

Transition Year Form 4

2010-11

The High School
RATHGAR • DUBLIN 6



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Aims and objectives

The Transition Year Programme is designed to provide students with the opportunity to discover their own talents, aptitudes and abilities, and to develop skills and competencies within a broad general education. It will challenge students to accept responsibility for their own learning, to improve their performance in many core areas, explore new subjects, develop their own interests, and to evaluate their progress.

Transition Year gives an opportunity to develop other skills. Apart from academic achievement, qualities such as personal organisation, application and initiative, and the ability to participate in a team and relate well with others, will be important.

Please note that in our process of constant evaluation, review and improvement, the curriculum is subject to change. There is a description of each course on the following pages.

Core curriculum

Every pupil undertakes the following courses which provide academic continuity although often utilising varied teaching and learning approaches:

Irish, English, Maths	<i>4 periods each</i>
Science/Computer applications	<i>4 periods</i>
History, Geography	<i>3 periods each</i>
P.E. Games	<i>2 periods each</i>
Form Period	<i>1 period</i>
Social, Personal, Health Education	<i>1 period</i>

In addition, every pupil undertakes a Form Period during which planning and evaluation of the Transition Year experience, work experience placements, etc. takes place.

Full year options

Pupils **choose one** of the following from **option group A** to be studied for the whole year (*3 periods per week*):

- Business (a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate)
- French (for those who have already studied the language)
- German (a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate for those who have not studied the language)
- Spanish (a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate for those who have not studied the language)
- Design & Communication Graphics (a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate for those who have not studied Technical Graphics for the Junior Certificate.)
- Road Safety

Pupils also **choose one** of the following from **option group B** to be studied for the whole year (*3 periods per week*):

- Business Studies (Enterprise class)
- Accounting (a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate)
- French (for those who have already studied the language)
- German (for those who have already studied the language)
- Construction studies (useful if you wish to study for Leaving)
- European studies

Lifeskills

All pupils undertake the following Revolving Modules for 6 weeks each (*4 periods per week*):

- Film appreciation
- Educational skills
- Education for the future
- Information & Communication Technology
- Media studies
- Religious and personal studies
- Financial survival skills
- Sports Science

Personal enrichment and confidence building courses

Pupils **choose two** of the following from **option group C**, each to be studied for half of the school year (*2 periods per week*):

- Art
- Woodwork
- Dance
- Home economics (for beginners)
- Rock/pop musical show
- Judo
- Photography
- Bridge

Pupils also **choose two** of the following from **option group D**, each to be studied for half of the school year (*2 periods*):

- Orienteering
- Crafts
- Drama
- Home economics (for beginners)
- Music
- Pilates
- Woodwork
- Website design and publishing

Transition Year courses

Irish

- Current affairs, modern poetry, drama, literature and oral skills
- Culture and heritage - the Gaeltacht, history, folklore, tradition and legends. Traditional and modern music
- Irish dancing and singing classes

English

- Poetry
- Drama
- Short stories and novels
- Creative writing and essay writing

Mathematics

- Course A : Concepts, skills and techniques required for competence in advanced mathematics
- Course B : Development of mathematics competency through applications of mathematics to business, recreation and everyday life

Science

- Biology - microbiology, zoology - the science of survival
- Chemistry - chemicals in the home, environment, industry, forensic
- Physics - experimental and nuclear physics
- Geology - Earth's structure, plate tectonics, palaeontology, history of the earth
- Computer applications - preparation for ECDL - European Computer Driving Licence

History

- The Holocaust - Auschwitz
- Introduction to classical Greek history
- Victorian Dublin - 19th and early 20th century
- Conflict studies
- 1798 - Ireland in revolution

Geography

- Cultural studies
- Travel and tourism
- Environmental studies
- Natural hazards
- Transport skills

Physical Education

- Athletics
- Gymnastics
- Indoor and outdoor games
- Dance

Social, Personal & Health Education

- Issues of self esteem
- Listening skills
- Drug and alcohol abuse
- Communication skills
- Gender issues
- Group work
- Relationships and sexuality education

