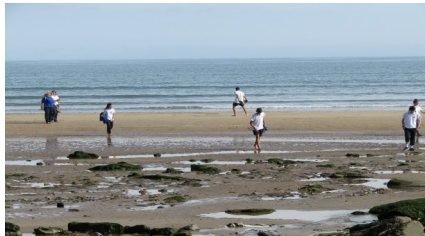
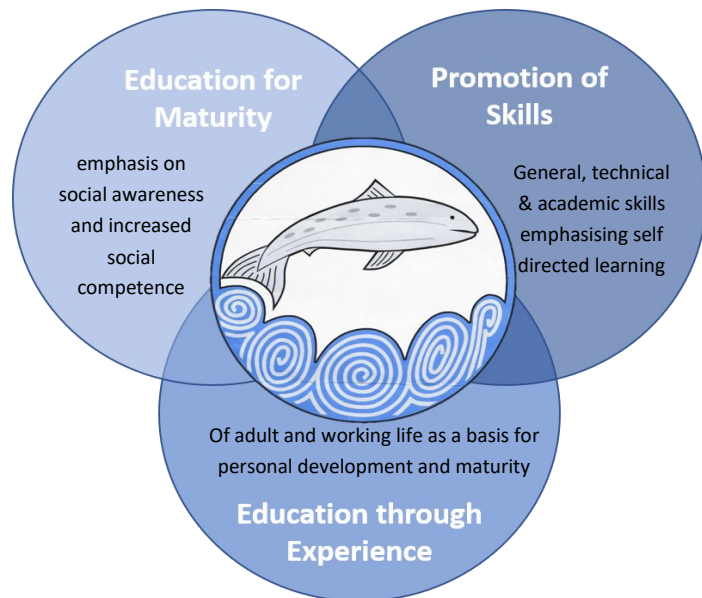


# Aims of TY



**A Different Year of Learning**

# Blackwater Community School.

## Transition Year



**An information booklet for 3rd Years and Parents**



**Student Enterprise PROGRAMME**

**I ♥ TY**

**SciFest**



**BT YOUNG SCIENTIST & TECHNOLOGY Exhibition**



**POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD**

## Transition Year

Is a one year programme. It provides a bridge to enable students make the transition from Junior to Senior Cycle.

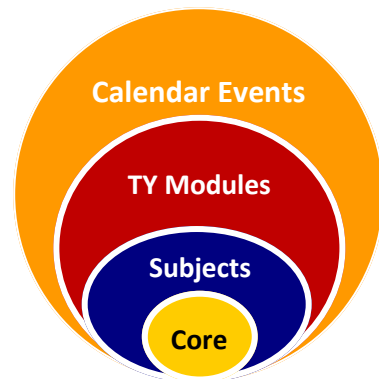
## What's the purpose of the Transition Year Programme?

- To promote maturity.
- Maturity in studies by making students more self-directed learners.
- Maturity in relation to work and careers by developing work related skills.
- Personal maturity by providing opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility.
- Social maturity by developing people skills and more awareness of the world outside school

## The Transition Year Programme

Each school devises its own T.Y. Programme. Our teaching staff has drawn up a programme reflecting Transition Year guidelines and the resource materials published by the Department of Education and Skills. We must also consider students' needs, parents views, possibilities offered by employers and the wider interests of the local community. Each Year the programme is evaluated, with inputs from all these parties, and revised by our teaching staff.

*Our Transition Year programme offers a broad and balanced curriculum covering such areas as:*



**Core Subjects:** These are subjects such as Irish, English, Maths. Core subjects are taught for the full duration of Transition Year.

**Sampling Subjects:** give students a variety of learning experiences so that they can select their Leaving Certificate subjects in a more informed way. These subjects are also taught for the full duration of the year

**Transition Year Modules:** these modules provide students with opportunities to develop important life skills.

**Calendar events:** these are learning experiences which aim to challenge the students' practical and personal skills as well as giving them opportunities to develop their sense of responsibility. They can take the form of work experience, community work and challenging tasks within the school. They are usually of short duration or once off events.

## How can parents help?

- Encourage your child to participate. You are paying for him/her to take part in Transition Year. Your expectations for his/her participation, co-operation and interest will influence their experience.
- Take the year seriously so that your child will also take it seriously.
- Insist upon regular attendance.
- Insist that they take responsibility for their learning.
- Encourage them to sample all the activities that are offered.
- Encourage them to arrange suitable Work Experience.
- Make sure that they fully participate in Work Experience
- Check that homework is being completed.
- Keep in touch with the school; if in doubt about anything, telephone the school.
- Ensure that you read all text communications from the school.
- Ask regularly about what they are doing.
- Check reports and behaviour record online regularly.
- Check and sign their journal weekly to ensure it's fully completed.

