



ALEXANDRA COLLEGE
DUBLIN

Core subjects

Irish *or* Celtic Studies
English
Maths
Science
Information Technology
Geography
History
Religious Education
Games
Physical Education
Social Outreach
Steer Clear (Driver education)
World of Work

Optional subjects

Art Appreciation
Choir
Creative Writing
Culinary Arts
European Computer Driving Licence
Education for Living
English as a Foreign Language
Film Making
French
German
Guitar
International Relations
Italian
Music Technology
Psychology
Public Speaking
Spanish
Textile Craft
Young Social Innovator

Transition Year

Transition Year (TY) occurs between the junior and senior cycles in secondary school. It helps students to move from a very structured learning environment in the junior cycle to one where they take more personal responsibility for their learning. They learn to:

- Understand and develop their personal strengths
- Ask the right questions, think in a critical manner and show creativity in solving problems
- Work in a team, learning about leadership, co-operation and dealing with conflict

The students get some direct experience of the working world, they learn about career opportunities and they make more informed decisions about the subjects they will study for the Leaving Certificate.

The TY curriculum provides a balance of academic subjects and artistic, dramatic, musical and sporting challenges; it also involves social and community projects and work experience. For example, the girls learn how to set up a company and how to run a small business, they also spend time working with people less privileged than themselves, and they spend two weeks gaining work experience in companies to get an appreciation of the work environment.

Although TY does not lead to written examinations it is a very busy and challenging year for students, who learn in many ways within and beyond the classroom. This includes learning through activities, projects, research, field trips, study visits, and seminars. They work individually and in teams, so they learn about discussion, negotiation and co-operation as key elements of working.

Self-assessment is an important part of TY, helping students to think about their goals, efforts and achievements during the year. We aim to help them mature in their attitudes to learning, to help them develop a good understanding of adult and working life, and to develop a strong social awareness and competence. And each student gets constructive feedback on their TY Diary, their project work and their work experience. At the end of the year students display the work they carried out in TY and they receive certificates acknowledging completion of the programme.

In summary, TY gives students space to think and develop, with a broad range of ways to learn, a challenging mix of subjects and a chance to gain experience beyond the regular school syllabus. It provides an opportunity to mature and to think more broadly about next steps, including the Leaving Certificate, third level study and adult life. We can provide more detail on our TY programme at the College.

