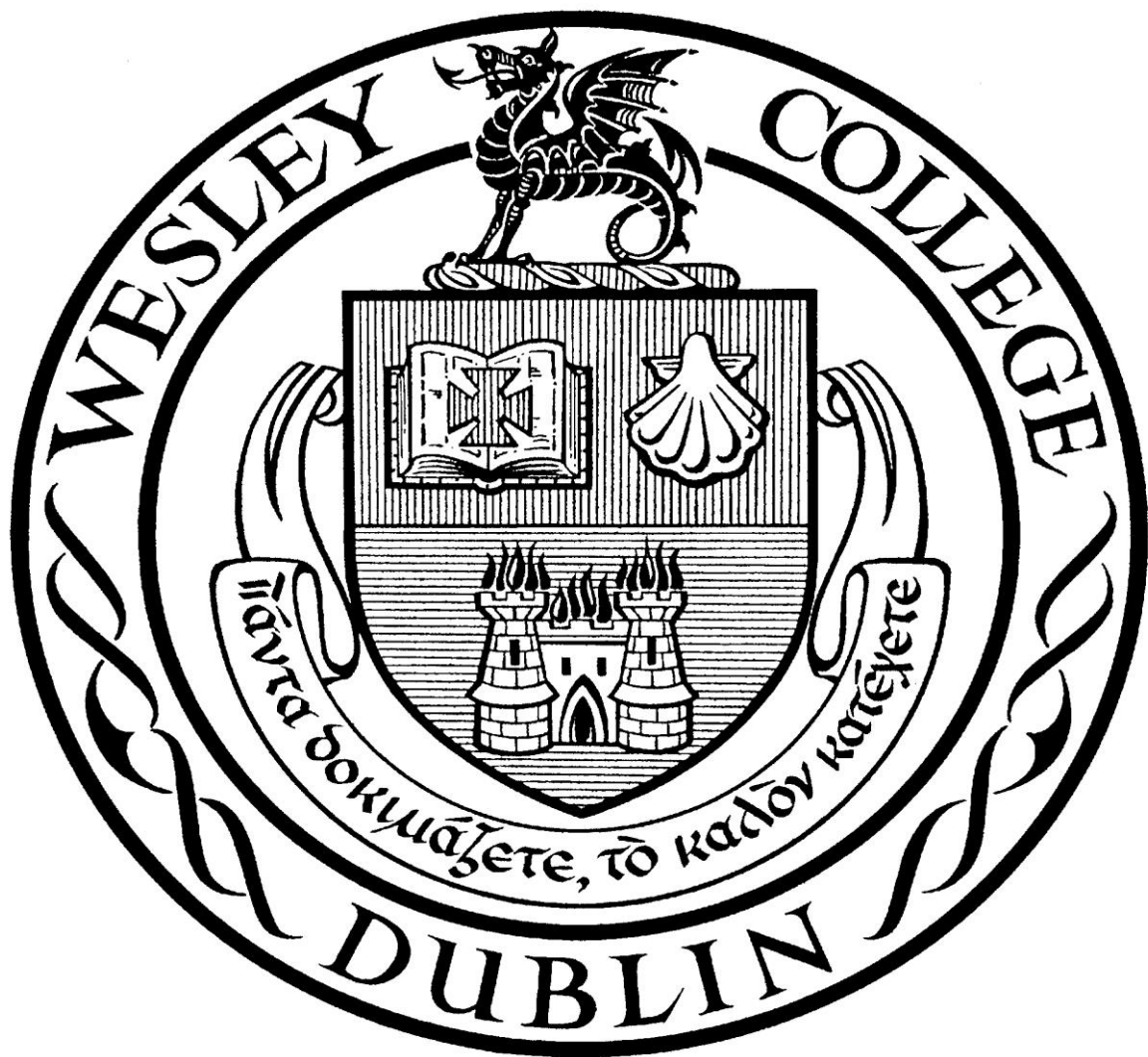


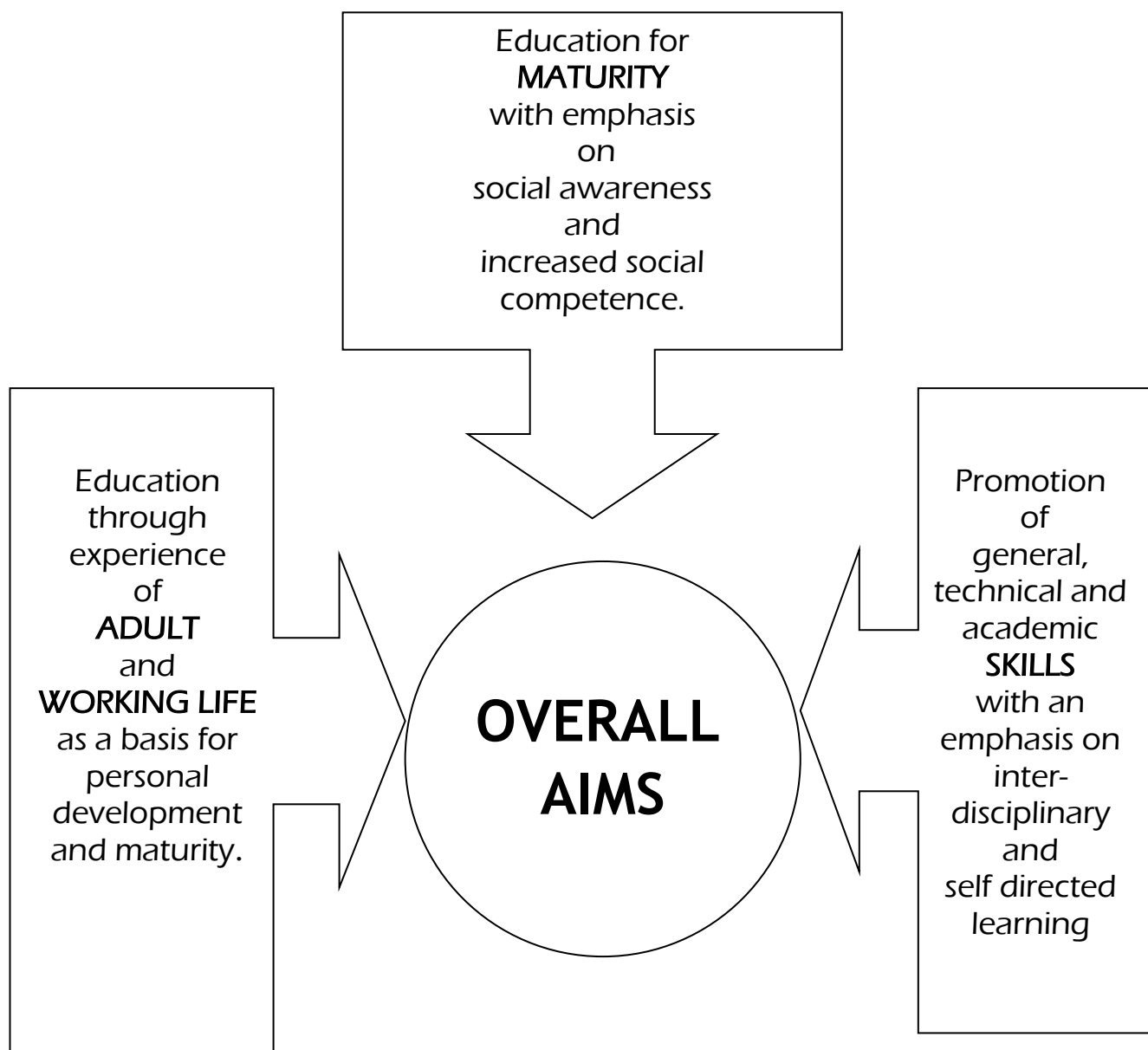
TRANSITION YEAR

2017/2018



PARENT

INFORMATION



INTRODUCTION

The College sees the Transition Year Curriculum as the first year of the Senior Cycle programme leading to the Leaving Certificate examination. It is intended for pupils who have completed the Junior Certificate examinations.