Lifeskills - revolving modules

Film Appreciation

- The study of narrative, character and scripting of film

Educational Skills

- Career preparation including interest inventories, preparation for subject choice for the Leaving Certificate, information on the education system and 3rd level options, differential aptitude tests, computer-based career programmes

Media Studies

- Understanding and interpreting various media with an emphasis on film analysis

Religious/Personal Studies

- Ethical issues
- Religion and the media

Information & Communication Technology

- Preparation for European Computer Driving Licence ECDL
- Safe use of ICT

Education for the Future

- Budgeting, cost of living
- Jobs and salaries
- Economics of marriage and children
- Buying a house and mortgage application

Sports Science

- Introduction to basic human physiology and components of fitness testing

Full year options - A and B

(a modern language is compulsory for entry to many universities and useful for many courses at 3rd level - if you wish to drop your modern language you are expected to consult the Guidance Counsellor)

French/German

- Study of suitable area - geography, history, culture
- Literature, grammar
- Oral skills, letter writing
- Film studies

Spanish

- Basic grammar and vocabulary
- Oral and aural skills
- An introduction to Spain and the Spanish speaking world
- Essential if you wish to take Spanish for Leaving Cert.

Accounting

- Foundation course for Accounting at Leaving Certificate
- Advisable if you have not studied Business for Junior Cert. but wish to take Accounting for Leaving Cert.

Construction Studies

- An introduction to the built environment
 - Environmental issues relating to buildings
 - Buildings and the consumer
 - The construction industry
 - Drawings and documents
 - Architectural model making
 - Practical project work
- (a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate particularly for those who have not studied MTW for the Junior Certificate.)

Business Studies A

- Basic business knowledge
- Problem solving
- Gathering, processing and presenting information
- Philosophy of business

Business Studies B

- Mini company and/or Young Entrepreneur schemes
- Computer assisted learning
- Business surveys

European Studies

- A study of the development, institutions and policies of the European Union

Design & Communication Graphics

- Draftsmanship, free hand drawing, pictorial drawing, Perspective, rendered drawing
- Standards and conventions
- Descriptive geometry
- Drawn project
- Introduction to computer aided design, use of Solidworks software

(a foundation course for the Leaving Certificate for those who have not studied Technical Graphics for the Junior Certificate)

Road Safety Authority Course

- Introduction to road safety
- Killer behaviour
- Emergency services
- Preparing to drive - a theoretical course

Personal enrichment and confidence building courses **Option C**

Art

- Use of various art materials
- Picture making, pattern, design
- Art history and appreciation

Dance

- Modern dance
- Link with rock/pop musical show

Home Economics

- Cookery

Judo

- An opportunity to gain a Yellow Belt Award

Photography

- Course in the theory and practice of black & white and digital photography - digital cameras are supplied

Rock/Pop Musical Show

- A class which prepares and performs a rock or pop concert

Bridge

- Introduction to and skills of the card game

Woodwork

- Safety and workshop procedure
- Material and tools
- Production of projects

Option D

Orienteering

- An introduction to the sport

Crafts

- Textile crafts
- Pottery and modelling
- Batik
- Block printing
- Calligraphy
- Glass painting

Drama

- Voice production
- Public speaking
- Improvisation and mime
- Interpretation
- Performing short plays

Home Economics

- Safety & hygiene
- Basic culinary skills
- Consumer awareness

Music

- Creative music workshop involving a professional recording of the students' composition at the end of the module

Woodwork

- Safety and workshop procedure
- Materials and tools
- Production of projects

Pilates

- an exercise method based on the work of Joseph Pilates. Its focus is on strengthening the body to execute the exercises which are designed to increase flexibility, strengthen muscles and improve posture. The method involves concentration and the coordination of breath and movement, thereby helping to balance mind and body.

