Parents' information evening

9th of September

Welcome

# Transition Year 26/27





# New Transition Year Programme
# Four student dimensions

- **Personal Growth:**
  **Taking part in a team-building trip** or giving a presentation in class to build confidence and resilience.
- **Being a Learner:**
  **Completing a self-directed project** (like researching a topic you're interested in) and reflecting on what you learned. Giving students the skills to prepare them for the LC.
- **Civic and Community Engagement:**
  **Volunteering for a local charity or community clean-up**, helping others and understanding social issues.
- **Career Exploration:**
  **Doing work experience** in a job area you're interested in (e.g. working in a business, hospital, or office).

# Subject choices

| Category | Subjects | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **Core Subjects** | Religion<br>Irish<br>Careers<br>Folder Class<br>English<br>Mathematics<br>Computer Studies<br>PE | All students study these subjects for the full year as per the timetable above. |
| **Subject Rotation Group (All Students do all subjects)** | Music<br>History<br>Biology<br>Sustainable Living<br>Chemistry<br>Research & Referencing (Prep for upcoming AACs in 5th Year) | Each of the six base classes study all subjects in this category - 3 classes per week for 5 weeks each, No choice required – The Base classes move onto the next subject in the list every 5 weeks. |
| **Option Group 1 (Choose 2)** | Geography<br>Home Economics<br>Art<br>Construction<br>Agricultural Science<br>Business | 2 periods per week:<br>One subject studied until Christmas.<br>Second subject from Christmas to Summer |
| **Option Group 2 (Choose 1)** | German<br>English & Communications<br>Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)<br>Accounting<br>French<br>Physics | 2 periods per week - studied for the full year. |
| **Option Group 3 (Choose 1)** | Stage Design (Woodwork)<br>Junk Kouture<br>Theatre and Stage<br>Media<br>Textiles & Crafts<br>Formula One | 1 period per week - studied for the full year. |

# Transition Year Sample Timetable 2026-2027

| Times | Period | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 08.55 – 09.53am | 1 | Computer Studies | Irish | Geography (1 of 2 chosen – changes over at Christmas) | Work Experience | Religion |
| 09.53 – 10.05am | 12 Mins | Cúram Class | Cúram Class | Cúram Class | Work Experience | Cúram Class |
| 10.05 – 10.03am | 2 | German (Chosen - Full Year) | SPHE | Sustainable Living (Rotated – Every 5 weeks) | Work Experience | Geography (1 of 2 chosen – changes over at Christmas) |
| 11.03 – 11.18 | BREAK | | | | | |
| 11.18 – 12.16pm | 3 | Religion | English | German (Chosen – Full Year) | Work Experience | Mathematics |
| 12.16 – 1.14pm | 4 | Irish | Media Studies (Chosen – Full Year) | Careers | Work Experience | Sustainable Living (Rotated – Every 5 weeks) |
| 1.14 – 1.59pm | LUNCH | | | | | |
| 1.59 – 2.57pm | 5 | Sustainable Living (Rotated – Every 5 weeks) | PE | Mathematics | Work Experience | |
| 2.57 – 3.55pm | 6 | Folder Class | PE | English | Work Experience | |

# TY Specific modules:

- English Communications and Media
- Mini Company
- Career Guidance
- TY reflective folder class
- RCSI Mini Med
- Poetry Ireland
- Creative writing workshop
- Movie making/editing
- Cyber Security
- Forensic Science workshop
- Fund literacy through State Street
- RSA road safety
- Driving School workshop
- International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL)
- Wellbeing
- Self Defence
- Yoga/Pilates
- Circuit classes
- Junk Kouture
- Child safeguarding
- Intro to Gaelic Games course

# Extra-Curricular and Community Enrichment activities

Baltinglass Adventure Centre

Dunmore East Adventure Centre

Guest speakers from the world of Engineering, Payroll, Medical Industries, financial trading

