

Midleton CBS



Transition Year Programme

2024 – 25

What is Transition Year?

Transition Year (TY) is a one-year education programme available to all students who have completed the Junior Cycle. The TY programme offers excellent opportunities for students to develop their sense of responsibility, and to get some insights into adult life and the world of work. During TY, students can also develop a wide range of skills and competencies, both new and old.

“Transition year programmes are intended to facilitate the integrated development of the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical, social and vocational capabilities of each individual student through structured learning experiences. The general aim of the Transition Year is the preparation of young people for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society”.

(Guidelines for Transition Year, Department of Education and Skills.)

What is needed from parents?

It is impossible for a student to get the most from their TY without positive active support from their parents. Therefore, we need the parents of our TY students to wholeheartedly promote our TY programme and to encourage their sons to take part in and to embrace every opportunity offered by our programme. It is important that parents of our TY students ensure maximum school attendance by their son, and back up the School by making their son more responsible around their home, and with their family and friends. Only then can the work done by the School and its teachers fully help the student to grow into a confident, mature and responsible adult, able to bring real value to the world around them.

Transition Year on the CBS Website

The CBS website is at www.midletoncbs.ie. Most relevant to our Transition Year students and parents is the TY section, which may be found in the blue banner of the main homepage under Curriculum. In the TY section, we have information on work experience, Garda vetting, and the School insurance statement.

TY Newsletter

The main method of communication between the School and TY parents is the TY Newsletter, which is available on the school app. This weekly newsletter will inform you of upcoming events/courses and instructions as to how to take part in those events. It is important to keep up to date with the newsletter as opportunities for our TY students may arise at any time and we will post information about those opportunities in our Newsletter as they come in.

How to contact the TY team

Parents and guardians may contact the TY Coordinator, Mr Speight, by email at transitionyear@midletoncbs.ie

Aims

Our TY programme is broad and allows students to combine traditional academic subjects with work experience and social development. It aims to integrate these activities with a view to:

- Assisting students to take responsibility for their own learning and decision-making
- Providing students with the opportunity to undertake work experience
- Creating opportunities for personal growth through participation in various social activities and/or voluntary work
- Encouraging students to develop a positive approach to learning
- Giving students many opportunities to develop their personal, intellectual, spiritual, social, physical and emotional life in a caring, stimulating and varied learning environment.
- Facilitating students in making better-informed subject choices for Senior Cycle.
- Providing a transition between Junior and Senior cycles.

Opt out

We believe very strongly in our TY programme and the benefits it offers our students. Therefore, in Midleton CBS, TY is compulsory for all of our students. In spring every year, the Guidance team meet all 3rd year classes to explain our TY programme and its benefits. Parents who have strong reasons to believe that their son would benefit more by not taking the TY programme, may apply to have their son move straight into the Leaving Certificate programme (5th year). This needs to be communicated to the Deputy Principal of the Senior school. The final decision on this rests with the Principal and Board of Management.

Curriculum

The Transition Year Programme is divided into four parts or layers. These include:

1. Core Subjects
2. Subject Sampling
3. Transition Year Specific Modules
4. Calendar Once Off Events

1. Core Subjects

Our TY Core subjects are the subjects taken by all TY students for the duration of the academic year. Those subjects are:

- Maths
- English
- Irish
- Physical Education (wellbeing)
- Religious Education

2. Subject Sampling

During Transition Year, our students have the opportunity to sample up to 7 of the 18 optional Leaving Cert subjects offered in Midleton CBS. The purpose of sampling is to allow our students to test their aptitude/interest in a subject and make an informed choice regarding studying that subject as part of their Leaving Certificate. The subjects we offer are:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Agricultural science
- Business studies
- Accounting
- Economics
- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Music
- Art
- Construction studies
- Technology
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Politics & Society
- Physical Education

At the end of 3rd Year, we ask students to nominate five of the above subjects in order of preference. These will be studied for two classes per week for the entire year.

Please note that, as Politics & Society and PE are new to the Leaving Cert curriculum, all students will sample both of these for a number of weeks during TY – they will not appear in the menu when selecting your top five choices.

At the end of TY, students nominate any four of the 18 subjects which they will continue to study for their Leaving Cert.

3. Transition Year Specific Modules

In CBS, we take great pride in our Transition Year specific modules as they help to develop our students' interests and skills in non-academic areas of value in the real world. In past years, we have been delighted to offer our students modules in:

- **Computers/ICT** Surprisingly enough, in an era when almost everybody has a tablet or a smart-phone, students today have limited traditional computer processing skills. These are the routine tasks of creating, filing and saving documents via mouse & keyboard rather than touch-screen apps. In our Computers/ICT modules we use various computer-based projects to develop our students' computer skills using various computer programmes (Word, Excel etc) for word processing and presentations.
- **Cooking** In one of our most popular modules, we teach our TY students how to cook simple, nutritious and economical meals that form part of a healthy lifestyle.
- **Public Speaking** A golden opportunity for many of our students, this module gives our TY students an opportunity to develop their communication skills, to practise sentence structure and to develop their thoughts and ideas orally. This module is a must for students needing to learn how to communicate better in an adult world and prepare for job interviews and other such events in the near future.

- Road safety Statistics show that 17- to 25-year old drivers from Co Cork are the most likely group to be involved in road fatalities. Our Road Safety module is one of the ways we can encourage our boys to be more aware of their responsibilities on the road and to look after themselves and other road users around them.
- Sports science These days, health, fitness and wellbeing are at the forefront of our awareness. Our TY Sport Science module encourages and informs our boys as to how to monitor their diets and fitness, and to maintain healthy and active lifestyles.
- Ukulele/Guitar We are delighted to be able to offer our TY students an opportunity to try out and develop their musical skills in a fun, relaxed environment.

