



St David's College

Transition Year Programme



'Uniting Minds, Inspiring Futures'



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

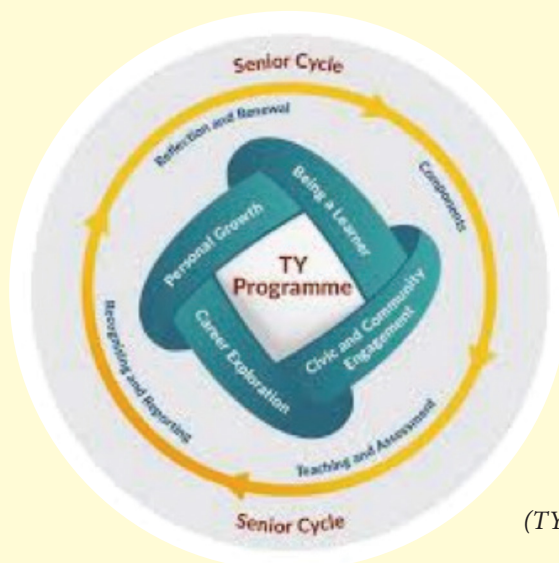
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What is Transition Year?

TY is a one-year programme providing a crucial bridge to help pupils make the transition from the highly-structured environment of Junior Cycle to where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision-making at Senior Cycle. It serves as a foundation for developing the key competencies required to thrive in a rapidly changing world.



(TY Programme Statement 2025)

The Purpose and Vision of Transition Year

Transition Year provides students with the time and space to mature, develop self-confidence, and grow in independence. Students engage in the world of work through work experience and have opportunities to develop personal and social skills through a range of experiences designed to challenge them beyond the traditional classroom boundaries. Students are encouraged to forge new links and nurture new interests within the school community, the broader community and in society. TY is about personal development, embracing new challenges and looking ahead to the future.

Benefits of Transition Year

- ♦ By exploring a range of new subject areas, Transition Year enables students to make well-informed choices for their Senior Cycle subjects.
- ♦ Transition Year provides students with the space to build effective study habits, strengthen their work ethic, and develop greater academic maturity in preparation for the Leaving Certificate.
- ♦ Transition Year also supports students in developing their social and personal skills by encouraging them to engage with peers and staff beyond their usual circles.

Transition Year is explicitly designed around the Four Student Dimensions

Transition Year Programme Statement 2025

STUDENT DIMENSION	DESCRIPTION
Personal Growth	Students mature socially and emotionally over the course of the year, developing in areas that include health and wellbeing, autonomy, identity, empathy and leadership.
Being a Learner	Building on their previous experiences, students begin to develop as senior cycle students, embracing opportunities and strategies for learning that work best for the student now and into the future.
Civic and Community Engagement	Students make a positive difference in their schools, communities and society. They learn to act on their responsibilities and exercise their rights as local, national and global citizens in ethical and sustainable ways.
Career Exploration	Students explore diverse future pathways in a guided and coordinated manner, gaining first-hand workplace experience, and developing career-related competencies.

(TY Programme Statement 2025)

Inclusivity in Transition Year

St. David's is an inclusive school. Our TY Programme is designed with an inclusivity model that meets the needs of each student.

There are no rigorous enrollment requirements for Transition Year, and we guarantee that every student will find something within the diverse programme that appeals to them.

Curriculum

We offer some subjects as year-long subjects and other modules which rotate throughout the year. These can vary from year to year. Below is an example of the subjects/ modules offered for the academic year 2025/2026. Students get an opportunity to sample Leaving Certificate subjects.

Core/ Year-Long Subjects 2025/ 2026

English, Irish, Maths, Digital Portfolio, PE, Religion, Gaisce, Mini Company, Careers, SPHE



