



Coláiste Chú Chulainn

### **Transition Year 2018-2019**

Dear Transition Year Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to TY at Coláiste Chú Chulainn. We have planned a great year ahead with many opportunities for your son/daughter to build upon their skills and develop through new learning opportunities. The aim of the TY programme is for students to develop into independent young adults who have a vision for their future. By the end of the year students will have completed three weeks work experience and gained several certificates to add to their CV's.

The Transition Year will formally begin on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 10am in our new Campus in the Marshes. Students will need to arrive in full correct uniform and prepared for a normal school day, they will be given a TY Portfolio and a student day book (Diary) which they must bring to school each day as this is their learning log for the year.

#### **Assessment**

Assessment in TY is slightly different to other years, in TY in Chú Chulainn we have decided on a portfolio-based assessment where students submit their portfolio at the end of the year for assessment and they present all their work for display and review at the TY finale night. Students worked with a mentor in the last month to get this portfolio ready and this was very successful. We surveyed parents and students from last years' group and although this was very successful some felt that exams in the core subjects would be a welcome addition. Therefore, this years' students will have an assessment based on both their portfolio and exams.

We will assign each student a mentor in the TY team who will meet regularly with the students and guide them in the building of their portfolio so that they can reach their true potential. Assessment are carried out twice in the year, students will be assessed in all subjects at Christmas and Summer, students will be told what work has to be submitted for these assessments.

Exams will also take place in class in the week of 3<sup>rd</sup> December and 6<sup>th</sup> May in the Core areas of Irish, English and Maths and an oral exam will be given for the Foreign Language. As well as these exams students will have to meet the criteria laid out in each subject and fulfil all tasks assigned in the other subject areas. Assignments are usually project based and many are completed in class or in the field.

Some subject teachers will have separate folders of work which they will keep in classes and return to students for the finale night presentations. Students are advised to stay on top of their assignments and complete their learning logs on the day they get them that way they will easily stay on top of their workload.

#### **Interviews:**

Students will also have an interview at the end of the school year which will prepare them for the world of work. They will be expected to dress for interview and bring their portfolio to this. They will discuss their work experience and the skills they have developed during the TY year. The interview panel will consist of staff from the enterprise board and teachers. We plan to hold these interviews in the middle of May.

There are many activities planned throughout the year both inside and outside of the classroom. Some of the highlights of the year will be:

- **School Summit** (11<sup>th</sup> September) – event on Third level options.
- **Team Building excursion** (17<sup>th</sup> / 18<sup>th</sup> September) - Life Adventure Castlewellan, Co. Down
- **Louth Enterprise Office** - workshop for the TY enterprise competition September.
- **Louth Volunteering Workshop**

A guest speaker from Louth Volunteers will speak to the pupils about volunteering in TY. This is one of the core parts of our TY programme - each student will be required to complete community or voluntary work in TY. This could include volunteering with a sports or voluntary group or assisting at a charity event organised in school or outside school. Registering as a volunteer is one of the easiest ways to complete this. Students who participated in charity work received certificates for their CV's last year. Our chosen Charities last year were Barnardo's, Simon and Alzheimer's Society. Next year, each class will choose their charity cause in September.

This year we will be also be recognising volunteering formally in our school awards. Students can receive either a bronze award (for 10 or more hours), silver award (for 15 or more hours) or a gold award (20 hours or more). Those who receive gold awards will be considered for the prestigious LMETB Civic and Community award. Students can also use the volunteering as part of their Gaisce Community section for which 13 hours is recommended for their Bronze Gaisce award.

- Seminar in the RDS in Dublin - 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018
- 'Create the Great in You' Programme for 6 weeks for each class
- Students will complete a certificate in CPR
- **Road safety** - one day workshop - we also plan to teach the 'Wrecked' 6 week RSA programme with all TY classes about road safety and invite in the RSA rollover shuttle in as part of this module. Students will also prepare for the driving theory test in Cúram class and apply for their public service card which they need for this test. There is an option to attend a driving day which will have an additional cost of €60 for the full day course.
- **Health & Safety certificate** - Choose Safety course covered in Cúram classes - certified by Health & Safety Authority.
- **GAA Coaching Certificate**
- **Student enterprise** - students will develop a mini company and host a Trade Fair before Christmas which you will all be invited to, students will provide the capital to develop these products and hopefully enjoy the profits of their business. We also visit other local TY schools and support their trade fairs, last year we took part in the TY cross border trade fair in the marshes and the Louth County Final with several Mini Companies.
- **Competitions** - Art Competition "Trashin Fashion" hosted by Louth County Council in January. Students prepare their designs and partake in the fashion show hosted by Louth County Council last year the event was held in January in the Carrickdale. Students will attend the School Summit which will give them lots of information about competitions which are being run by organisations throughout the year and which students are free to enter.