Calendar Once Off Events

In addition to the subjects and modules that take place over a number of weeks or terms, we are delighted to offer our TY students a number of once-off activities/trips through which they can also expand their TY experience.

Every year we take part in four outdoor pursuit days:

- Ballyhass Adventure Centre
- Fota Assault Course
- Dungarvan Greenway Cycle, and
- Oysterhaven Water Sports Centre

TY Activities Week

Traditionally, we have also run a TY activities week in March (depending on availability of providers). During this week, students get to sample a full day of First Aid and Self Defence. They also get to practise driving a car at the Munster Driving Campus, and take part in an in-house half-day Retreat on the Wednesday (see Personal Development Retreat section below).

Personal Development Workshop

As part of our commitment to the personal development of our students, we have partnered with an excellent retreat facilitator, Mr Declan Brown, who runs a full-day workshop for us in September and follows this up with a half-day workshop during our Activities Week in March. The focus of these workshops is the building of self-esteem, anxiety/emotional self-management, wellbeing and the building of resilience.

Personal Training/Guitar Classes/Arts Project

As part of our commitment to all students within Midleton CBS, we have organised Personal Training, Guitar classes and an Arts Project. Personal training sessions are available in the school gym after school on Tuesday evenings for those that are not on sports teams. Guitar classes are run on Wednesday afternoons with instruments and a local tutor provided. Both of these initiatives are designed to reach out to groups of students that we have traditionally not served in our academic/sporting school.

We will also hold a TY Arts project. Over the course of a number of sessions, students from TY, working with a local artist, will create a work of art in the medium chosen by that artist.

Optional Competitions and Events

Throughout the year, the TY team promotes and supports students who wish to partake in the following competitions/events.

- Merck Pharmaceutical Science Competition
- First Cut Film Festival
- European Youth Parliament
- Engineers' Week
- CIT Week
- UCC Business Week

...and many others

Financial

The fee to take part in our Transition Year for 2024/25 is €450, which must be paid at the start of the year. €300 of this is for the TY activities and the other €150 is for the school contribution. This money covers all of the TY events and transport for the year. The only exception to this is the €50 deposit for the personal training sessions after school. This deposit will be returned in full to students who attend, on average, 7 out of 10 of the classes. Towards the end of the year, an outline will be given of how the money was spent during the year.

As an example of the breakdown of costs, here are the expenses from 2023, totalling €300:

Month	Activity	Approx Cost Per Pupil
September	Ballyhass Trip including transport (€9)	€54
October	Fota Island Assault Course including transport (€3)	€34
November	Retreat with Declan Browne	€13
March	Activities Week	€80
April	Dungarvan Greenway Cycle	€25
May	Oysterhaven Adventure Centre Day including transport (€9)	€49
Ongoing	Weekly modules, cooking, Des Ryan P.E. sessions, etc	€45
	Sub-Total	€300

Work Experience

In Midleton CBS, we see our Transition Year as an ideal opportunity to vary the learning environment and to dispel the notion that learning is something that happens only, or most effectively, within the classroom. One way in which we do this is to include two weeks of work experience in our Transition Year programme – one in February and another in March.

By undertaking work experience, our students have the opportunity to develop their personal skills and qualities, and gain a good understanding of the adult world of work.

Details of school insurance, Garda Vetting etc are available on the school website and will also be made available via the App in time for students to organise their work experience.

Work Experience dates for 2024/25 are as follows:

- February 3rd to 7th 2025
- March 24th to 28th 2025

HOW WE ASSESS OUR TY STUDENTS

In Midleton CBS, assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Appropriate modes of assessment are chosen to complement the variety of approaches used in implementing the programme and may include any or all of the following:

- Informal tests: teachers use various assessment methods - written, practical, oral and aural - to assess students' performance in a subject area.
- Formal tests: at Christmas and summer, TY students sit written tests in Maths, English, Irish, and the five option subjects that are being sampled for the full year.

TY Awards

On the last day of term, we present awards to students who have excelled in particular areas during the year, for example Gaisce, TY Student of the Year, TY Sportsman of the Year, and the Spirit of TY Award. The nominees and winners of these categories are determined by both the students and staff.

COMMUNICATION WITH OUR TY PARENTS/STUDENTS

Online Communication

Our main medium for communication with parents is a weekly newsletter, sent via the school app. All relevant documents such as Garda Vetting, insurance statement, competition application forms etc. are sent out along with the newsletter as attachments. They are also available on the students Google Classroom and the school Website.

TY Students Notice Board

For students, information is available on Google Classroom, the TY notice board in the school foyer, TY class tutors and from the TY Year Head.

TY Clinic

Every morning before school starts and every evening once school finishes, a TY Clinic is held in GF 44. Any issues a student has or any details that they need regarding trips etc can be dealt with at this time.

Tutorial Class

Every day, the TY class tutors will inspect the students' uniforms and school journals. This gives students an opportunity to present any notes from their parents to explain any absences from school. This class period also provides an opportunity for the class tutors to convey to the students any news regarding events, timetabling, module changes and so on.

TY Detention

Detention for issues with behaviour, homework, uniform, absences etc is held every Thursday lunch time from 1:29 to 1:49.

Queries about Transition Year in Midleton CBS

If you have queries about Transition Year in Midleton CBS, please check out the TY section of the CBS School website, where you will find all the necessary forms. If you have questions that are not dealt with on the website, please email your query to transitionyear@midletoncbs.ie. Please note that this email is checked once or twice a day. These email requests are generally answered within 24 hours. For queries that need an immediate response, phone the school on 021 – 4631555 and request a call back. We aim to answer these the same day.