Alumni speakers

Footgolf

Emerald Park

Careers Options Fair, Women in Technology, SETU Waterford

Workshop on healthy relationships

K-Bowl Christmas Party

Carlingford Overnight Trip (Not included)



# Extra-Curricular and Community Enrichment activities

- Primary School Debating Trip
- Primary school GAA coaching
- Pirates Cove Adventure Centre
- Young SVP
- Gaisce
- Amnesty, Bagenalstown Nursing home visits
- Direct Provision visits
- Green Schools projects
- Liaising with Bagenalstown Improvement Group
- Intergenerational technology teaching in Bagenalstown Library
- Selling Mini Company Products at Christmas Markets
- Organising Primary school quiz nights in PDLS
- Coaching and referring  with local clubs.



# Work experience

- **Work experience takes place every Thursday. Thursday is not a school day, and attendance at the work placement is required.**
- Every Thursday – 3 Blocks
  - September to November
  - November to March
  - March to May

  Strong relationships with many local employers, and we encourage students to reach out over the Summer and contact businesses in the local area.

  TY work experience programmes:

  Engineers Ireland, The Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána, RCSI MINI Med online information week delivered in school & lottery for in person

  All these programmes will be based on an application process carried out through the TY Coordinator.
- Additional employment information available on TY notice board and hard copies available for parents

All relevant paperwork is available in the TY folders beside the TY notice board and on the school website.

# Work Experience

TY students do **not attend school on Thursdays**, as this day is dedicated to **Work Experience**. Ideally, students complete their placements in **three blocks throughout the school year**.

**Example – Johnny**

- From **September to November**, Johnny works in an **engineering firm** every Thursday.
- From **December to February**, he completes a placement with a **local radio station on Thursdays**.
- From **March to May**, he gains experience in a **local primary school each Thursday**.

# Finding Work Experience / Placement

- Students are expected to **source their own work experience placements**, with the support and guidance of their parents/guardians and the school.
- This is an important part of the TY programme, as it encourages **initiative, responsibility, and independence**.
- The school also provides support throughout this process. A **list of suggested placements** is available, featuring businesses that have an **established relationship with the school**
- Engaging in work experience plays a vital role in students' development. It helps them to:
  - Build **confidence and communication skills**
  - Develop a strong **work ethic and sense of responsibility**
  - Explore potential **career interests**
  - Gain valuable **real-world experience**

Overall, this process supports students in becoming more **independent, motivated, and prepared for future opportunities**.

| TY PE | 4A | 4B | 4C | 4D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| September 23rd | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self Defence |
| September 30th | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self Defence |
| October 7th | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self Defence |
| October 14th | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self defence |
| October 21st | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing |
| November 4th | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing |
| November 11th | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing |
| November 18th | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing |
| November 25th | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness |
| December 2nd | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness |
| December 9th | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness |
| December 16th | K-Bowl | Zumba | K-Bowl | K-Bowl |
| January 6th | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf | Patric Fitness |
| January 13th | Wellbeing | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf |
| January 20st | Wellbeing | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf |
| January 27th | Wellbeing | Self Defence | Zumba | Footgolf |
| February 3rd | Wellbeing | Self defence | Zumba | Footgolf |
| February 10th | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self Defence | Zumba |
| February 24th | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self Defence | Zumba |
| March 3rd | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self Defence | Zumba |
| March 10th | Patric Fitness | Wellbeing | Self defence | Zumba |

# Transition year PE

- Full PE Uniform must be worn
- Note must be provided if correct uniform is not worn.
- If students are leaving school, they will be supervised by their teacher.
- Each student samples at least 5 different PE classes, rotates after 4 classes.
- Diverse curriculum to satisfy many different physical needs.
- Additional PE classes to be delivered March-May, introduction to GAA, Swimming, hiking etc.

