health & Safety	1 class period
Spanish / Portuguese	1 class period
Film Studies	2 class periods
Word Processing / Psychology	2 class periods
Gaisce	1 class period
PE	2 class periods
Driver Theory / Food Choice & Health	2 class periods

### Possible Events during the year:

- Drama/Music Module
- Smartphone Film Making
- First Aid Programme
- Student Enterprise Awards (ongoing over the Year – Final in March)
- Community Involvement
- GAA skills coaching
- Tenderfoot Script Writing Programme
- Zeminar
- College Open Days
- Fundraising Initiatives
- Carlingford Lough Introductory Trip
- Trip Abroad (additional cost not factored in)

## **Assessment & Certification**

Assessment in Transition Year is in keeping with the overall school policy on assessment. There is an emphasis on both assessment for learning and on assessment of learning within the programme.

- Homework is a regular feature of all courses in Transition Year. It forms part of the process of assessment for learning, and can count towards the student's final assessment.
- Christmas and Summer exams will take place in core subjects.
- Individual teachers using a variety of modes including continuous assessment, written, practical, oral and aural assessment, assess student performance and assessment of learning in each course.
- Project work is an important feature of the assessment process in the programme.
- The employer assesses each student's work experience.
- All students who successfully complete the Transition Year are presented with a folder of certification.
- All students put on an exhibition of their individual work as part of the annual Transition Year Night for Parents.

## **Evaluation**

Feedback will be taken after each event and module. The programme will be adapted based on student feedback and we will ensure that the student voice is heard and respected.

Students and parents will evaluate the Transition Year programme at the end of the school year by completing a questionnaire followed by discussion with the TY Co-ordinator. Ongoing evaluation by teachers and between teachers and their students is also encouraged. As a result of these evaluations, various elements of the programme or modules may be amended or replaced.

# **How Parents/Guardians Can Support Their Son in Transition Year**

Encourage your son to make the most of the Transition Year programme. It is a year where the benefits are accurately reflected in the effort applied by the student.

Demonstrate as much interest in your son's daily educational activities as you would when he is following the Junior/Leaving Certificate programme.

Familiarise yourself with the extra opportunities the school plans to provide during the year. Students may only convey what they are interested in to their parents and many valuable opportunities may be overlooked. Sometimes parents only discover what was on offer at the end of the school year.

Acclimatise yourself to having a student who will not necessarily have traditional "homework". Transition year opens doors to other ways of learning. The TY student will tend to have other forms of homework and may need parental assistance in practicing presentations or presenting a body of work.

If you have an area of interest, local politics, or an expertise (e.g. interview skills), perhaps you would consider offering your services to the Transition Year group.

## Transition Year Finances

Greenhills Community College Transition Year Programme is supported by student contributions of €250.

### **Payment Due Date:**

Payment 1: €50

Payment 2: €100

Payment 3: €100

Students are encouraged to raise funds through various enterprise and fundraising activities during the year.

There may be an optional trip to a European City which will depend on student demand. This is at an additional cost and is not covered under the student contribution above. This trip will take place before the Easter break. Students will be given the opportunity to vote on the destination.

The table below shows the expected costs and trips that students will participate in. These will depend on student engagement and may change.

## Work Experience

Work Experience will not take place every Thursday throughout the academic year this year. It may be offered in 1 week or 2 week blocks, depending on Covid 19 restrictions.

The first date for work experience will not be until 2021.

- It is up to each student to find his own work placement.
- Students are generally insured under the schools insurance while on placement. When the student returns their Work Experience information sheet, the coordinator will contact the potential employer and forward on all necessary information.

We recommend that students attempt to find two work placements. Students should begin looking for work experience positions before the end of this academic year as there will be competition for positions among other TY students in the area.

- One from September to December and
- The second from January to May.

One placement could be in a voluntary/community setting.

If your son is having any difficulty finding work experience, please contact the school in good time for support.

# Work Experience Employer Information Sheet

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Contact No: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Work Experience Details

### Placement 1

Employer Name:	
Employer Address:	
Employer Contact No:	
Employer Email:	
Type of work:	

## Work Experience Details

### Placement 2

Employer Name:	
Employer Address:	
Employer Contact No:	
Employer Email:	
Type of work:	