Planning of the Curriculum began in 1981 when a committee within the College recommended the adoption of a three-year Intermediate Programme followed by a three-year Senior Cycle. The government document "Ages for Learning" offered a suitable opportunity for the adoption of these ideas and the staff established working groups to plan detailed courses early in 1987. The Transition Year curriculum has now been in operation since September 1989.

We are constantly reviewing and evaluating the Transition Year programme. The College invites parents to write to the College indicating their reactions and suggestions to all aspects of Transition Year.

AIMS

The guiding philosophy of the Transition Year Curriculum is that pupils should be encouraged to mature and to adopt increasing responsibility for their own future. To these ends, the Curriculum will aim to introduce pupils to methods of study appropriate for Leaving Certificate and beyond, while encouraging them to become more responsible for their own progress. It will also aim to provide a sound academic basis for beginning the Leaving Certificate programme.

A comprehensive career education and guidance programme, and experience of the world of work will take place so that pupils will understand their own particular educational and vocational needs. Skills necessary for pupils to cope successfully with life in school and in society will be further developed and time will be given to some desirable aspects of the educational experience, which have tended to be excluded because of pressure of time.

Additional opportunities will be provided for pupils to discover their own individual talents, aptitudes, abilities and creative potential, and their personal development and the programme will facilitate self-awareness.

We are also engaged in improving the links between the College and the wider community with an emphasis on Community Involvement for each student.

TRANSITION YEAR CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

THE PRINCIPAL
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL VICE PRINCIPAL
TRANSITION YEAR COORDINATOR
YEAR HEAD GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
4TH YEAR TUTORS

STRUCTURE OF YEAR

3 ELEVEN WEEK TERMS
REPORTS AT END OF EACH TERM
WORK EXPERIENCE WEEKS IN
NOVEMBER, FEBRUARY AND MAY
OUTDOOR PURSUITS WEEK IN MARCH
4TH YEAR EVENING IN MAY AND
PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES

THE MISSION

TO PROMOTE THE PERSONAL, SOCIAL,
EDUCATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
OF THE STUDENTS, AND TO PREPARE THEM
FOR THEIR ROLE AS AUTONOMOUS,
PARTICIPATIVE AND RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

WORK EXPERIENCE

The College requires that every pupil obtain unpaid work experience for THREE separate weeks during the school year, November, February and May. This is regarded as an integral part of the Guidance programme and detailed preparation and follow-up will take place. Students must complete a report on each work experience to get credit for it.

The insurance policy held by the school indemnifies the College automatically against their liability for the participation of students in the Work Experience Programme in most cases. If the work is likely to contain a heavy manual element then prior approval is required from our insurers. Work Experience should not commence until the Transition Year Coordinator has given clearance.

Employers who provide opportunities for work experience for our students are normally indemnified by their own insurance policies. Our experience in the past has been that insurers make no additional charge for providing cover for such students. However, if an additional charge is levied, the College will reimburse the employer.

If a student is getting a placement where they will be working with children they are most likely to need Garda vetting. This can only be done for students who are aged 16 and over. We can facilitate this and the necessary forms are available on the Transition Year webpage.

The Work Experience weeks for 2017-2018 are:

Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November 2017

Monday 5th February – Friday 9th February 2018

Monday 21st May – Friday 25th May 2018

We do not encourage extra work experience placements outside of these weeks.

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award Scheme (An Gaisce) offers young people challenges which will help them develop personally by involving them in four areas: Community Involvement; Personal Skills; Physical Recreation and the Spirit of Adventure.

The scheme is launched in September of Transition Year. Pupils wishing to participate do so as they wish. The elements are organised by the pupil on their own initiative and carried out in their own free time.

The aim is to help develop and encourage service to others, an interest in social and practical skills, participation in physical recreation and a sense of adventure.

