

Bush Post Primary School



Transition Year Programme

2014 - 2015

Paul Malone

Transition Year Coordinator



Transition Year at Bush Post Primary

Paul Malone - TY Co ordinator

The mission of Transition year is to promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of our students and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

TY is a one-year programme, which provides a bridge to enable students to make the transition between Junior to Senior cycle. It encourages personal and social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence. In Bush, TY fosters academic achievement as students prepare for the Leaving Certificate and the ERSI study (2004) has established that students who take the TY programme have a higher grade point average in the Leaving Certificate than students who pass directly into Senior Cycle. Our focus is on encouraging students to develop their ability to study and take responsibility for their own education. TY offers the opportunity for students to learn important skills outside of the traditional classroom setting and this helps to motivate students to complete tasks and project work.

Each school devises its own TY programme to meet the needs of its students. In Bush this is carried out in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines. The Principal, Co-ordinator and the TY teaching team design the programme, which is reviewed annually.

Core Subjects:

- Irish
- English
- Maths

Subject Sampling may include:

- Science - Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- Art
- Music
- History and World Culture
- I.T. –
- Social Studies – Young Social Innovator
- Home Economics
- Spanish
- Business – Mini Company
- Leisure & Recreation

A Selection of our Calendar Events:

- Induction Week – Sailing Course (ISA Approved)
- Louth County Enterprise Awards – Mini Company
- Young Social Innovator Competition
- First Aid Course & Certification
- Peer Education
- Work Experience
- Road Safety Show
- GAA Coaching Course
- TY Triathlon
- Junk Kouture
- BT Young Scientist Competition
- Bush Factor – Talent Show
- First Drive

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Bush Post Primary School Transition Year

Co-ordinator: Mr. Paul Malone

Tutor: Ms. Nicola Fee

General Introduction to Bush Post Primary Schools Transition Year Programme

Bush Post Primary School Vision

We have a vision that each person in our School community feels secure and fulfilled; enjoying a positive educational experience.

We envisage the development of well-adjusted individuals, who will succeed in life and actively contribute to the betterment of the greater community.

School Mission Statement

We acknowledge the uniqueness of students in our care: each with individual needs and potentialities. The realisation of each student's potential is our mission.

We recognise the importance of self-esteem. It is our mission to engender, foster and protect a positive self-image for each person in our care.

Our mission is to create an effective educational environment, where our School community will thrive. This environment, managed with fairness and firmness, will allow each person in our care to develop personally, educationally, socially and spiritually.

Our School motto – 'Ar thriail na Tuiscane' – translates, 'In Search of Understanding'. Our main mission is to conduct that search towards excellence in every area of school life.

Our Transition Year Mission

To promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of the students.

To prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

This mission has specific aims outlined below.

Our Aims for Transition Year

1. To develop independent learning skills.
2. To create a forum for higher achievement at Leaving Certificate through self-motivation.
3. To develop life skills in different disciplines, which will enable students to become more socially integrated into the working world.
4. To explore many abilities which may otherwise not be tapped into.
5. To build stronger self-esteem and a more confident self-image.
6. To learn how to work in harmony as a team.

Evaluation

- Evaluation has an integral and necessary role in our Transition Year Programme. It allows us to tailor our programme to the constantly changing and evolving needs of our student community. We believe that the Transition Year Programme is not static and is in need of and can be enhanced by regular and quality evaluation. This emphasis on reflective practice will ensure the dynamic nature of the programme in the future.
- Evaluation is divided into four areas
 - a. Student evaluation – e.g. subject, outing, work experience
 - b. Teacher evaluation – e.g. subject, module, student
 - c. Whole staff evaluation – at end of year
 - d. Parent evaluation – at end of year
- Teachers both self-evaluate and carry out student evaluation at the end of each module so as to inform and reflect in order to plan any changes needed. Teachers need only keep a summary of these evaluations.
- Students carry out evaluations on specific educational experiences or outings to gauge their satisfaction/learning. This will enable reflective practice by the teacher involved and the co-ordinator.
- Student end of year evaluations take place at the graduation ceremony. These are collated and any possible or needed changes are debated and implemented with management as a result.

