

# Ratoath College Transition Year



## “A Different Year of Learning”

This leaflet will provide both students and parents with information about our Transition year programme at Ratoath College. Contact [pgiblin.rth@lmetb.ie](mailto:pgiblin.rth@lmetb.ie) for further queries.

[www.ratoathcollege.ie](http://www.ratoathcollege.ie)

## SOME FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What is Transition Year?

The Transition Year Programme is a unique one year programme that promotes the personal, social, vocational and educational development of students and prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society

### What are the aims of the programme?

- ✓ Provide a different way of learning
- ✓ Education through experience of adult and working life
- ✓ Provide students with a range of social and personal skills
- ✓ Encourage self-directed learning
- ✓ Allow students the opportunity to access to a range of diverse subjects
- ✓ To develop students leadership skills
- ✓ To engage students in a more active learning process
- ✓ To develop links between students and the community

### Who is Transition Year for?

Transition year is for students with a genuine interest in tasting a whole range of subjects. The programme encourages self directed learning which is integral to third level education. Students need to be proactive, show enthusiasm and be prepared to get involved in activities/ opportunities and work hard. **The more effort you put in, the more you will benefit from the programme.**

### How do I apply?

To apply for a place in TY each student must complete the following.

- ✓ Fill in the online application available on school website.
- ✓ Complete a group task.
- ✓ Attend a group interview.
- ✓ The following areas will be also assessed –
  - Upkeep of dialann, comments in dialann, homework and behaviour.
- ✓ If necessary, students will be requested to take part in an additional interview with principal/external interviewers.

Criteria above will be used in offering a students a place on the programme.

## What is on the curriculum?

Students study core subjects - English, Irish and Maths. The timetable is modular based. These modules have been specifically designed to engage and challenge students. Examples include: Computer Aided Design, World of Business, Legal Studies. Number of trips are on the curriculum, sample trips include; Bonding Trip, TY Expo, Zeminar Mental Health, Geography, PE, Theatre Production, Gaisce Trip, French Film. Additional options, Gaeltacht trip, TY Compute DCU, Talent Show, School Musical etc.

## How are students assessed?

Continuous assessment is used, students complete key assignments as part of their modules. Students are awarded a Distinction, Merit or Pass for their module. Students receive a report after the end of each session, and an overall grade at graduation.

## Work Experience

One of the main aims of Transition Year is to prepare students for adult and working life. Students keep a record of their work experience in their diary. It is an excellent learning opportunity for students. There has been a wide variety of placements carried out by students in the school, examples includes SPIN 1038, An Garda Siochanna, Aer Lingus, Beaumont Hospital, DCU, Price Water Cooper Accountants . Many students have received part-time employment as a result of their work experience.



## Transition Year Christmas Village

Transition Year students over the last number of years have run a very successful Christmas Village. Each class is responsible for running the village for a day. Primary school students attend the village in the run up to the festive season. It is a fantastic event and always a highlight in the Transition Year Calendar.

*Merry Christmas*



## TY Points System

Students' progress throughout the year is monitored using the Points system. Students receive plus points for positive behaviour. Negative points are awarded where work is not submitted, etc. A student is not allowed go on a trip if they are on negative points.

## Economic and Social Research Ireland (ESRI)

Research has shown TY students are more likely to go on to third level college.

*"At third level students who have missed out on transition year are at a disadvantage, they are often less mature, and have missed out on the development of social and personal skills that can be taught in transition year"*

## Previous Transition Year Students

### Emily Witter Nolan

*"TY was honestly the best year of my life, so far. For me, it was the year I grew the most as a person, in confidence and in maturity. The experiences I had in school, like helping with our class' handprint wall, going on trips to places like the Titanic Museum and raising money for UNICEF were incredible! Instead of focusing completely on the academic side of school, I got to try so many new things like Woodwork and Music Practical, Presentation Skills and even Community Development! I would definitely recommend Transition Year to everyone - I got so much out of it and I'm so glad I did it!"*



### Alex Fogarty

*"Transition Year for me was amazing; it was a whole new world. I can honestly say it was the best year of my life... so far! I may have been an outgoing and confident person before TY, but the classes we did and the tasks we were set to do helped me to know when to be a leader (and take charge) and when to step aside (and let someone else take it on). You learn a lot in TY, aside from academics, you learn people skills, presentation skills and life skills! I would recommend TY to any 3rd Years, as it's a year when you can truly express yourself and even find yourself!"*