The staff of Wesley College monitors the scheme.

ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

Throughout Transition Year students will be regularly assessed. This will take many forms including self-assessment. Formal end of year examinations may be held in certain core subjects. Students will receive three sets of reports during the year, one at the end of each module. Marks will be based on homework, projects and participation in class work, interest and enthusiasm. These will form the basis for recording their academic achievement during the year and the level of certificate awarded. This certificate will, in itself, be of value as a reference.

During the year we ask students to keep a student logbook, record and assess their work experience modules, undertake some involvement in their community, help at home. These areas will provide the basis for a portfolio to be compiled by each student which will be assessed by interview at the end of the year. How well they have achieved in these areas will be recorded in a certificate.

There is a great opportunity to be involved in extra curricular activities during Transition Year. The level of participation, the variety of activities, the success achieved will all be awarded in a certificate at the end of the year.

The college will be awarding twelve academic prizes for the Year and a further twelve for achievement in other areas. The Past Pupils Association are funding a "Spirit of Transition Year Award" which will take into account the students' academic achievement, community service, extra curricular activity, work experience, use of initiative, personal development and maturity. The Transition Year tutors and Year Head will consider the top four candidates who achieve in these areas overall and select from among them, taking into account any other relevant information to ensure a worthy winner.

It is the intention of the College that all pupils in Transition Year will be encouraged to be well motivated towards their work and to complete assignments to a high standard. Every student should be able to get three good certificates at the end of the year. By working to the best of their ability at all times, by getting fully involved in as many things as possible they will achieve much in Transition Year and be recognised accordingly.

CURRICULUM SUMMARY

CORE SUBJECTS

(All pupils will take the following courses)

An Ghaeilge - The emphasis is on Oral and Aural work. With an opportunity to appreciate the richness of our Celtic heritage, through language, poetry, culture, music, dance and art.

Holocaust Studies- for students who are exempt from studying Irish.

English Skills - functional and creative writing and the study of literature, including a novel, short stories and contemporary poetry.

Film Studies – deconstructing visuals, film appreciation and analysis, script writing.

Communications - communicating in public, in groups, clarity of written communication, breaking down barriers to communication and understanding. Role play, assertiveness, listening skills, group work.

Mathematics - development of skills already acquired and, for Ordinary Level students, application of Mathematics to a variety of practical situations in life including practical work with computers.

Faith in the Community - a course relating religion to life and daily living, including community involvement.

First Continental Language - the further development of the language studied for Junior Certificate (French, Spanish and German). The course will incorporate a study of the culture of the country.

Physical Education and Outdoor Pursuits - this course consists of a compulsory core curriculum with the main emphasis being on fitness, health, team and individual games with an introduction to relaxation techniques. In tandem with this course is a double period offering the opportunity for pupils to select activities such as team games or outward bound activities such as golf, skiing, hill-walking and horse riding. An outdoor pursuit's programme is compulsory consisting of an exciting and challenging four-day course at a regional centre. (This will be held just before Easter)

Guidance - career education, welfare counseling, evaluation of progress in the Transition Year as a whole, voluntary work experience, interview training (including production of CV's with computers)

CORE MODULES

(Each pupil takes all three of these for the year, in 5 week blocks)

Science:

Applied Physics - a study of the effects of electricity on the body with an emphasis on safety in the home, the importance and uses of lenses, with a special emphasis on how this relates to the optics of the eye and a brief analysis of current Physics topics e.g. the research at CERN.

Organic Chemistry - practical use of chemistry in glass, plastic, aspirin and soap, as well as carbon in nature, water, isotopes and carbon-14, allotropes, catalysts and flame tests.

Human Biology - practical aspects of human biology and their relation to medical science.

Environmental and Food Science - a study of the human food chain. We study methods of food production, organic and conventional. We study animal welfare and the role played by microorganisms and antibiotics in the production of food.

Forensic Science - a study of detective techniques and their scientific basis.

