



Holy Family Community School

TY Information 2023/2024

Part 1



Welcome from Ms. L. O'Brien

- Thank you for attending this information night regarding a very important year for Transition Year students.
- At HFCS we will work very hard to ensuring that it is a productive, enjoyable and rewarding experience for everyone.
- It will involve students working diligently, participating positively and engaging respectfully with their peers and everyone in the HFCS community.
- Please check the school's website www.hfcs.ie for the updated Code of Behaviour and Discipline and relevant policies. **All students must adhere to the schools' policies.** Parents/guardians and students are expected to read these policies and students must abide by all school policies.
- Please note that the school carpark is for **staff only.**
- I look forward to supporting you throughout the year and if you have any matters or questions, please email me at l.obrien@hfcs.ie

Pastoral Care Team



- Teachers, SNAs, Secretaries and Caretakers
- TY Tutors
 - Mr. I. Kavanagh (TY1)
 - Mr. M. Fiorentini (TY2)
 - Ms. P. Ralph (TY3)
- Year Head
 - Ms. L. O'Brien
- Chaplain
 - Mr. N. McConnell

A circular inset image showing a hand holding a small green seedling with soil, symbolizing growth and care. The hand is positioned palm-up, with the seedling resting on the fingers. The background of the inset is a soft, out-of-focus green. The entire image is framed by a white border with a blue, paint-splatter-like texture around the edges.

- Guidance Counsellors Ms. C. Perris/ Ms. U. McDonnell
- AEN Coordinator Mr. Michael Savage
- Deputy Principals Ms. Denise O' Keeffe
Mr. Liam Ferguson
Mr. Derek Maher
- Principal Ms. Ingrid Fallon
- Student Support Team

Complaints / Concerns

Stages:


- Subject Teacher
- Tutor
- Year Head
- Principal
- Representatives of the Board of Management
- Full Board of Management
- Teaching Council

Complaints Procedure on School's
website www.hfcs.ie

Communication between school and parents

- **VShare** is the management and communication system used by the school.
- Parents/guardians can look at their child's timetable, attendance, assessment results and behaviour record on VShare.
- **Absence notes must be communicated to the school through VShare.**
- VShare is also the system used to communicate messages to parents/guardians.
- In order to receive messages, please ensure that you download the VShare app on your mobile device and allow notifications.
- **Please ensure that you have the APP downloaded on to your phone.**
- Instructions on how to download the VShare app can be found here: <https://support.vshare.ie/en/parent-app-overview>


CHECK VSHARE
REGULARLY!

The image shows a login screen for the VShare system. At the top, there is a large, stylized 'VS' logo in blue and white, with the word 'WARE' in a smaller, grey font to its right. Below the logo, the word 'Login' is written in a small, light blue font. There are two white input fields: the first is for the username and the second is for the password. Below the password field, the text 'Reset Password' is written in a small, light blue font. To the right of 'Reset Password' is a green circular icon with a white checkmark. At the bottom, there is a blue button with the text 'Sign In' in white.



School Procedures

Parent/Guardian to School Communication

- *The School Secretary, Ms. Lorraine O'Connell, is the main channel to contact teachers, Tutor, Year Head, Deputy Principals and Principal*
 - Phone calls (01 4580766 / 01 4580031)
 - Emails to info@hfcs.ie
 - Absence notes sent via VShare
 - Notes in dialann for individual subject teachers or contact made through email/phone call
 - All meetings between parents/guardians and staff members must be made by appointment.
- 

School Procedures

Classes begin at 8.45am and finish at 3.40pm (1pm on Wed.). Students must be in school **5 minutes before** first class in the morning and first class in the afternoon


Morning break is from 10.45am - 11.00am (varies slightly on Wednesdays)

Lunch break 1.00pm – 1.40pm

Senior students are allowed to go down to the village for lunch on the condition that they will return **on time** for class. Sanctions will apply if students return late from the village.

All students are expected to take a turn at the lunch time cleaning roster.