- Parent evaluation takes place at the graduation ceremony. After the end of year presentations this affords a chance to review the year and remind parents of the many aspects of the programme.
- Instruments for evaluation used are located in the appendices of the programme

Transition Year Teachers and Subjects

English	C Lennon
Irish	C Page
Maths	S Burns
Business	S Mc Donald
World Science	E Mc Mahon
Music / World Culture	K Lynch
Art	A Mc Donnell
Social Education	S Woods
Home Economics	E Slowley
Leisure and Recreation	P Malone
Film Studies	G Bellew
Spanish	G Duffy
ICT	S Guerin

Finances

- Each student pays three instalments to make up the sum of 500 euro. However this figure be significantly higher with the costs of different trips / competitions and materials.
- The grant issued by the department is at the disposal of T.Y. co ordinator.
- Outings planned by teachers are financed by the students themselves.
- If funding is an issue, students can fund-raise in many different ways, e.g. cake sales hosting competitions and holding raffles.
- All TY finances are recorded with the TY Co Orordinator.

T.Y. Certification

The following describes the procedure for student certification ending the transition year:

1. Individual certification from completion of certain modules or tasks
2. School certification based on the overall marks attained from all subjects and modules. These marks are arrived at by each teacher in the following manner;
 - a) Student assessment – in the form of written, oral, portfolio, practical, as outlined in each subject descriptor.
 - b) Terminal written examination
 - c) Portfolio interview

3. The criteria for awarding the certificate is at outlined below:

Distinction	80-100%
Credit 1	65-79%
Credit 2	50-64%
Completion	0-49%

4. Department of Education and Science Certification.

Students must attend 90% of the time to gain school certification unless absence has been certified by a doctor.

Special Learning Experiences 2014-2015

- Sailing in Carlingford Lough for one week so as to build team spirit between the group. This will be certified by the I.S.A. to level 1 Sailing qualification
- PEER Education – Four students will be selected to deliver a social contemporary issue to a first year group during SHPE lessons
- Camping Trip to the Cooley mountains
- BT Young Scientist of the Year in R.D.S. in Dublin.
- Promoting ‘Seachtain na Gailge’ in the school
- Partaking in the Y.S.I. – Young Social Innovator competition
- Planning and implementing an overnight expedition.
- Attending the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen as part of their English Poetry module
- Students will spend two weeks on work experience of their choice
- A TY student will spend a week in Trinity College on a Physics Camp
- All TY’s will attend First Aid Lessons with full certification available
- Students will assist in a school talent competition called ‘Bush Factor’ in the first / second term, they will make the set and host this production in conjunction with their music teacher
- Students will partake in a ‘Drive for Life’ programme which promotes safe driving, this is an intervention programme
- Students will take part in the Louth school annual TY Triathlon.
- Students will be taken on a number of one off trips to various locations eg, Dundalk Library, Art Exhibitions, Comedy Shows.
- Students will have a number of speakers into the school to speak to them on a variety of different issues eg Youth Connect, Pope John Paul Award, Comhairle Na Nog, Eagles Flight

Teaching Methods and Approaches

A key feature of the Transition Year Programme at Bush is the wide range of teaching/learning methodologies. The educational activities should enable students to have a valid and worthwhile learning experience with emphasis given to develop study skills and self - directed learning.

- Group work for example mini company, discussion, debate, interview, role play.
- Project work and research
- Camping
- Activity based learning
- Visiting speakers and seminars
- Trade fairs
- Showcase
- Study trips and field trips
- Team teaching approaches
- Work experience
- Interviews with entrepreneurs
- Industry and community visits
- Seachtain Na Gaeilge

Transition Year teaching is informed by the importance of:

- Cross - curricular and interdisciplinary links.
- New technologies, especially Information and Communications Technology.
- Links with Business and the local community.

Work Experience

It is intended that the students will complete one week of work experience from 13th April 24th April 2015. The students prepare for work experience in Mini Company class. Both pupils and prospective employers are fully briefed about what is involved and upon completion students will have the opportunity to produce a work experience diary and report back on their experience. Each

teacher will be allocated one student to visit and/or telephone during the week of work experience. Employers are asked to complete an employer report form and return it to the school. (See sample work experience documents)

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the teaching and learning process in Transition Year. Pupils are assessed on all aspects of the programme as part of the normal assessment process in the school. Assessment is decided by subject teachers but it is agreed students sit written in house Christmas and Summer exams in the following subjects:

- English
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Spanish (Written and Oral)
- Science

In all other subjects they will be continuously assessed throughout the year for example mini company assessment will be based on written report and effort to set up and manage a successful business. Other examples of continuous assessment work include:

- Pieces of artwork
- Work experience diary
- Projects, written reports and exhibition of work
- Science experiments
- Film production
- Woodwork products/artefacts
- Homework

Homework Procedures

Teachers are encouraged to give homework at the end of **every** class. Students must write homework in school diary. A note from teacher will indicate to parents/guardians if homework is not complete. This note must be signed by parent/guardian and checked by teacher in the next class.