- **Science** - Scifest - a regional Science competition hosted by DKIT. Young Scientist Exhibition (January). We are also taking part in the VEX robotics competition. VEX Robotics is a STEM teaching toy which introduces students to physics, engineering, programming and teamwork. We are entering the competition with preparations starting in September for the competition which takes place in DKIT in January 2019. Regional winners will be selected, who will progress to a national final, and perhaps to an international competition. We have registered for this and received our kits.
- **Special weeks in subject areas** e.g. Mathsweek events organised this year were lunch time casino a great hit. Seachtain na Gaeilge and Science week.
- **Drumming workshop** - a workshop on samba drumming.
- **Youth Connect Employability workshop** - gives the students an insight into the workplace and an important workshop as it teaches about employment law so students know their rights in the workplace October before the first work experience.
- **TY Health Fest** (April) - this is a full day of sports and talks and cookery demonstrations sponsored by the National Dairy Council on fitness, mental health and diet for young people and is held in the National Sports Arena where students take part in the activities throughout the day.
- **Not Just for Geeks** - DELL computer workshop, students will also get the opportunity to partake in computer weeks in DKIT and Paypal during the year they must speak to their guidance teachers if they are interested in these to apply.
- **Morgan Stanley Futures in Banking programme** ( 2 students will be selected, application process required and is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year pupils, these students will get a four day trip to London to partake in workshops with Morgan Stanley)
- **TY Triathlon** (May) - we encourage as many students as possible to partake in this event we have had a winner two years ago and a team third place last year and sixth place. Students have to swim 10 lengths of the pool, cycle 6km and run 3 km.

### Peer Education Programmes

Students will have the opportunity to get involved in peer education programmes throughout the year. Tooth led Teens offers a group of students an opportunity to train and facilitate training with younger students on oral hygiene for teeth. We also will have an opportunity for a group of girls to become youth ambassadors for the Always ultra-campaign where they will teach younger students about personal care issues linked to SPHE.

We also run a number of peer education programs with local primary schools, last year our PE department linked with the CBS primary and students taught and led number of primary PE lessons and coaching in basketball. We also facilitated a CPR training session with both 6<sup>th</sup> class groups. The German class visited St Nicholas Primary and gave four lessons in German as part of their course.

We are creating a link this year for Maths and maths classes will be taught by TY students in local primary schools. Students who take part in these peer education programmes receive recognition by way of a certificate which they can use for their CV as teaching experience.

### GAISCE

If students are interested in doing the Gaisce Award they can register for their Bronze Gaisce award online at [www.gaisce.ie](http://www.gaisce.ie) and the fee for this is €15. I will be the PAL (Presidents Award Leader) and guide them through the programme of Community work, Skill and physical challenge lasting 26

weeks, for those who complete the award there will be an adventure camping and hiking overnight trip in May the cost of this award and trip are not included in the TY fee and it is optional.

### **WORK EXPERIENCE**

A key date for your calendar are

**Work Experience 1: 22<sup>nd</sup> of October.** Please ensure students complete the attached form and have secured this work experience before they return on **3<sup>rd</sup> September**. Forms must be returned to the respective guidance teachers before the placement starts with contact details of the employer so we can make contact during this week.

**Work Experience 2: two-week block- weeks starting 25<sup>th</sup> March & 1<sup>st</sup> April,** students must have secured a placement **by Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February** for this placement and returned the details to their guidance teachers.

### **CAREERS & GUIDANCE**

We will attend the school summit on 11<sup>th</sup> September where students will have an opportunity to explore educational opportunities and investigate careers and apprenticeships, investigate courses in colleges, explore and interact with career guidance. There will be a number of guest speakers on the day covering all areas of personal and social development.

We have an excellent guidance department in Coláiste Chú Chulainn who hosted a College Awareness event in our gym last year where we invited in several colleges to allow students a chance to investigate courses. We will be hosting an information session for parents later in the year.

Payment for the TY year is €350 and can be split into two payments of €175, first instalment before 3<sup>rd</sup> September and €175 before Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February. Please note that these payments are separate to the foreign trip. The TY payments can be made by cash or cheque/bank draft. Cheque or bank drafts payable to '**Coláiste Chú Chulainn (LMETB)**'. This must be given directly to the school office. Please write your son/daughter's name on an envelope when submitting payment and ensure you receive a receipt of payment. The school office will be closed during the period Monday July 23<sup>rd</sup> to Monday August 6<sup>th</sup>, reopening Tuesday August 7<sup>th</sup>.

Included in this €350 payment for TY is:

- Book rental and iPad Resources
- Locker rental and text service
- Student insurance
- TY journal, portfolio and day book
- Entry to School Summit and transport
- TY Team building two day overnight trip and all activities, meals and transport
- All workshops, Employability and Volunteering, Road safety, African drumming, Not Just for Geeks
- 'Create the Great in You' 6 week course
- TY Health Fest and transport
- Choose safety programme

- GAA Coaching Certificate
- CPR certified training
- First Aid full day certified training
- BT Young Scientist

If you have any questions with regards to the payments in TY, do not hesitate to get in contact with the school.

Enjoy the Summer break and we look forward to welcoming back students on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August at 10am.

Yours Sincerely,

*Bláithín Uí Ríodal*

TY Coordinator

Letters/Forms included:

Work experience introduction letter & insurance form

Team-building trip – Letter of permission

Consent form – YMCA Greenhills (for team building trip)

Letter re International Trip to Holland

Envelope for payment