



Transition Year E-Bulletin October 2016

This is the first E-Bulletin of the new academic year for all TY parents/guardians. We are hoping to keep Parents/Guardians informed as to what is going on in TY and all of the upcoming events and activities.

Parents/Guardians Meeting – Wednesday October 19th, 8pm in the GPA.

We will be holding an information evening on TY on the above Tuesday evening. This is to address any issues or concerns that may have raised their heads so far this term and also to clarify everything about the upcoming end of module and activity weeks. We also be collecting fees from anyone who has not been able to organise payment as of yet. We hope to see everyone there.

Transition Leave.

Students applying for TY leave should clearly state the educational benefits this leave will have for them. All students are expected to keep a diary of the activity/course they are completing in their TY folder. The TY leave form can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.newparkschool.ie/TransitionYearForms/Application-for-Transition-Year-Leave.pdf>

Attendance and Punctuality.

All students are expected to be in for all timetabled class throughout each module. Upon return a note must be given to the form teacher explaining their absence. Poor patterns of attendance have a negative impact on the student's experience in TY. They miss valuable information given in form group about activities, trips, upcoming events etc. It is really important to have a very good attendance and punctuality record in TY, as this may lead to poor patterns forming in fifth and sixth year.

Community Action.

All students should be well into their Community Action by now, completing 2 ½ hours per week. Remember it shouldn't be with your Granny, as you should be doing that anyway. There are a number of fantastic opportunities and experiences out there. Well done to Maya Bailey, Callum McCauley, and who have taken the opportunity of helping some local children with special needs to swim on a Friday afternoon. There is loads of other great initiatives going on too in Sports clubs, nursing homes, and the local community.

E-Portfolio.

Over the past couple of years we have been trying hard to digitalise our TY Folder. This year with the help of the NCAA we are using an e-portfolio on Microsoft One Note. We are all working hard to get to grips with it and the students are too!!

We hope this will be an exciting venture for the students and somewhere they can store all over their write ups, videos, photos, sound bites and anything else they can put up there to create the best

portfolio they can come up with for TY. They will need to have all of their write ups completed and uploaded before Wednesday October 26th, so they should be working away on it consistently during each module.

Guest speakers.

We have had a number of exciting and informative Guest Speakers this term already and are looking forward to welcoming quite a few more. Guest speakers come in every Tuesday to talk about their experiences in a wide range of fields and activities. All students bring their Journal and take notes on the talk and they are then expected to write up their reaction to it and upload it to their E-Portfolio EVERY THURSDAY EVENING.

So far this term, we have had Eoin Stynes speaking about his personal experience of mental illness. Jade and Colm came in from Alcoholics Anonymous and spoke about their own life experiences and the workings of AA. Marc Mulligan came in from outsidethecomfortzone.ie and spoke about facing your fears and stepping beyond every individuals comfort zone to make more of life. Over the coming weeks we have past pupil David Doran coming in to talk about his role in producing Prime Time Investigates for RTE, we have Geraldine Dunne from the Southside Travellers Association amongst others.

Workshops.

Last week, all the students will be engaged in 'No Hate Speech' workshops under the direction of Fionn Scott from The National Youth Council of Ireland, addressing acceptable speech towards each other and raising an awareness of how to work hard to treat one another with respect.

As part of Newpark's Green Week Transition Year students will participate in workshops run by the SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland). They will learn about climate change and sustainability and look at the causes and global impacts of climate change and renewable and non-renewable technologies. Students are encouraged to think critically about our everyday activities, such as burning fossil fuels, and think of sustainable solutions. At the end they will be asked to give short group presentations about how to make improvements for the future. There will be lots of other green activities run throughout the week also and we would encourage students to make the very most of this unique opportunity.

Throughout TY the students will undergo a number of workshops on a variety of topics, the next ones will be in Module 2 where they will work with Shoutout.ie dealing with equality for the LGBT community.

Trips.

Tuesday October 11th brings about our now annual trip to the 'AXA Road Safety Roadshow'. This is in the Royal Marine Hotel and all of the students will assemble down there at 9:30am where the roll will be called and they will spend the morning learning about key road safety issues in a very visual and inclusive manner.

A number of the form groups have already been into complete the 'Fighting Words' creative writing workshop which seems to have been a big hit with most of the groups. We would encourage all students to have a topped up Leap card as they will need this when they go on 'In Dublin Week', and also on other instances during the year.

Leisure and Recreation.

Wednesday afternoon can be the highlight of many students' week. There are all sorts of new and different activities taking place, eg Tennis, Games, Surf Dock and The Wall. The feedback is very positive from those working hard on their personal fitness and strength down in with the Newpark

Sports Centre staff. The weather has been more than kind to those Wake Boarding, Stand Up Paddle Boarding and Kayaking down in Grand Canal Dock. There are also some exciting guest coaches coming in to take some Games sessions over the coming weeks, Michael Carruth, Olympic Champion Boxer being just one.

Assessment Week.

The final week of every module is considered Assessment Week. Many subjects will have exams, projects due or other relevant pieces of work for assessment due this week. This module's assessment week is from Monday 24th October until Friday 28th October.

Every student's TY E-Portfolio for Module 1 is also due during Assessment Week. They should upload to their portfolio all of the pictures, videos, sound bites and all relevant write-ups to their Form Teacher before Wednesday 26th October. This formulates a large part of their final TY grade and should be of a high standard.

Work Experience Forms:

Students should have secured their first work experience by now. Form teachers have given their forms to the students. Please ensure these forms are returned by the deadline date. Copies of all the forms are available on <http://www.newparkschool.ie/transition-year>

All of the students' Work Experience forms should also be handed up to their Form Teachers by Friday 7th October. They have also been sent home with all of the students earlier this week.

The Insurance indemnity form which is on the web site is dated 2015 but is exactly the same as the one required for this year. We are awaiting a new one to upload it but the current one will suffice until then.

Activity Weeks.

With activity weeks coming up fast, the Newpark App will be a crucial piece of technology to keep updated, with meet times, places and activities for In Dublin Week and Arts week. We have an exciting new format for Arts week and some interesting trips planned for In Dublin Week. The App will be the main form of communication if changes are made or alterations required.

We are encouraging all students to ensure they have a topped up Leap Card for their 'In Dublin Week' in particular, they will be required to move around the city during the week and the easiest way to this is by using a Leap.

Please don't forget our meeting for Parents/Guardians – Wednesday October 19th, 8pm in the GPA and keep checking the App for updated information.