Web design

- Design and creation of interactive websites

Additional opportunities

Among the many opportunities available to pupils in Transition Year are:

- Gaisce - The President's Award
- Green Schools Group
- North-South School links
- Young Scientist Club
- Fairtrade Fair
- Operation Christmas Child
- Amnesty International Group

Work experience

Work experience is an integral part of the Transition Year Programme. It provides an opportunity for students to experience the world of work and it is hoped that a wide range of work will be available. Students will spend one week in the Autumn and two weeks in the Spring in a work situation (the two weeks can be one placement or two - we recommend one). Students obtain their own placements following advice from the TY team. Some placements are available in the past pupils section of the school website. Employers will be asked to assess the students' progress as follows:

- Punctuality, attendance
- Appearance
- Co-operation, integration, willingness
- Completion of assigned tasks
- General comments including suitability for type of work

Students will keep a journal/diary of their experience, and there will be a discussion of it in school afterwards. Work experience will take place for one week from Monday 8 November 2010 and for two weeks from Monday 7 March 2011.

Transition Year work

Throughout the year, students will present work in a variety of ways - journals, diaries, reports. Some directed research, projects and essays will be expected, and many subjects and studies will result in the production of practical results - shows, exhibitions,

productions of some kind. Homework will be set in many subjects, and tests and examinations will be set. Parents should bear in mind that all sorts of investigations, gathering of material, visiting institutions and firms, preparing for interviews, etc. are considered to be homework.

Students will also be expected to participate fully in various activities.

Assessment

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways on all aspects of the programme. Written examinations will be set in many subjects, and practical assignments and reports on activities will be assessed by the teachers.

Students will be encouraged to assess their own progress in consultation with their Form Teachers.

Apart from academic achievement, other areas will be assessed, such as :

- Personal organisation - appearance, punctuality, homework, study, etc.
- Reliability, application, initiative, participation, co-operation, leadership.

In view of the wide range of activities, options and modules in Transition Year a different style of report is issued twice in the year (December, June). Students also complete a "Reflections on Learning" report themselves.

Important

Every effort will be made to provide the courses offered in this booklet, but if it proves impossible to timetable or staff one or more of them, they may have to be withdrawn. Option C and D courses may run only once a year if demand is low.

P. Irwin,
Transition Year Co-Ordinator

Subject choice for the Leaving Certificate

For your information, we enclose our present Leaving Certificate curriculum below. All pupils study English, Irish and Mathematics. A pupil chooses one subject from each of the four groups W, X, Y, Z. In addition two periods per week are allotted to Option Group V, and the subjects timetabled in this group may include Art, Computer Applications, Geology, extra Higher Irish classes and Physical Education. This curriculum is subject to change each year.

W	X	Y	Z
Accounting Applied Maths Art French Geography	Business Geography History Physics Spanish Home Economics (Social & Sci.)	Biology Chemistry Construction Studies Economics History Music	Biology Classical Studies French German Home Economics (Social & Sci.) Design & Communication Graphics

Subject Choice Form 4

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Name of pupil.....Form.....

Signature of Parent.....Signature of Pupil.....

Parents' Meeting: Thursday 25 February, 2010 at 7.30 p.m.

This form should be returned as soon as decisions are made but must be returned to the office by Wednesday 10 March, 2010.

Please indicate your first and second preferences in each of the Option Groups A and B below by writing 1 and 2 beside the chosen courses.

Option Group A

Business Studies _____
French (continuity) _____
German for beginners _____
Spanish for beginners _____
Design & Communication Graphics _____
Road Safety _____

Option Group B

Business Studies _____
Accounting _____
French (continuity) _____
German (continuity) _____
Construction Studies _____
European Studies _____

Please indicate your first, second and third preferences in each of the Option Groups C and D below by writing 1, 2 and 3 beside the chosen courses.

Option Group C

Art _____
Woodwork _____
Dance _____
Home Economics _____
Judo _____
Photography _____
Rock/pop musical show _____
Bridge _____

Option Group D

Orienteering _____
Crafts _____
Drama _____
Home Economics _____
Music _____
Pilates _____
Woodwork _____
Website design and publishing _____

Note: In the event that too few pupils choose a subject for the class to be viable, or if the subject can not be timetabled, the school reserves the right to withdraw the subject. If a class is too full, the school reserves the right to request some pupils to make a different choice. However, the school will always attempt to ensure that pupils' choices are met and the above events are rare.