

Newpark Comprehensive School



A Guide to the



Transition Year Programme



The Aims of Transition Year



- To provide a transition between Junior and Senior Cycles and to lay the foundations for further study
- To introduce a new range of experiences beyond the scope of the traditional curriculum
- To encourage initiative, self-reliance and responsibility



The Aims of Transition Year



- To develop the qualities of courtesy, cooperation and concern for other people, to develop self-awareness, decision-making and coping skills
- To develop an appreciation of the creative arts
- To establish realistic educational, occupational and life ambitions
- To give time to consideration and study of the deeper aspects of life, through the study of religious and ethical issues

Student Expectations and 'Contract'



The key to success in TY is that all students push themselves as hard as they can in all areas of TY and try as many NEW subjects / activities as possible.

Key expectations:

- Completion of assignments and reflective pieces
- Punctuality and attendance
- Respect and lasting impressions
- Embracing diversity and change



The Transition Year Team

- **Transition Year Coordinator – Morgan Lennon**
- **Year Leader – Dermot O'Neill**
- Six Form Groups
- Six Form Teachers
- Planning and directing the Programme on a weekly basis
- Organising the Activities Weeks
- Monitoring Assessments
- Meeting parents





Attendance and Punctuality

All students are expected in school every day barring illness or exceptional circumstances.

There are credits awarded (and lost) for attendance and punctuality – students are expected to be present.



The Shape of the Year

MODULE ONE

Weeks:

1-11

Dates:

August, September, October,
November

Activities and Assessment:

- Tests
- Submit TY Folder & Community Work Report
- Activities weeks 1,2
- Module Report





The Shape of the Year

MODULE TWO

Weeks Dates
12-21 November,
December, January

- Activities and Assessment:
 - Submit TY Folder & Community Work Report
- End-of-Module Tests
- Choosing for Senior Cycle
- Activities weeks 3,4
- Module report
- Parent meeting with Form Teacher





The shape of the year

MODULE THREE

Weeks	Dates
22-34	February, March, April, May

Assessment and Activities:

- Submit TY Folder & Community Work Report
- End-of-Module Tests
- Interview Day
- Activities weeks 5,6
- End-of-Year report
- Final assessment & certification
- Graduation Evening





Activity Weeks

Each Student Participates in each of the following:

- Outdoor Pursuits Week
- Arts Week
- In Dublin Week
- 3 Job Placements





Activity Week Dates 2017/18

- Activity weeks 1 and 2
November 6th – 10th
November 13th – 17th
- Activity Weeks 3 and 4
January 29th – February 2nd
February 5th – 9th
- Activity Weeks 5 and 6
May 7th – 11th
May 14th – 18th

There is currently no way of knowing exactly when your son/daughter will be doing which activity but it will be inside these windows.



Application for TY Leave

All students are encouraged to do as much as is possible during their TY Programme.

They must apply for leave from TY Coordinator / Year Head if they wish to do something outside of the 'normal' times during the year.

Forms are available on the web or from ML or DO'N.



TY Leave.

All forms are on the school website
(newparkschool.ie) under student – transition
year section.

Leave will only be granted
for educational experiences.



Extra TY activities:

If you choose to do an 'extra' work experience outside of the regular times this is not a replacement for the official times. Students still have to complete their work experience at the allotted times.



The Transition Year Curriculum

Special Studies (19 classes per week)

The Core of the Curriculum:

- Work Area
- Lifeskills
- Leisure & Recreation
- Arts
- Lecture Programme
- Discussion
- Community Action



The Transition Year Curriculum

The Academic Studies (21 classes per week)

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Language

Two options:

Option 1: Social Studies; Science (Physics, Chemistry, Biology);

Option 2: Art; Home Economics; Business



Discussion and IT

Weekly session with the Form Teacher

Affords students an opportunity -

- to review activities
- to plan and organise further activities
- to explore together topics and concerns
- to develop listening skills
- to learn tolerance of the views of others.
- to prepare for job placements and Community Action



Modular Programme: Lifeskills

Provides students with information and practical skills to enable them to cope with aspects of life, moral and ethical issues.

All students follow short courses (8-9 weeks) in each of the following areas:

First Aid

Thinking

Religion

Communications

Careers

Relationships and Sexuality Education



Modular Programme: Leisure and Recreation

Block of Time every week with emphasis on physical education and outdoor pursuits.