**Parental support and positive input is key to students experiencing a successful Transition Year**







## What is expected of Transition Year students?

- Participate
- Participate
- Participate
- Be motivated
- Attend and behave properly
- Think positively
- Set, assess and achieve targets
- Take action
- Have a good work rate



## Assessment in Transition Year

This is carried out throughout the year. This comprises a brief report on their progress for each term on all subjects and assessment may include any or all of the following:

- Summative evaluation: an overall statement of pupils performance by the teachers.
- Written, practical, oral and aural assessments
- Report of work experience.
- Projects, portfolios and exhibition work.
- Pupil diary/log book to record personal progress.
- Rating scales, record of skills and competences attained
- Students assess own performance.

## Evaluation

An in-school Evaluation of our Transition year programme is undertaken every year. Surveys are undertaken with parents, students and teachers and the responses analysed and issues addressed. The overwhelming majority of all those involved give positive responses to the programme and some excellent suggestions for improvements are often incorporated for the year.

## Certification

The Department of Education and Skills awards a certificate of participation to all who complete a Transition Year Programme. We also offer internally certified courses to our students. In addition, we offer externally certified courses e.g. The European Computer Driving Licence, First Aid, Gaisce (The President's Award).

## Benefits of Transition Year

**Transition Year can help students .....**

- Discover more about their personal strengths.
- Develop maturity and self confidence.
- Improve their self-esteem.
- Build interpersonal and team skills.
- Make wiser subject choices for Leaving Certificate and further education.
- Extend the learning experience beyond the classroom.
- Develop Study skills for Leaving Certificate.
- Develop entrepreneurial skills
- Explore the World of Work
- Extend their repertoire of learning styles
- Achieve improved Leaving Certificate results

## Contents of our Transition Year Programme

### TY Core Subjects

Irish  
English  
Maths  
Science  
French/German/Italian  
Business  
Home Economics  
Home Maintenance  
Geography  
History  
ICDL  
Physical Education  
Career Guidance  
Religion  
Tutorial/Portfolio

### Modular Courses & Subjects

Community Care	Stone Masonary
Creative Writing	Media Stuties
Design &	Model Making
Communication	Pottery
Graphics	Public Speaking
Sign Language	Music

Modules and courses are subject to change

### Trips Away

Team-building, Kayaking, Cinema,  
Hikes, Drama Trips, Ice-skating, etc.  
2 night trip away to Achill Island

### Other Activities

Mini-Company	School Bank
Young Scientist Competition	Mini Company
Artifice Art Exhibition	GAA Future Leaders
Junk Kouture	Road Safety Awareness Programme
Gaisce/President's Award	Careers Seminars
Pope JP II Community Award	Paired Reading Programme
3rd Level Placements	
Work Experience x 2 weeks	

## President's Award— Gaisce

The President's Award is the National Challenge Award given by the President to young people in Ireland between the ages of 15 and 25 yrs. Recipients of the award get a medal in a presentation box, a certificate signed by the President and lapel pin.

The purpose of the award is to reward young people who have set and achieved a demanding challenge for themselves in each of 4 different areas of activity:

- Community involvement, for example, helping older people or helping with coaching with your local club.
- Personal skill, for example, learning a musical instrument, computer skills or driving.
- Physical recreation, for example, swimming, football or tennis.
- Adventure journey, for example, a cycle, canoeing or hike group trip.
- 

#### To achieve the Bronze Award you must:

- Participate for a minimum of 1 hour a week for 13 weeks in each of the following 3 areas: Community involvement, Personal Skills, Physical recreation.
- Participate for a minimum of 1 hour a week for an additional 13 weeks in 1 or the 3 areas above.
- Undertake a 2 day, 1 night adventure journey in a group covering a minimum total distance of: Walking 25 km to 35 km or Cycling 100 km to 130 km

## I.C.D.L.—Computer Qualification

*The ability to use a computer effectively is an essential life skill. Almost every career in today's world requires computer skills and internet skills. Most employers who look for basic IT skills among job applicants look for ICDL certification. Being able to say 'Yes, I have my ICDL boosts your chances of securing that new job. More than 700,00 Irish people have an ICDL qualification*

BCS TY Programme offers all participants the opportunity to complete this essential accreditation in one year. Pupils will have 3 class periods every week where they will engage in online training. Pupils have a choice of modules, each one provided a practical programme of up to date skills and knowledge areas, which are validated by a test. ICDL enables TY pupils to develop and certify their computer skills in the subject areas of their choosing to create an ICDL profile. Certification provides objective verification of learner skills and demonstrates that they have achieved a recognised standard. This standard is recognised in over 138 countries and is the digital skills certification most requested by Irish employers. All pupils are required to complete and achieve in a minimum of 7 modules to receive the ICDL certification.

**Modules include:** Computer Essentials, Online Essentials, Documents, Spreadsheets, Presentation, IT Security, Online collaboration One Drive, Cyber Security, Data Protection.