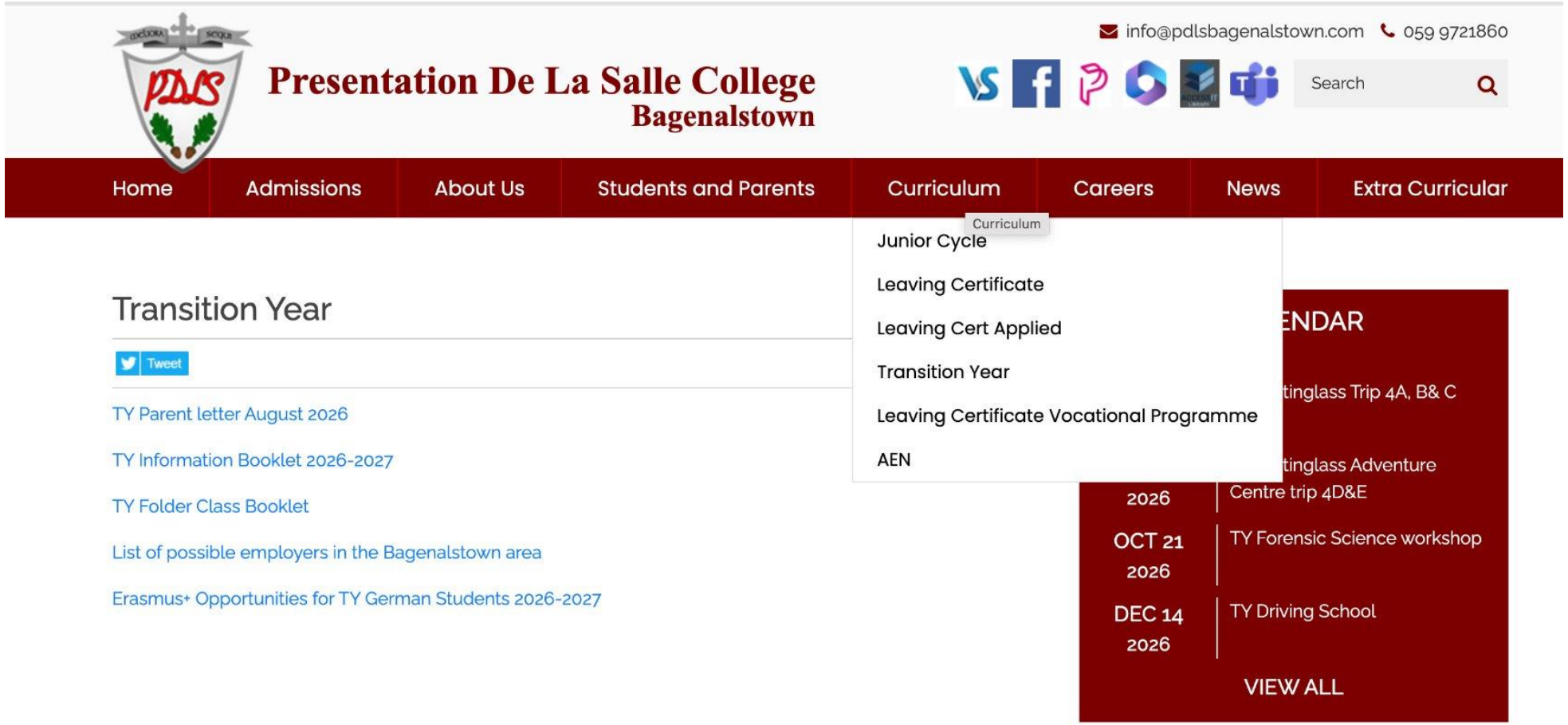


# Communication

- TY Notice board in school
- Student email
- Face to face interaction
- Access to Coordinator and Year head in their classrooms
- Text Messages to Parents
- School calendar published on the school website https://www.pdlsbagenalstown.com/Calendar
- Social Media
- Student surveys
- Continuous verbal feedback from students, staff and parents



# School website



# What do I get for my €450?

- All activities **except** for Erasmus Trips and the overnight trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre
- ICDL (Internation Computer Driver's licence) costs €6550
- Busses - €18,000 spent on TY buses over the last academic year, Eg Dunmore East Bus cost is €1200 this year.
- €45.87 Dunmore East,  Waterford Greenway €15pp, Baltinglass Adventure centre €40pp, Surfing €30pp
- Speakers, Forensic science, Driving school course, Poetry Ireland, TY PE classes (€9000), Bowling, GAA & Safeguarding course, Movie editing…
- In the previous year, €535 has been the average spend per student.