Organisation of Transition Year

The Principal, Vice Principal, Co – ordinator, tutor and teaching team are actively involved in planning the Transition Year Programme. Timetable planning takes place in May each year where the timetable is reviewed and changes made if necessary. The Transition Year Co – ordinator holds a meeting each term where all the teachers of Transition Year are present. Teachers in August receive a Transition Year folder containing useful information such as:

- List of TY teachers
- List of TY students
- TY timetable
- Useful telephone numbers
- List of TY resources in office
- TY calendar containing organised events and important dates to remember during the year.

Teachers must provide a subject plan for the year divided into the school terms. This scheme of work is kept in the TY office and requested from each teacher by the end of September. It is also important to keep the non Transition Year members of the staff fully informed of TY activities.

The Co – ordinator and TY teachers will require their continuous support both individually and collectively throughout the year. TY teachers will receive correspondence though a variety of methods

- Email
- Word of mouth
- Regular meetings
- TY calendar in the TY office

We encourage parents/guardians to become actively involved in TY school activities. Parents/guardians must sign the school diary every Tuesday. They are encouraged to check their son/daughter's diary each night to ensure homework is complete and notes from teachers are signed.

Parents/guardians receive a letter home in relation to every activity/event planned throughout the year. The letter fully informs parents/guardians of the nature of the activity/event and contains a consent form, which must be signed and returned to school the following morning.

At the beginning of each term a timetable and letter is posted home to parents. The timetable lists all subjects and a written description of subject content and assessment for the term. It also contains important upcoming events. (See sample timetable and letter)

Parents find this timetable very informative and they are confident in the knowledge that their son/daughter is kept extremely busy throughout each term.

A parent/teacher meeting is held once a year. (February 2015)

Admissions to TY

Procedure:

1. A letter is sent out to parents to inform them of an information evening being held about Transition Year.
2. An information evening is then held in school in April/May each year. The purpose of this meeting is to explain to parents and students about the Transition Year Programme. The TY Coordinator gives a PowerPoint and hosts a question and answer session. The principal and the vice principal are in attendance.
3. The following week an announcement is made on the school intercom for any interested students to contact the TY Coordinator for an application form for Transition Year.
4. Completed application forms must be signed by the student and parents/guardians and returned to the Coordinator within the week.
5. Completed application forms are then filed and each candidate is called for an interview. The TY Coordinator and a Year Head sit on the interview panel. Students are encouraged to speak honestly and notes are taken on each candidate.
6. All candidates are then sent out a letter of acceptance and asked to return the bottom slip as confirmation of acceptance of a place in the forthcoming Transition Year class.
7. All correspondence is filed in the TY office filing cabinet.
8. List of Transition Years is then placed on school notice board in staff room.
9. All decisions are final. Canvassing of any sort will disqualify a candidate.

TY Criteria for Interview

Below are the criteria set out in our TY policy. Students will be interviewed and selected based on the items listed below:

1. Ability to benefit from or potential to gain from the programme
2. Attributes the student can bring to the programme
3. Capacity to and evidence of hard work in subjects
4. Behaviour record in the school and while taking part in school activities
5. Interview performance
6. Knowledge of TY programme within the school
7. Student presentation (full school uniform)
8. Attendance
9. Previous reports / teacher feedback

Teacher Feedback

Dear Teacher

In order to select candidates for Transition Year next year 2014-2015 we would like you to fill out a quick questionnaire about:

.....

Please rank the student named above on the continuum

1 = excellent 2 = very good = 3 good = 4 fair = 5 poor against the following statements

Demonstrates initiative in your subject	
Can work independently	
Can work as part of a team	
Has the ability get on with others	
Always makes deadlines	
Works enthusiastically in your subject	

Any other comment:

