

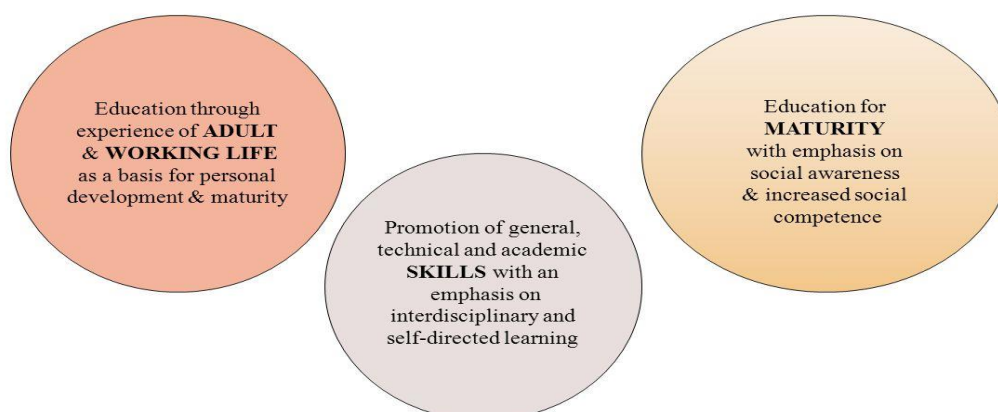


## Holy Family Secondary School Transition Year Programme

Transition Year is a one-year, school-based programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle. It is designed to act as a bridge between the two by facilitating the smooth transition from the more dependent learning of the Junior Cycle to the more independent self-directed learning required for the Senior Cycle.

The Transition Year offers students an opportunity to engage in independent, self-directed learning, to develop general, technical and academic skills, and to mature and develop without the pressure of an examination. Students get the opportunity to sample a wide range of subject areas and can make more informed choices about the kind of Leaving Certificate programme they want to follow after the Transition Year.

### **TRANSITION YEAR AIMS**



## Introduction to Transition Year at HFSS

The Department of Education Transition Year Programme Guidelines (1995) assert the mission of TY to be to 'promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative, and responsible members of society.' This governing aim resonates closely with the ethos of HFSS. Our Transition Year Programme offers students a variety of subjects and educational experiences designed to help our students to make the transition from the highly structured environment of the Junior Cycle to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making at Senior Cycle, and beyond.

### Programme Design

Transition Year is a one year programme. It is designed based on four layers;

**1. Core layer Core subjects** are studied all year and are JC and LC subjects. English, Irish, Maths, Modern Foreign Language, IT, PE, RE, Career Guidance

**2. Subject sampling** These are optional subjects which will be on offer at LC and are tailored for TY. History, Geography, Business subjects, Art, Music, Home Economics, Science subjects

**3. TY specific** These subjects are specific to TY. Subjects on offer will vary slightly from year to year. Law, Mini Company, GAISCE, debating, Eportfolio, Swim Ireland Instructor's Course.

**4. Calendar** The calendar layer consists of highlights/activities/events specific to TY. It is envisaged that the balance of these layers within the curriculum will reflect the need to maximise students' TY experiences while also paving the way forwards as part of their transition in to Senior Cycle. Work Experience, Activity Weeks, outdoor pursuits, field trips, competitions, concerts, shows, Overseas trips.

### Assessment

- Subject specific assessment tools vary considerably from project work to portfolio assessment, presentations to website design, peer teaching to reflective journals, written, oral and aural exams.

- Exams take place in December and May.

- E-portfolio: Each student uses an e-portfolio in order to compile evidence of learning and experiences throughout the year. Some subjects use this platform as a part of their assessment procedure.

- TY Interviews with TY teachers offer students a formal opportunity to showcase their learning experiences and to articulate their reflections on the year.

**TY Induction** At the beginning of the school year, TY students attend a series of specific TY Induction sessions. The TY Co-ordinator leads a session based on the TY philosophy and what the year is all about. This emphasises the importance of getting involved, being open-minded, taking increased responsibility for self and testing out and discovering personal strengths.

**TY Bonding trip:** Each year a trip to an outdoor pursuits centre is undertaken at the very start of the TY year. This trip is a TY trip that serves to open the year on a note commensurate with the philosophy of TY – one of personal challenge and group cohesion. This trip has well and truly become a highlight of the TY calendar and is conducive to setting a tone of adventure, comradeship and positivity for the year.

**TY Graduation Ceremony** Students are awarded their TY Certificate at this event, as well as any other certs they may have attained throughout the year (e.g. first aid, public speaking, etc.) Students who have completed their Gaisce Bronze Award are presented with their medals at the ceremony.