Rotations 2025/ 2026

Block 1 **Community Care, Green Schools, AI, Performing Arts**

Block 2 **Community Care, First Aid, Road Safety, Horticulture**

Block 3 **Ag Science, Physics, Biology, Chemistry**

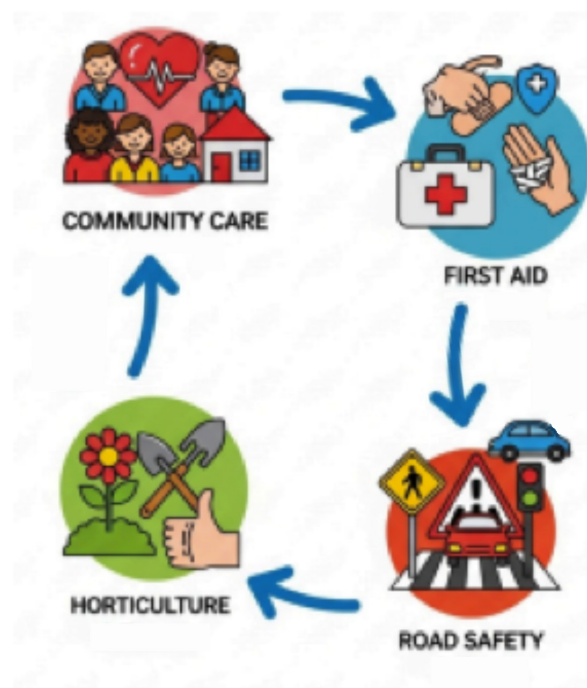
Block 4 **DCG, Home Ec, Music, Art**

TY 4 Subject Rotations

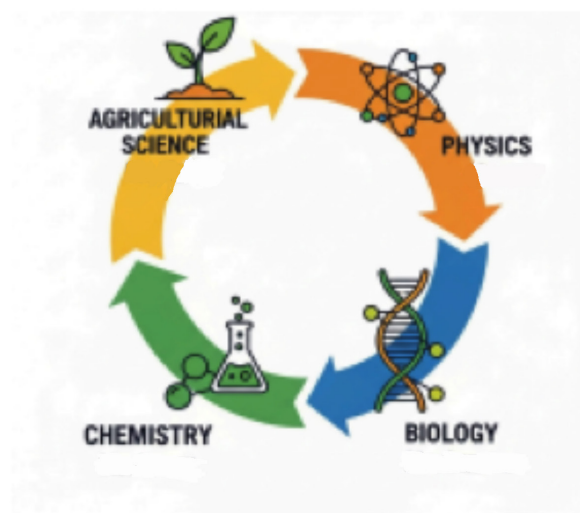
Block 1



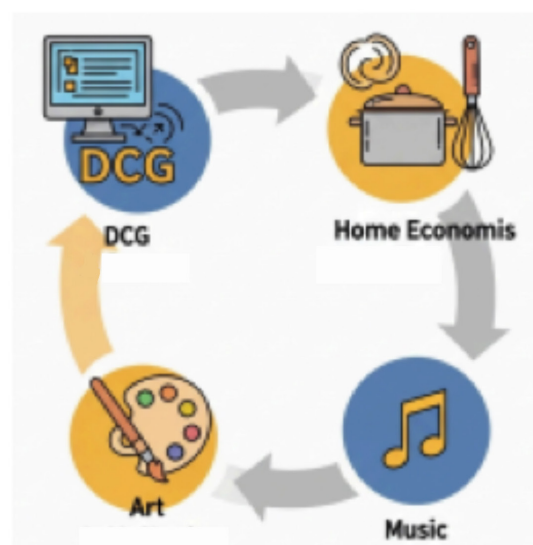
Block 2



Block 3



Block 4



Rotations 2025/ 2026

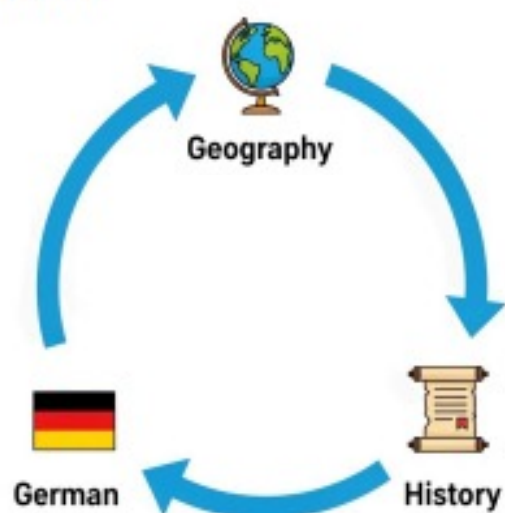
Block 5	Economics, Accounting, Business
Block 6	Geography, History, German
Block 7	Research Methods, Edmund Rice, Mindfulness
Block 8	Podcasting, DIY, Maths Games

TY 3 Subject Rotations

Block 5



Block 6



Block 7



Block 8



Transition Year Activities

Over the course of the year, TY students take part in a range of activities that support the learning goals and values of the Transition Year Programme. The range of activities varies from year to year and may include:

- ◆ An Gaisce - The President's Awards
- ◆ TY Buddy System
- ◆ Driving Theory Test Preparation and Skills
- ◆ Charity Fundraising/Collections
- ◆ DCU Multimedia Course
- ◆ Catering at School Events
- ◆ Volunteering School Events
- ◆ Meet and Greet at Large School Events – Open Night/Careers Fair/Information Evenings
- ◆ Horticulture
- ◆ Creative Engagement
- ◆ Digital Literacy Programme
- ◆ Community Care
- ◆ Road Safety
- ◆ Mini Company
- ◆ Dublin City Enterprise Awards
- ◆ Royal College of Surgeons online lectures
- ◆ 'Finance Your Future' Programme
- ◆ MABS Money Advice Budgeting Workshop
- ◆ DCU STEM
- ◆ Workshops -Forensic Fun, Barbering and Conradh na Gaeige



Transition Year Trips

Students always look forward to the variety of school trips offered during Transition Year. Some outings are educational, while others are simply for fun—but all provide exciting opportunities to meet new people from other schools and to strengthen friendships within the group. Each year, the trips vary, but some of our most popular excursions include:

- ◆ Carlingford Adventure Trip
- ◆ Museums
- ◆ Ice Skating
- ◆ Causey Farm
- ◆ Orienteering
- ◆ Go Quest Adventure Centre
- ◆ Bord Gais Theatre
- ◆ Emerald Park
- ◆ Hiking in Howth
- ◆ College Open Days
- ◆ Hugh Lane Gallery
- ◆ St Annes Park
- ◆ Bowling with 1st Year buddies
- ◆ AvCon Aviation Expo
- ◆ Collins Barracks
- ◆ Dublin Castle
- ◆ 1916 Historical Tour of Dublin City Centre



Excursion to Carlingford

This year, our TY students took part in an overnight trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre. Throughout the experience, they strengthened their teamwork and communication skills while tackling a variety of challenges and activities.

Students enjoyed freshly prepared meals and an exciting mix of outdoor adventures, including laser tag, hiking, kayaking, the aerial skypark, and zip lining. It proved to be one of the standout highlights of their year.









GAISCE THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Gaisce – The President's Award is a self-development programme that our TY students take part in throughout the year. It represents a personal challenge set by the President of Ireland, Catherine Connolly, encouraging young people to aim high and reach their full potential. With guidance from the President's Award Leader (PAL), students choose their own activities, goals, and projects. There are three levels of the award: Bronze, Silver, and Gold.

Gaisce encourages our TY students to show determination and to contribute meaningfully to their community and fellow citizens. The challenge areas include Personal Skill, Physical Recreation, Community Involvement, Adventure & Journey, and Residential Projects. To earn a Gaisce Award, students must take part in at least one hour of activity each week in three of the challenge areas over 13 weeks. Students who continue their Gaisce journey to the highest level have the distinguished honour of receiving their Gold medal from President Catherine Connolly.



Work Experience

Transition Year students complete one day of work experience every Monday throughout the school year.

Students are responsible for sourcing their own placement, while insurance is provided by the school. The Work Experience Coordinator supplies all necessary documentation for employers, including the insurance form, employer details form, and employer report form. Each student maintains a work experience journal and must record a weekly account of their activities. An attendance sheet must also be signed by the employer every Monday. The Work Experience Coordinator will remain in regular contact with employers to monitor each student's progress.

Students can avail of a variety of different employment opportunities.

Some examples of work experience include:

- ◆ Retail experience
- ◆ Secretarial work
- ◆ Apprenticeship work; ie. Electrician, Carpentry, Construction etc
- ◆ Medical experience ie. working in a Doctor, Dentist, or Physiotherapy practice
- ◆ Teaching/SNA
- ◆ Television/Radio
- ◆ Administrative work

Students are encouraged to apply for placements in posts that meet their skills and personal interests.



Skills Development

Transition Year is all about discovering and developing your skills. Students gain confidence, experience personal growth, and become more capable in their abilities—often in ways they never imagined.

Our carefully designed modules give you the chance to explore skills and experiences that go beyond the traditional classroom, helping you grow both personally and academically.

Some skills include:

- ◆ Cooking
- ◆ Computer skills
- ◆ Driving and the theory of driving
- ◆ Mindfulness
- ◆ Health and fitness
- ◆ Learning to work as a group
- ◆ Skills of oral communication and presentation
- ◆ First Aid
- ◆ Leading a team



Enterprise Awards

Transition Year students have the opportunity to take part in the Student Enterprise Awards, where they develop and run their own mini-business from idea to market. Working in teams, students build key skills such as creativity, teamwork, communication, problem-solving, and financial literacy. This programme encourages initiative and entrepreneurship while giving students valuable real-world experience in business planning and presentation.



Assessment

Assessment in TY is development-focused and continuous.

- ♦ **Digital Portfolio:** This portfolio is a key part of their final assessment. It is a place where students reflect on their TY experience (subjects/ modules/ trips/ workshops/ work experience, etc).
- ♦ **Core Subject Exams:** In English, Irish & Maths. Reports are sent home throughout the year, along with exam results and comments for other modules.
- ♦ **TY Grading:** Final Grading (Pass, Merit, Distinction) is based on the student's holistic engagement and achievement across the four Student Dimensions (including academic progress, participation, project work, and personal development) in all subjects/modules. Each subject/ module awards a mark, which contributes to a student's final grade.

Fees

Transition Year is a self-financing programme. The fees are utilised to run the programme. The cost of Transition Year is €500 per student.

CONTACTS

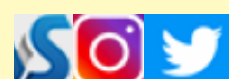
Please contact the following with queries about the TY Programme:

TY Coordinator - kelliereid@stdavidscollege.ie

TY Year Head - deirdrebyrne@stdavidscollege.ie - student's attendance, wellbeing, behaviour, academic progress -

Guidance Department - lesleymurtagh@stdavidscollege.ie - College admissions, aptitudes, and subject choice

If you are interested in the TY Programme, or have any further questions, then please do not hesitate to contact the school at 01 8315322 or email kelliereid@stdavidscollege.ie





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www.stdavidscollege.ie

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