Students will be notified in advance of the week they will be on the lunch time cleaning roster.



Personal
Electronic
Devices – Please
read the
school's AUP
policy on hfcs.ie

- Must be off and out of sight at all times during school day
- Students must not take photographs or recordings of any member of the school community
- Students must not use their personal electronic devices to abuse, threaten, harass or bully other students or staff or use these devices to invade the privacy of any member of the school community. Infringement of these rules is taken very seriously by the school.
- **Parents/Guardians must not phone students during the school day**
- Please read www.cybersafeireland.org and www.webwise.ie

Uniform

Students must wear full school uniform

Students must wear school P.E. uniform on P.E. day.
Only the official school P.E. gear is allowed

Students must have a note if not wearing the uniform
(note only covers one day and this should rarely happen)

Please make sure your son/daughter has all the books/iPad etc. listed on their book lists

Your son/ daughter should check his/her timetable each night to make sure they are prepared for their classes the next day.



Detention

- Is on Wednesdays from 1.25p.m. to 2.25p.m.
- Parents/ Guardians will be informed by the school when detention is given and the reason for detention
- Parents must organise transport home for their son/daughter
- Failure to attend detention may result in suspension
- If a student is unable to attend detention, a note must be presented to the Behaviour Management Co-ordinator, Ms Brona Redmond.

Students in HFCS

We want our students to be happy in HFCS.

Bullying will not be tolerated and should be reported to the school.

In the school, we promote and encourage RESTORATIVE PRACTICE amongst the school community. This involves building positive relationships and caring cultures.

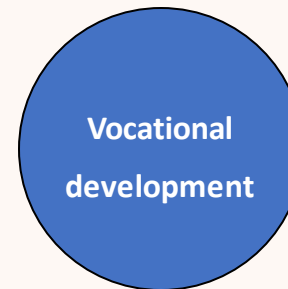
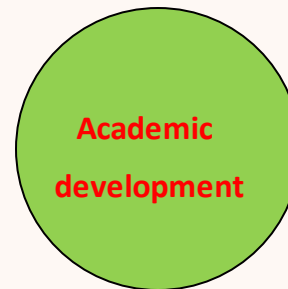
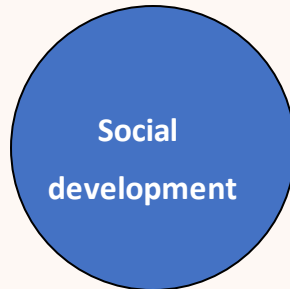
Students are expected to show manners towards all staff and students. TY is based on a model of TRUST.

Students are expected to show respect for each other and to watch out for one another.

Students are asked to treat others as they would like to be treated.

Transition Year Programme Aims

- At the age of 15-16 young people are at a critical stage in growing up
- It is very much a time of **transition**
- One transition is from the dependence of childhood towards the relative independence of adulthood
- Within school it is a time of transition between the Junior Certificate and the Leaving Certificate
- Young people growing up have many needs, for example;



Purpose of Transition Year

Space provided to grow and mature

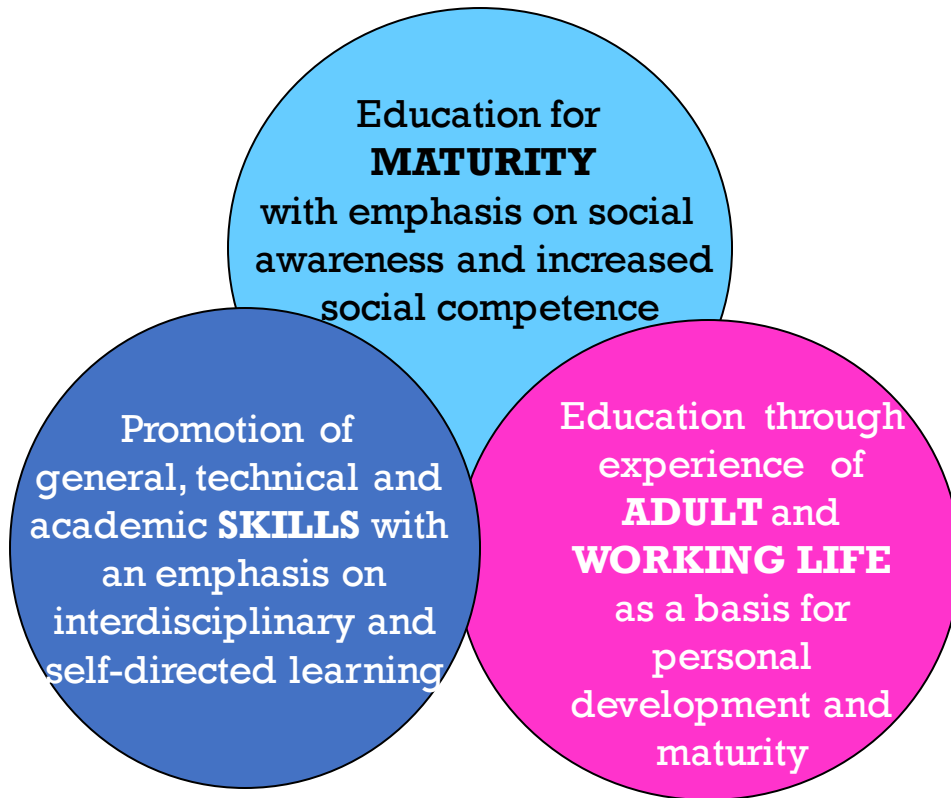
Students have many opportunities to practice teamwork skills, research skills, IT skills, project skills

Students become more self-directed learners through the development of general, technical and academic skills

Students gain in maturity in relation to work and careers by developing work-related skills and career planning

Opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility

Multiple Aims of Transition Year



- Bridge between childhood and adulthood
- Bridge between Junior Cycle and LC programmes
- Broad educational experience
- Active and experiential learning
- Education for maturity
- Skills development
- Experience of adult and working life
- Promote personal, social, educational and vocational development
- Autonomous, participative and responsible citizens



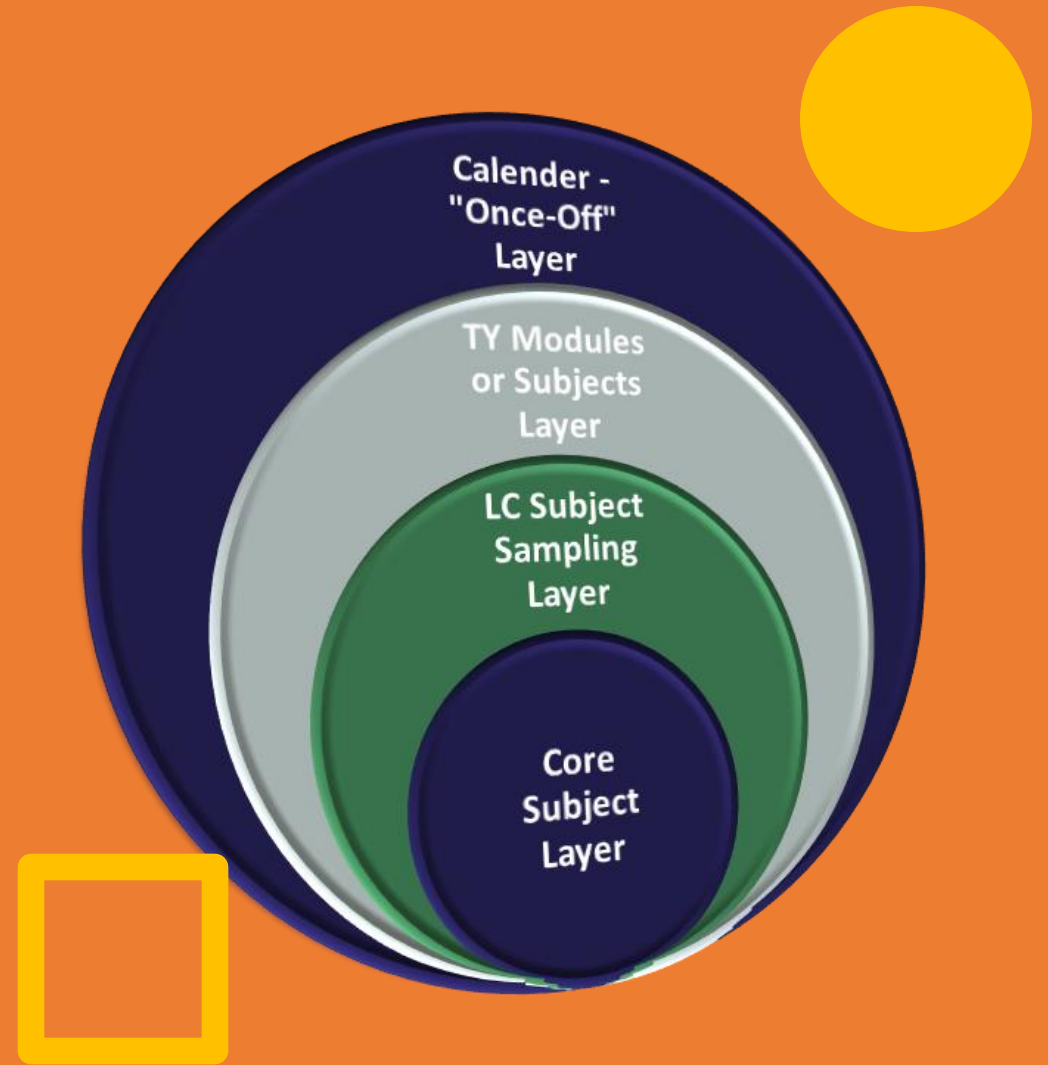
Transition Year Mindset -

*"You get out of TY
what you put into it"*
~ L. O'Brien

- Need to embrace the change that comes with Transition Year:
 - Transfer to Senior Cycle – additional privileges and responsibilities.
 - CV Booster (Barista course, Forensics, Microsoft Specialist etc.)
 - New subjects.
 - New friends.
 - Different types of learning.
 - New experiences.
 - Gaisce/Future Leaders
 - Students are responsible for their own learning.
- Need to maintain study/work pattern outside of school:
 - Different approach to that utilised when studying the traditional curriculum – project-based, reflective.

FOUR LAYERS OF A TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

“The Onion”



Calendar “Once Off” Layer

- Work Experience Placements.
- Visiting Speakers (Forensics, School of Life, Skincare etc.).
- Outdoor Pursuits (Slade Valley Hike, Tidy Towns).
- Field Trips (Lilliput, Zipit, Oireachtas, Tenderfoot).
- Community Care- Localise Youth Volunteering Programme.
- Focus Ireland Sleepout
- Pieta House- Darkness into Light
- STEM Passport (The purpose of this Science Foundation Ireland funded STEM Passport Inclusion project is to build and increase access to STEM education and STEM careers to girls)
- Gaeltacht Trip*
- Gaisce - 'The President's Award' *

Optional: €15 Students sign up themselves (4 challenge areas; Community Involvement, Personal Skill, Physical Recreation, Adventure Journey- 13 weeks) *please see pg.39-42 of the student Dialann for more information or speak with Ms. Joanna Phipps (Gaisce Coordinator)*



TY Modules/Subjects Layer



- Science Communications
- Equine Studies
- Restorative Practice
- Social and Emotional Learning*
- School Self Evaluation*
- Enterprise
- Artistic Performance
- Classical Studies
- Guidance
- Development Education
- First Aid
- Coding (ICT- *CSinc- Computer Science Inclusive*)
- Future Leaders
- Microsoft Office Specialist:
 - Word, PowerPoint, Excel.