# Trips away

- Currently in the planning phase for Erasmus 26/27. Based on application and availability of teacher ability
- Baltinglass, Dunmore East and Adventure Centres, covered in TY Cost
- Carlingford Adventure Centre

19th-21st of April 2027 at a cost of €236 per student, full parental payment required for this overnight trip.






# Erasmus+ Sports & Cultural Exchange

## ERASMUS+

### Three exchange experiences

**GERMANY**

**14–19 FEB 2027**

Travel to Germany and experience sport, culture and school life.

**IRELAND**

**12–16 APR 2027**

PDLS families host a visiting student during the Irish leg of the exchange.

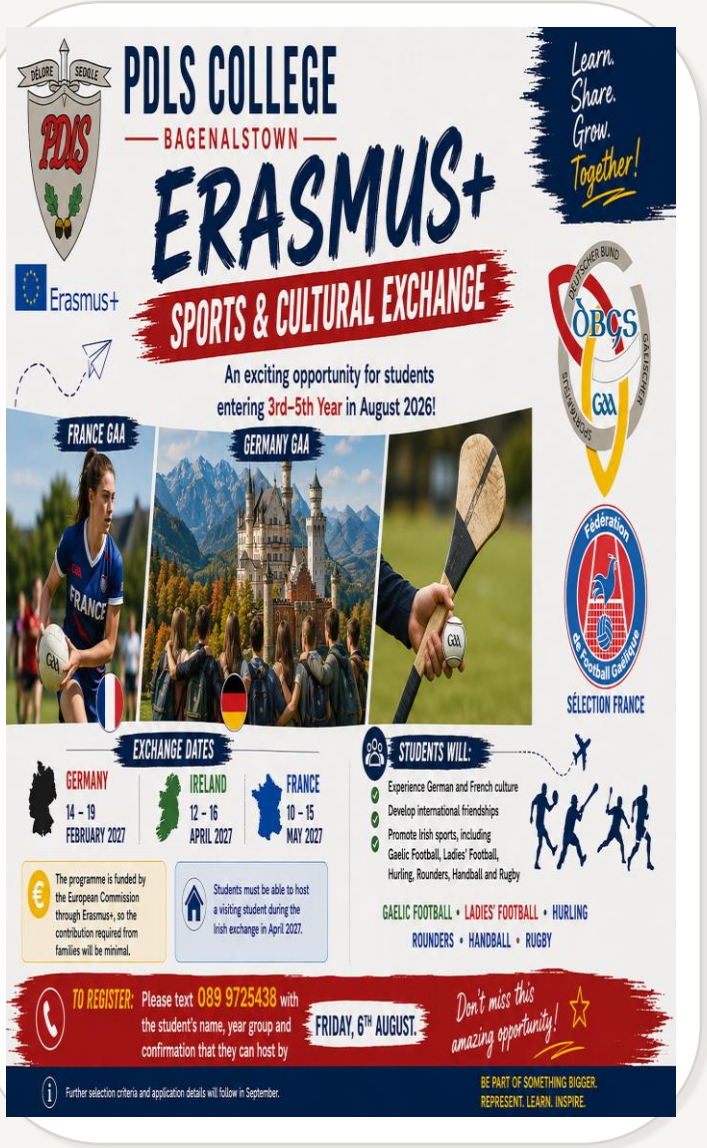
**FRANCE**

**10–15 MAY 2027**

Travel to France and continue the cultural and sporting exchange.

**ERASMUS+ FUNDED — APPROX. €100 PER STUDENT**

As the programme is funded through Erasmus+, the expected family contribution is approximately €100 per student.




