



18th December 2023

## **Re: Programme Choices**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As your son/daughter is approaching the end of his/her Junior Certificate Cycle programme, it is now time to think about what avenue to take next year to continue their educational journey. In Bush Post Primary we offer three programmes, and it is important for you and your son/daughter to make an informed decision as to what is the best route for them on their educational journey. The three options in Bush Post Primary are:

1. Transition Year
2. Leaving Certificate Applied
3. Traditional Leaving Certificate

### **Transition Year**

The Transition Year Programme is a unique one-year programme, that promotes the personal, social, vocational and educational development of students and prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society. TY provides a bridge to enable students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with Junior Cycle to the more independent learning environment associated with Senior Cycle. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.

- **TY Curriculum**

In TY students will study the core subjects of English, Irish and Maths together with Wellbeing and PE. They will also have a weekly tutor class. Students will choose 6 option subjects from the 19 options. An MS form will be sent to students in early January to gather their preferences for the options they wish to study in TY. This will provide students with an opportunity to get an insight into the course content of different subject for Leaving Certificate. In each subject option, teachers will introduce Leaving

Certificate material and concepts so students will gain an insight into the content that will be studied and also the commitment that is required for LC. they choose for example, if they choose Business, they will participate in mini company, if they choose a science subject they may participate in BT Young Scientist, if they choose Engineering they will participate in the AMTCE project. It is important to choose options that the student is genuinely interested in, with a view to studying it in senior cycle.

Within the calander layer of the programme a wide range of activities are provided to increase the experiential aspect of Transition Year which may include the following (Activities will vary from year to year)

- First Aid & Manual Handling Training.
- Induction-Causey Farm/Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Trip to show in Gaiety theatre.
- Tours- Zoo/Butlers Chocolate factory/Dublin Sports Campus.
- Work Experience
- Gaisce
- Road Safety Workshop
- STEM initiative with Maynooth University
- School Musical.
- Microsoft Dreams Project
- Peer Education Programme
- Revenue Commissioners into to Tax
- BOI Moneysmart programme.
- Careers trips to Queens University/ DKIT/DCU.
- BT Young Scientist

The cost of the TY programme is €350 approximately which can be paid in three installments throughout the year.

- **Work Experience**

Students will also go on 2 separate weeks of work experience, usually in November and March, where they will gain an insight into various occupations that interest them while also gain an insight into working life. All necessary documentation needed for employers, including the school's insurance will be given to students prior to going to their work experience.

- **TY Assessment**

Methods of assessment in Transition Year vary for subjects & modules. An overview of the assessment methodologies practiced in Transition Year includes the following:

1. Written assessment in December and May.
2. Oral assessment
3. Aural assessment
4. Practical assessment
5. Transition Year Portfolio
6. Work Experience Diary

7. Homework assessed regularly by subject teachers
8. Project based assessment.

Parents are informed of individual student progress at Christmas and Summer with formal reports sent home from school. These reports include details of marks and grades achieved in each subject/ module as well as a personalized comment from each teacher. Attendance details are also included on these reports.

- **TY Selection**

Students will be selected for the Transition Year programme based on their:

1. Application form.
2. Track record in the school.
3. Suitability for the programme.

If oversubscribed, interviews for Transition year may take place.

### **Leaving Certificate Applied**

This is a two-year Leaving Certificate, aimed at students who want to follow a practical programme. It is designed to meet the needs of those who are not adequately catered for by the traditional Leaving Certificate. The main objective of the programme is to prepare students for adult working life.

- **LCA Curriculum**

Students will study English, Maths, a language, Social Education, Leisure & Recreation, Visual Arts, Music and 2 other specialisms such as ICT, Hotel, Catering & Tourism, Graphics & Construction. They may also study other modules such as Hair & Beauty, Childcare, Engineering and Agricultural & Horticulture. What is so unique and wonderful about the LCA programme is that students gain credits for attendance and their assignments throughout the year. The LCA curriculum will be confirmed depending on the student cohort and their interests & capabilities in conjunction with school management. It is perfectly designed for students who enjoy practical subjects and hands on learning.

- **LCA Work Experience**

Students will also attend work placement every Friday. Students are required to complete 4 or 5 different work placements over the 2 years. All necessary documentaion will be provided to steudents and monitoring will take place.

- **LCA Selection**

Students will be selected for the LCA programme based on their:

1. Application form.
  2. Track record in the school
  3. Suitability for the programme.
- **Assessment and Certification**

A maximum of 200 credits can be awarded over the two-year programme. This includes credits for completion of assignments at the end of modules, Tasks and final examinations. The breakdown is as follows:

Satisfactory Completion of Modules	62credits	31%
7 Student Tasks	70credits	35%
Final Examinations	68credits	34%

Upon successful completion of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme students shall receive a certificate from the Department of Education and Science. There are 3 levels of award as outlined below

Pass	120-139 credits (60%-69%)
Merit	140-169 credits (70%- 84%)
Distinction	170- 200 credits (85%- 100%)

- **Further Study**

Upon successful completion of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme students may apply to do a Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) course and then continue to study in an Institute of Technology

### **Traditional Leaving Certificate**

This is a two-year programme, also known as the traditional leaving certificate. Typically, students take seven subjects. Subjects can be taken at higher and ordinary levels. Students will study the core subjects of English, Irish and Maths, together with Career Guidance and SPHE. They will choose 4 option subjects from the following subjects: Accounting, Agricultural Science, Applied Maths, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Science, Construction Studies, Design Construction & Graphics, Engineering, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Link Modules, Music, PE, Physics and Spanish. Option classes will run if there are sufficient numbers.

All students must complete an MS application form which have been emailed today to each 3<sup>rd</sup> year student. The final closing date for applications is **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11am**. Late applications will not be accepted. A presentation on the programme choices was delivered to all 3<sup>rd</sup> year students this morning at their assembly. I would advise you to speak with your son/daughter and decide on the most suitable programme for them and assist them to fill in their application form. If they are continuing to fifth year to complete the traditional leaving certificate, there is no need to complete a form. Please do not hesitate to contact me on [sgartland.bpp@lmetb.ie](mailto:sgartland.bpp@lmetb.ie) or Mr Brennan if you need any further information or wish to discuss the correct choice for your son/daughter. I look forward to working with your son/daughter next year.

Yours faithfully,

Sheena Gartland.

**Programme Coordinator**