Science in the Media – tracks current scientific information across several different forms of media including news, print, social and advertising. It aims to encourage students to engage with scientific content in a format which appeals to them and furthermore develop their communication abilities through use of Microsoft Movie Maker.

Waves and Vibration Science - investigating vibrations in nature, including earthquakes, sound waves and musical instruments, the wave nature of light.

Environmental Studies:

Historical Studies

African American Slavery - causes, capture of slaves, conditions on board ship, plantation life, its legacy today

Ireland 1914-1916 - Nationalism, Feminism and Militarism in Ireland. From the outbreak of the Great War to the Easter Rising, what was life like in Ireland?

Classical Studies – an introduction to Ancient Rome and Ancient Greece via the Roman Colosseum and the battle of Thermopylae.

Emphasis is given to the study of historical sources and the use of the historical film.

Environmental Studies continued:

Geographical Studies

The world and us - a human perspective on natural disasters, making the students aware of environmental, social and economic effects from these disasters.

Practical applications in Geography – linking with Leaving Certificate Geography, geographical investigations and skills.

The Developing World - students will look at global development issues in Irish Aid's partner countries

Business:

Human Resources - a course that deals with the workplace. The student is taken through the steps of applying for a job, going for an interview etc. The course also deals with employee rights and responsibilities, management and motivation in the workforce.

Accounting - an introduction to the basic concepts of the Leaving Cert course. The course involves learning how to calculate profit and looks at how companies make financial decisions – all through the use of case studies.

Economics - this course gives a brief overview of microeconomics and macroeconomics. It deals with government budgets, sources of income and expenditure and the area of taxation. In microeconomics, we look briefly at the market place and the issues that influence demand and supply of goods.

Enterprise - pupils are introduced to the concept of enterprise and entrepreneurship in modern Ireland. They are given the opportunity to assess their entrepreneurial flair and see if they have what it takes to be a millionaire!

Marketing - this course introduces the student to the 5 P's of marketing i.e. Product, Price, Packaging, Promotion and Place. Students are required to produce and market a product under the 5 headings.

Stock Exchange - students in teams, run a stock market, buying and selling shares for profit. The competition is run over a 5 week period. Trading is done on computer.

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PRACTICAL SKILLS

(Each pupil studies each of these for 10 weeks in rotation)

Home Economics - This is a course with two elements. Food and Culinary Skills is a practical course including basic skills and ethnic cooking. Textiles and Design is an introduction to basic skills, sewing machine use and production of a textile item.

Bridge - An introduction to Bridge and the associated skills, e.g. improved memory work, deductive reasoning, improved concentration, reasoning, enhanced communication.

Science and Technology:

(a choice of 1 course below)

- A. *Astronomy and Space Science* – topics studied include the Big Bang, life on other planets, asteroid impacts and space travel. Students design and make different kinds of rockets and can use the school's powerful telescopes to study the Sun and the Moon.
- B. *Robotics* – This is a practical hands-on course in making Robots. A Robot is a machine capable of carrying out a complex series of actions automatically, especially one programmable by a computer. Pupils will be able to design and make their own Robots using Laser cutter, 3D printing, electronics, mechanisms and programming Technologies. Pupils will use their Robots to compete in games such as Robot Combat.
- C. *Experimental Chemistry* – a practical module will give the student lots of hands on experience making and investigating everyday items such as soap, candles and extracting smells from plants. It will also help improve their laboratory skills through investigations on different food substances
- D. *Applied Biology* - introduces the student to a variety of disciplines in Applied Biology merging traditional methods within horticulture and food production, with cutting edge technologies and how they apply to our everyday lives. Key areas dealt with include Microbiology, Genetics , Food Production, Environmental Science and Horticulture and conservation. Students will get hands-on experience in the laboratory and in the Wesley Science Garden. They will develop their own experiments looking at topics such as carrot cloning, tissue culture in potatoes, the microbiology behind cheese and yogurt production, and genetic breeding programmes in farm animals.
- E. *CAD* - It examines the design of everyday objects and the drawing of same in 2D and 3D exploded views using Solidworks. This is a good introduction to Design and Communication Graphics.