**Eligible group: students entering 3rd–5th Year in August 2026, including Transition Year.**

# What parents need to know

The key commitments, programme activities and next steps

### 1 Hosting is part of the exchange

Students must be able to host a visiting student during the Irish exchange, 12–16 April 2027.

### 2 Five-night overseas visits – no language requirement

The Germany and France visits are 5 nights. Students do not need to study or speak German or French to take part.

### 3 Sport, culture and school life

Students will take part in sports and cultural classes in the partner schools and will link with local clubs in Frankfurt and Fragere on some evenings.

### 4 Representing PDLS and building friendships

The programme combines Irish sports, cultural exchange, new friendships and the experience of school and community life abroad.

## ERASMUS+ EXCHANGE

**SPORTS • CULTURE • SCHOOL LIFE**

**Teachers facilitating**

**Michelle Dermody**
**Paul Doyle**

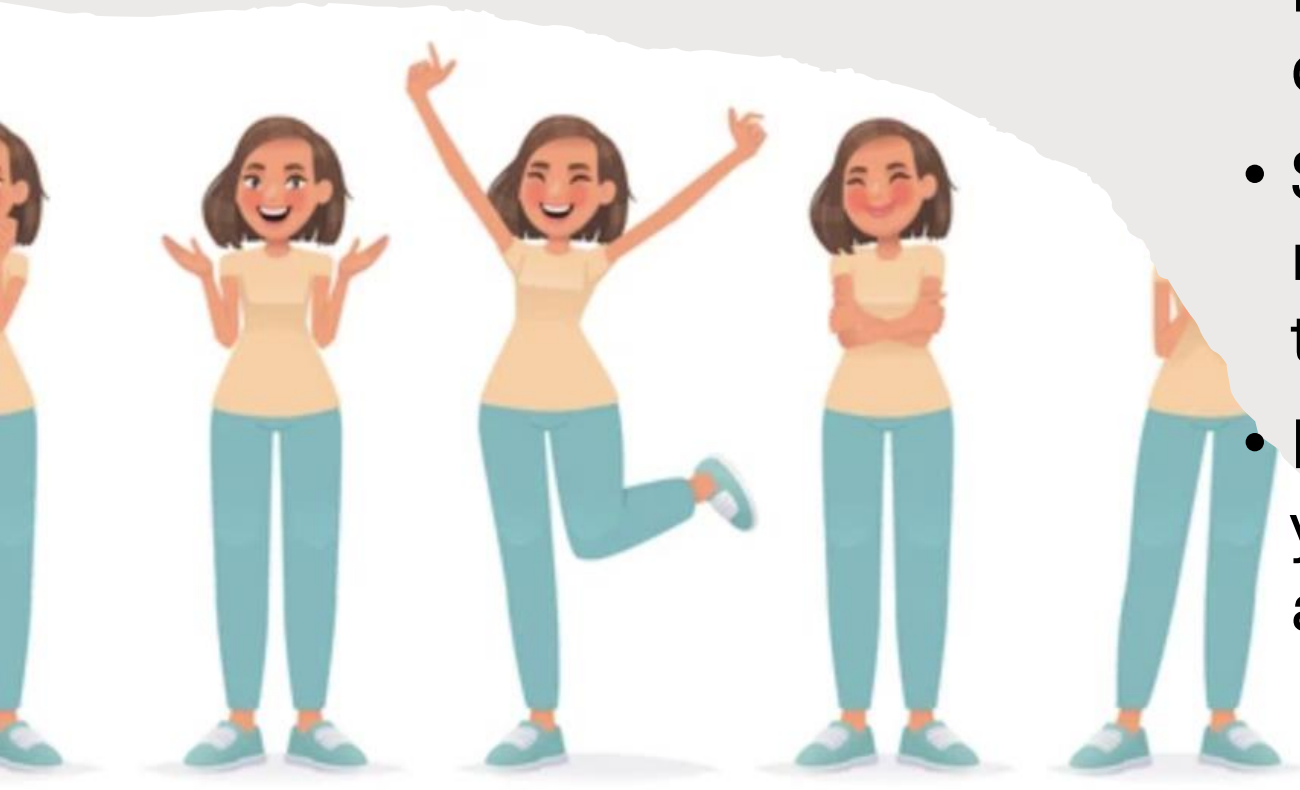
**EXPECTED COST**

**Approx. €100 per student (Erasmus+ funded)**

**Key dates**

**Germany 14–19 Feb 2027 • Ireland 12–16 Apr 2027 • France 10–15 May 2027**

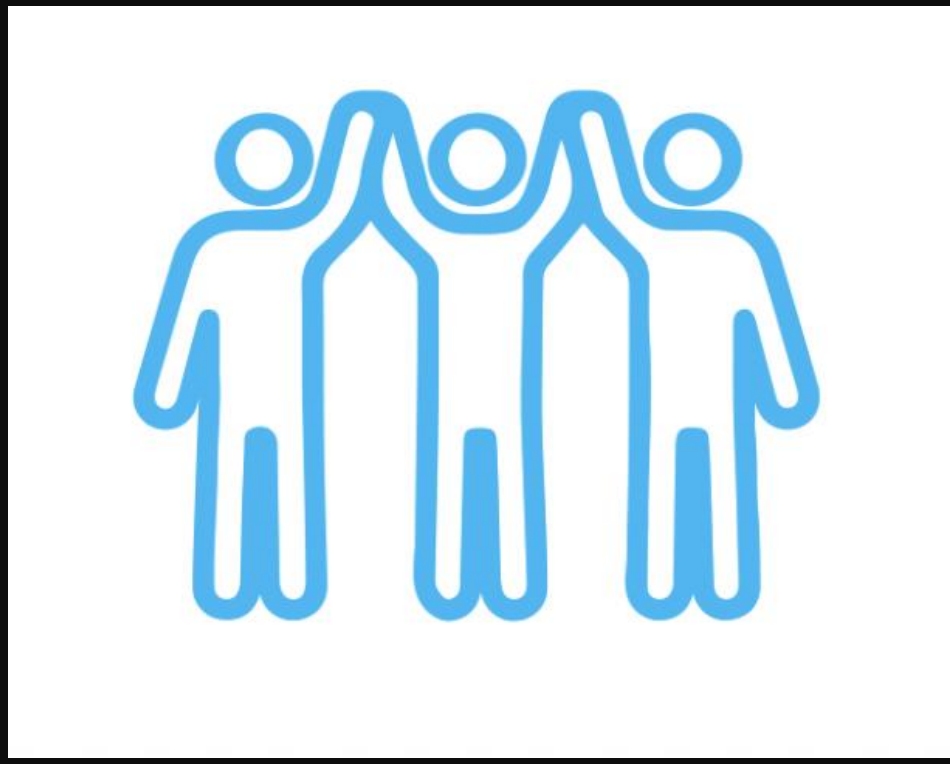
# How to make the most of TY!

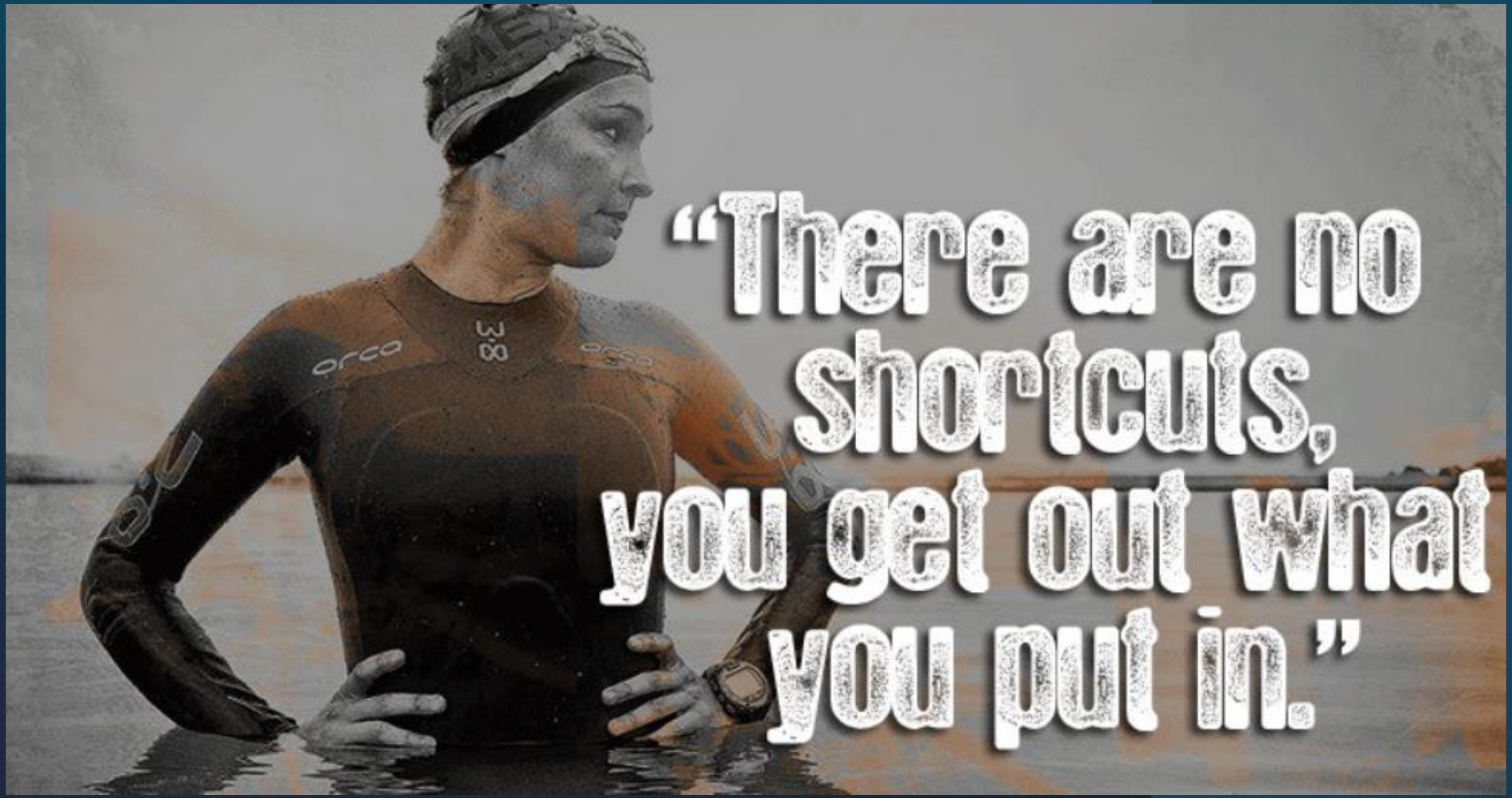


- Have excellent attendance
- Be open-minded – you might be surprised!
- Take advantage of all opportunities
- Actively engage in the programme
- Participate in whatever is on offer – clubs, trips, competitions
- Seek out additional activities that might interest you, we can support that.
- Maintain a detailed record of your activities, skills developed and achievements for your CV

# Advice for Parents

- **STRONG SCHOOL ATTENDANCE IS ESSENTIAL FOR SUCCESS**
- **BE INFORMED – Check out the TY Calendar online**
- **SET THE TONE AND OFFER ENCOURAGEMENT – You have significant sway over your children.**
- **ONGOING COMMUNICATION AND INVOLVEMENT – keep communication lines open with your child.**
- **THE WORK PLACEMENT – Help your child seek suitable work experience**
- **LOOK FOR ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL PROGRAMME – You know your child best!**




orca
orca
"There are no shortcuts, you get out what you put in."