Modular courses (provisional list):

Swimming & Aqua-aerobics	Yoga*	Surf Dock (Water Sports)*
Self Defense and Boxercise *	Tennis	Aikido
Bowling *	Rock-climbing*	Crossfit (S and C)*
Games (Soccer, Baseball)		

***There will be an extra charge for the activities marked with an ***



Modular Programme: Arts

Provides students with a range of creative activities
Students follow short courses (9 - 10 weeks) in three
of the following areas (Provisional list):

Creative Writing

Media Studies

Chinese

Sign Language

Technical Subjects

Salsa Dancing

Art /Photography

Japanese

Foreign Films



Work Area

- Students join in one of the areas listed below
- Year-long commitment to the work
- Emphasis on practical work, requiring initiative, enterprise, cooperation and resourcefulness

Work Areas include (Provisional list):

Mini-Company

Music /Bands

ECDL

Craft

Catering

Theatre/Drama

Film Studies



Garda Vetting

- New legislation put in place from May 2016
 - Lack of clarity around requirements for those aged 16-18
 - <http://www.newparkschool.ie/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/eVetting-for-TY-Students-September-2016.pdf>
 - Apologies for any confusion to date but it has been a learning process for ourselves, the vetting bureau and everyone involved.
- Current Procedure:
 - Vetting forms NB1 and NB3 (Parental Consent) filled in and sent directly to Derek Lowry c/o School office:
 - Sent on school management body who send online form to be completed by the applicant. Then sent to Vetting Bureau Returned to management body and then to school
- The procedure appears to be taking between 10-21 days currently.



Community Action

- Students have Tuesday afternoon to do this BUT it does not have to be completed at this time, it MUST BE OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASS TIME
- Each student will make and keep a commitment to give community service to an individual or group each week OUTSIDE OF REGULAR CLASS TIME.
- Commitment for the whole year, start date is September 13th 2016
- Minimum time: 2.5 hours each week



Interview Day

- Each student prepares a Curriculum Vitae
- The student submits an application for a specific job
- Each student meets an external interviewer
- Each student receives an individual evaluation
- The whole year receives feed-back from the team of interviewers
- Are YOU interested in joining the team?



The Transition Year E-Portfolio

The folder is the most important record of the Special Studies section of Transition Year.

The Portfolio is assessed at the end of each module. It will include a critical account of everything that has happened throughout each module. It should include photos, videos, etc.

Each student must complete the Portfolio fully by the end of the year in order to be eligible for a Transition Year Certificate



The Transition Year Folder

Contents:

The key aspect of the Portfolio is that it is a reflective document of the year as it goes by.

- Aims and aspirations for the Year
- Review of each lecture
- Review / diary of each Job Placement
- Review / diary of Community Action each module
- Review of each Lifeskills Module
- Review of Work Area
- Review of Arts Option
- Review of Leisure and Recreation activities
- Review of Discussion
- Review of Extra-curricular Activities
- Review of all three Activity weeks



Transition Year: Credits

Some of this may be subject to some changes this year.

Seeks to acknowledge both the academic and non-academic sides of Transition Year.

Credits allocated to each of the 3 modules

Up to 1000 Credits are available over the course of the year

Credits are awarded for Effort and Attainment in academic subjects

Credits are awarded for Effort and Enthusiasm in Special Studies.



Transition Year: Credits

The Transition Year Certificate

850 Credits Distinction Certificate.

700 Credits Merit Certificate.

600 Credits Pass Certificate



Transition Year Booklet

The TY Booklet is given to every student on the first day of term in August. Each student receives 2 copies. (1 for home and 1 to be returned to the students Form Teacher)

Inside the booklet:

Consent Forms for the year

Options Choice forms

Arts Choice forms

Leisure and Rec choice forms

Work Area Choice forms

TY Contract

Community Action Contract

Important dates

Other information important to TY



Transition Year Booklet

The booklet will need to be returned signed in all the relevant places on or before FRIDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER 2017

The booklet is also replicated to an extent on the Newpark School App for smart phones, these are crucial to keep up with information during TY.



The Transition Year Journal

All students in TY are expected to have a journal throughout the year.

They will be required to fill in the usual assignments and projects and important dates throughout the year.

There will also be pages in the middle specifically for TY which will allow them to take notes and keep records of their lecture program.



The Transition Year Costs

Costs that must be met from Subscription:

- Residential week at Outdoor Pursuits Centre and transport
- Arts Week
- Some Excursions (In Dublin Week)
- Visiting speakers/presenters/workshops
- Some of the optional activities in the programme

To run the best, most varied TY Programme possible from the limited funds available.



The Transition Year Costs

We request that you pay:

- Subscription (*non-refundable*) of €360
- Encourage your son/daughter to help in the saving for this subscription
- We request payment prior to entry to Transition Year
- **If you have difficulty in meeting these expenses, contact the Principal**

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THE END