



Transition Year 2020-2021:

Information for students and their parents/guardians.

Congratulations to you all on your successful application to join the St. Farnan's TY Class next year! We look forward to working with you during what promises to be a very exciting and worthwhile year for you all.

Under normal circumstances, we would hold a meeting for our new TY students and their parents/guardians to convey some essential information, guidelines and advice before the summer break. As this is not possible this year, we would ask you to read this document very carefully and to keep it safely for reference.

Classes: Given the increased popularity of our school's TY programme, we are in a position to have two TY groups for the academic year 2020-2021. Both class groups will be overseen by the Year Head and their respective tutors, as well as the teachers involved in delivering the programme. Any issues are to be reported to the Class Tutor in the first instance, who will liaise closely with the Year Head.

Subjects: A varied and comprehensive range of core subjects and modules will be covered in the TY programme. While the students will have the opportunity to continue to work on their core subjects such as English, Gaeilge and Maths, they will also be trying new subjects and modules which will hopefully broaden their educational experience and help them make their subject choices for senior cycle. Modules this year will include Art, Photography, Metal Production, DCG, Materials Technology and Home Economics. All students will have an opportunity to try many of these new practical modules in smaller groups so that they can fully maximise their class time. Other subjects, such as science, IT, music and languages, also run throughout the academic year.

Wellbeing: There is a strong emphasis on student wellbeing in the TY programme and all students will take part in activities and external programmes which promote wellbeing and positive mental and physical health. These include Games, Yoga, the Future Leaders and Gaisce programmes, Guidance Counselling and Work Experience preparation.

Assessment: While the TY students will not have formal assessment as they have done up to now, a system of credits operates whereby they will earn credits for their work in each subject and module, as well as earning credits for their work experience, application, weekly folder and attendance. Teachers in each subject and module will allocate credits based on

project work, presentations, research etc. and the Year Head and class tutors will review the other areas on a regular basis. All students will also be interviewed at the end of each term to assess and review their progress. At the end of their year in TY, students will receive an overall grade of Distinction, Merit, Pass or Fail, based on the credits they have accrued.

Weekly Folder: At the beginning of each school week, the Year Head will send a file called the “**Weekly File**” by email to all students. Students will receive a folder on their first day back in the autumn, and they must fill in their weekly file each week and print it out for their folder. All students will have access to the IT room as part of their timetable and it is envisaged that this work can be done in these Project classes, but students may also work on their weekly files at home. The weekly file serves as a record of their work each week, their work experience, their research, their projects, trips they may have gone on or guest speakers who may have come to meet them. This practice of filling in the weekly file encourages students to reflect on their experiences, as well as improving their writing, communication, IT and organisational skills. The students’ folders will be regularly checked by their Tutors and Year Head and they will be assessed as part of their end of year credits.

Attendance: Full attendance is expected in Transition Year. All absences are to be explained with a note to the Tutor on the first day back after the day(s) missed. Unexplained absences will be checked by the Year Head.

Application: Full participation in all aspects of the Transition Year programme is expected from all students. TY students are expected to cooperate in every way with school management, teachers and other members of staff and are also expected to get involved in and assist at various school events.

School Rules: Naturally, normal school rules apply in Transition Year. As senior cycle students, TY students are allowed to wear a black school jumper and to go down town at lunchtime.

Work Experience: An integral element of Transition Year is the work experience module which allows students the opportunity to experience a real-life work environment and explore careers and professions which may be of interest to them when they leave post-primary school. In St. Farnan’s, TY students do their work experience every Wednesday during term, commencing hopefully in mid-September. Each student must find their own work experience placement and it is strongly encouraged that they begin looking for appropriate placements now. It is expected that all TY students will have secured their work experience placement before the beginning of the school year. Students may choose to work in two different places – one up to Christmas and a second one for the Spring term. All TY students are fully covered by KWETB insurance while they are on placement and placements are unpaid. Students are advised to seek placements in areas of work that are of interest to them. Please also consider the practicalities to getting to your placement every Wednesday – you may need to organise a lift or get public transport.

Fees: The varied and comprehensive TY programme in St. Farnan's involves a number of educational and recreational trips. The cost of these, together with transport costs, as well as the expenses involved for class materials, guest speakers, workshops etc. incur substantial costs for the school. Each student is asked to contribute €400 towards the cost of running the programme. Details of how this fee can be paid will be given to parents/guardians in September.

Please note that the end of year overnight trip, which counts towards the Gaisce award, will be an additional cost.

If you have any questions pertaining to the running of the Transition Year Programme, please email the TY Year Head, Ms. Tanya Flanagan, tflanagan@stfarnans.ie

We very much look forward to working with you and wish you a very enjoyable summer break in the interim.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Eddie Collins,
Principal.

Ms. Tanya Flanagan,
Transition Year Coordinator & Year Head.