



Transition Year 2024-2025:

Information for students and their parents/guardians.

Congratulations to you all on your successful application to join the St. Farnan's Transition Year programme next year! We look forward to working with you during what promises to be a very exciting and worthwhile year for you all.

We would also ask you to read this document very carefully and to keep it safely for reference.

Classes: We are delighted that the popularity of our school's TY programme has meant that we are in a position to again offer this 4th year experience for the academic year 2024-2025 and that we will have our largest ever cohort of three class groups. All class groups will be overseen by the Year Head and their tutors, as well as the teachers involved in delivering the programme. Any issues are to be reported to the Class Tutor in the first instance, who will liaise closely with the Year Head.

Subjects: A varied and comprehensive range of core subjects and modules will be covered in the TY programme. While the students will have the opportunity to continue to work on their core subjects such as English, Gaeilge and Maths, they will also be trying new subjects and modules which will hopefully broaden their educational experience and help them make their subject choices for senior cycle. Modules this year will include a selection of senior cycle subject options including Home Economics, Construction and DCG. Full details of these are some new options will be given with their timetables in September. All students will have an opportunity to try many of these new practical modules in smaller groups so that they can fully maximise their class time. Other subjects, such as Science (Physics & Astrophysics, Experimental Science – Biology/Chemistry), IT, music and languages, also run throughout the academic year. Timetables are subject to change as they are contingent on teacher and room availability.

Wellbeing: There is a strong emphasis on student wellbeing in the TY programme and all students will hopefully take part in activities and external programmes which promote wellbeing and positive mental and physical health. These include Games, the Future Leaders and Gaisce programmes, Personal Development, Guidance Counselling and Work Experience preparation.

Assessment: While the TY students will not have as much formal assessment as they have had up to now, their progress will be monitored using a variety of assessment methodologies. In addition to end of term written and oral assessments in their core subjects of English, Irish and Maths, we will also operate a system of credits whereby they will earn credits for their work in each subject and module. They will also be able to earn credits for their work experience, application, weekly folder and attendance. Teachers in each subject and module will allocate credits based on project work, presentations, research etc. and the Year Head and class tutors will review the other areas on a regular basis. All students will also be



interviewed at the end of each term to assess and review their progress. At the end of their year in TY, students will receive an overall grade of Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail, based on the credits they have accrued.

TY Folder: At the beginning of each school week, TY Management will send a file called the “**Weekly File**” by email to all students. Students will receive a folder on their first day back in the autumn, and they must fill in their weekly file each week and print it out for their folder. All students will have access to the IT room as part of their timetable and it is envisaged that this work can be done in these Project classes, but students may also work on their weekly files at home. The weekly file serves as a record of their work each week, their work experience, their research, their projects, trips they may have gone on or guest speakers who may have come to meet them. This practice of filling in the weekly file encourages students to reflect on their experiences, as well as improving their writing, communication, IT and organisational skills. The students’ folders will be regularly checked by their Tutor and Year Head and they will be assessed as part of their end of year credits.

TY Students will also receive a special TY Journal which they are expected to have with them at all times and to use on a daily basis for notes, dates and communications between home and school.

Attendance: Full attendance is expected in Transition Year. All absences are to be explained with a note to the Tutor on the first day back after the day(s) missed. Unexplained absences will be checked by the Year Head.

Application: Full participation in all aspects of the Transition Year programme is expected from all students. TY students are expected to cooperate in every way with school management, teachers and other members of staff and are also expected to get involved in and assist at various school events.

Additional Opportunities: We try to ensure that the TY programme is constantly evolving and improving and we strive to afford our students every opportunity to engage in activities that are meaningful, challenging and enjoyable. From time to time, additional opportunities may and do arise and we communicate these to the students in school and by email. We would encourage all students to keep abreast of new opportunities and to put themselves forward for these. For the coming year, these will include ***Gaisce, the TY Musical and the STEM Programme in conjunction with Maynooth University (numbers will be limited for the STEM programme)***. Other programmes/events will be communicated to the students as they arise.

School Rules: Naturally, normal school rules apply in Transition Year. As senior cycle students, TY students are allowed to wear a black school jumper and to go down town at lunchtime. TY Students are also expected to wear the new crested PE uniform.

Work Experience: An integral element of Transition Year is the work experience module which allows students the opportunity to experience a real-life work environment and explore



careers and professions which may be of interest to them when they leave post-primary school. In St. Farnan's, TY students do their work experience every Wednesday during term, commencing hopefully in mid-September. Each student must find their own work experience placement and it is strongly encouraged that they begin looking for appropriate placements now. It is expected that all TY students will have secured their work experience placement before the beginning of the school year. Students may choose to work in two different places – one up to Christmas and a second one for the Spring term. All TY students are fully covered by KWETB insurance while they are on placement and placements are unpaid. Students are advised to seek placements in areas of work that are of interest to them. Please also consider the practicalities to getting to your placement every Wednesday – you may need to organise a lift or get public transport.

Community Work Experience: In the hope that participating in the TY programme is a positive and enriching one for our students, we hope to instil in them the importance of “giving back” and so we encourage all our TY students to complete a week of Community Work Experience during the third week of May. As opposed to the normal work placements which are normally in a business environment, this placement should be in a care or charity setting, or with a non-profit organisation. Past community work placements have included crèches, nursing homes, schools, charity shops and organisations, youth clubs and sports clubs and students are very much encouraged to begin researching a possible placement for this important week as soon as possible.

Fees: The varied and comprehensive TY programme in St. Farnan's involves a number of educational and recreational trips. The cost of these, together with transport costs, as well as the expenses involved for class materials, guest speakers, workshops etc. incur substantial costs for the school. Each student is asked to contribute €400 towards the considerable costs involved in running the programme. You can either pay the full amount or pay in instalments – all payments must be completed by the end of September 2024. This fee includes the annual administration fee and covers each student's 24 -hour Insurance and TY journal. Details of how this fee can be paid will be given to parents/guardians via the school text system.

Please note that the end of year overnight activity trip, which counts towards the Gaisce award, will be an additional cost.

If you have any questions pertaining to the running of the Transition Year Programme, please email the TY Year Head, Ms. Tanya Flanagan, tflanagan@stfarnans.ie

We very much look forward to working with you and wish you a very enjoyable summer break in the interim.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Andrew Purcell,
Principal.

Ms. Tanya Flanagan,
Transition Year Programme Coordinator.

TF, May 2024.