**Tours and Exchanges** Trips may be offered during the year, these trips are subject to change from year to year. Information on what will be on offer for any particular year will be communicated to parents before the end of 3rd Year along with projected costs.

### **TY SPECIFIC TRIPS for 2020/2021**

**2. Colaiste Acla) - <https://www.colaiateacla.com/> August 2020**

**3. Camino de Santiago – May 2021**

### **Work Experience**

Work Experience is an integral part of the TY programme and helps to prepare students for the world of work. It encourages students to take initiative, build confidence, develop social skills and work as part of a team. It also allows them to broaden their interests, discover personal strengths and areas in which they can improve. Work Experience will take place for four week-long blocks, which are set in the school calendar. Students are required to engage in a minimum of three different placements over the year. Insurance is in place and covers most placements. However, working with horses or dangerous dogs is not covered.

- PREPARATION is the key. Students who apply early get the best jobs and have, in general, more noteworthy experiences. Those who leave it until the last minute are very often disappointed and often report negative experiences as a result of their poor organisation.
- Your completed calendar and paperwork for placements will be required by the school when you begin TY in August.
- Students must be Garda Vetted after their 16th Birthday for work experience activities with children (schools, crèche etc.).

### **Guidelines for securing placements**

1. Thoroughly **investigate** potential careers which you may want to pursue after you finish School/ Apprenticeship/ College/ University
2. **Speak to this year's fourth years** and ask them what work placements they most enjoyed and also what they did not enjoy.
3. **Apply for jobs that are linked to your hobbies or subjects you like.**
4. Consider jobs from many **diverse (different) areas**, as very often a placement you might never have considered as a career can end up being the one you excel in and go on to pursue.
5. **Research local companies** and businesses that can provide you with a worthwhile work placement. Local business directories and online searches will help you locate potential employers.
6. Prepare a **cover letter and your Curriculum Vitae**. Adapt it to the requirements of the placement you would like to apply for.

7. **Contact the employer** either in person, email or phone. If you do not hear back within a reasonable time you may need to follow up with a phone call or a visit to the premises. You may need to apply to several places before you are successful. If calling by phone, have dates of work experience at hand, a pen and paper. Always ask the name of person to whom you are speaking and keep a record of their name in case you need to make further contact with them. If calling into a location in person, have the necessary paperwork and insurance letter with you. Take note of the name of the person who offers you a placement opportunity.

8. Once you have secured a placement, provide your employer with The Holy Family Secondary School **“letter to Employer”** and a copy of the **School Insurance policy letter**. The TY Co-ordinator will have these documents for you.

<https://ty.ie/>

[https://careersportal.ie/workx/student\\_search.php](https://careersportal.ie/workx/student_search.php)

<http://www.tyireland.com/courses-out-of-school>

### **Moving on to 5th Year**

Students have regular timetabled Careers classes throughout TY during which they research career areas of interest. Students and parents are encouraged to research subjects further. In March, students will have a subject information workshop and parents will be invited to an evening talk, subject choice forms are filled for 5th Year after these talks.



## Transition Year Monthly Guide Calendar 2020/2021

<p><b>AUGUST</b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="113 309 564 488"> <tr> <td data-bbox="113 309 264 488"> <p><b>25</b></p> </td> <td data-bbox="264 309 432 488"> <p><b>26</b> TY students bonding trip to Colaiste Acla</p> </td> <td data-bbox="432 309 564 488"> <p><b>27</b> TY students bonding trip to Colaiste Acla</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> TY students bonding trip to Colaiste Acla</p>	<p><b>27</b> TY students bonding trip to Colaiste Acla</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <p><b>WORK EXPERIENCE week #1 (5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> October 2020)</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES block week #1 (12<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October 2020)</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> TY students bonding trip to Colaiste Acla</p>	<p><b>27</b> TY students bonding trip to Colaiste Acla</p>			
<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> Open Evening</p>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <p><b>1. ACTIVITIES block week #2 (30<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> December)</b></p> <p><b>2. TY EXAMS week (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> December)</b></p> <p><b>3. WORK EXPERIENCE week #2 (16<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>th</sup> December)</b></p>	<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <p><b>1. ACTIVITIES block week #3 (25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> January 2021)</b></p>			
<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <p><b>2. WORK EXPERIENCE week #3 (22<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021)</b></p>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p>	<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <p><b>1. ACTIVITIES block week #4 (26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2021)</b></p> <p><b>Camino de Santiago (Group TY trip option)</b></p>			
<p><b>MAY</b></p> <p><b>2. TY EXAMS week (24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> May 2021)</b></p> <p><b>TY GRADUATION: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021</b></p>	<p><b>JUNE</b></p>	<p><b>JULY</b></p>			

**Provisional dates as at February 2020 \* subject to change**