PERSONAL INTEREST

(Each pupil selects TWO of these each for half a year)

Arts and Crafts – This course gives students the opportunity to learn new art related and art specific skills and to further develop existing ones. This course will cover aspects of art, design and craft providing students with plenty of scope to be creative and original.

European Computer Driving Licence - The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) is a certificate, which indicates that the holder has passed a series of tests which measure the knowledge of the basic concepts of information technology and the holder's competence in using a computer. Each student acquires a Skills Card (approx. €140) before taking the first test. As he/she passes each test, the Skills Card will be updated. When all seven tests have been passed, the student sends the Skills Card to the local ECDL office where it will be exchanged for a European Computer Driving Licence. Students should complete 5 of the 7 modules in class time and will have the opportunity to take the remaining two modules after school while in Transition Year. Students wishing to retake modules are charged a fee of €8 per test (this is a set fee required by the Electric Paper Company).

Fashion Design – This is a course which will give the students the skills necessary to design, make a pattern and construct a fashionable item of clothing for themselves. The use of a sewing machine and various craft skills will be learned and it is envisaged that a small scale fashion show will be produced to exhibit their garments.

Legal Studies - students will be introduced to legal principles, the sources of Irish Law, Law of Contracts, Torts and Criminal Law. It will also include a court visit.

Mini-Company - Pupils organise, set up and run their own business under teacher supervision. They produce products or sell services, manage the business on a weekly basis and have a shareholders meeting at the end of the module. Skills used include teamwork, interpersonal skills, communication, initiative taking, risk taking, organisational skills etc.

PERSONAL INTEREST

Model Making – this is a practical course exploring various aspects of model making from injected plastic kits to vacuum and resin moulding. Students will look at radio control, scratch building, working with balsa wood and fibre glass, the principles of flight and how to fly a radio control plane. It provides the students with an opportunity to develop creative painting techniques using airbrushes, weathering powders and natural foliage. Students will be required to supply a plastic scale model. This course would suit those who are already interested in scale modelling or radio control as well as students who have yet to experience the world in miniature. The supplies for this module will cost approximately €35.

Music (Performance / Composing) - this course places a strong emphasis on performance (playing, singing and improvisation). Projects include composition and arrangement of a popular song. Music is explored in all its variety, and 'try-out' lessons are offered to those wishing hands on experience with organ, piano or any other chosen instrument.

Music Technology – here students will get a chance to compose, record and produce a CD of their own music. They will use music software such as CUBASE VST along with keyboards, a sampler and mixing desk. Students will also be introduced to many new styles of music such as electronic, ambient, electro-acoustic and twentieth century classical.

Sports Science - this course is designed to promote an understanding of sport from its origins in play to the professional product illustrated in the media with all the surrounding issues of money, drugs, racism, religion, sexism etc. It also looks at team building and motivation. On a more practical level we examine the energy systems of the body and use this knowledge to design training programmes for athletes. Video is also used to analyse movement from a biomechanical aspect.

Wood Turning - This Wood Turning course offers the pupil a great opportunity to create bowls, goblets, base ball bats, and board games on the lathe. Beautiful objects can be made on the lathe using different woods such as beech and cherry. Pupils will be introduced to the skills of Wood Turning and will create their own work.

CHARGES AND EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

Our central philosophy in Transition Year is to offer all students an opportunity to undertake a wide range of educational experiences in preparation for their Leaving Certificate, choice of career and adult life. This includes a number of educational events, i.e. fieldtrips, plays and educational visits. Many courses also provide students with, and make use of, additional resources. The Guidance Department will be providing the EirQuest programme and resources for career choices during the year.

To avoid cash collections being made before each trip and extra billing for materials received, a single charge of €230 per annum is made to cover the running costs of these compulsory events and resources which are given for the entire Year group.

In addition there may be individual charges for the specialised events that do not involve the whole Year. Subjects that normally charge for materials used by pupils will continue to do so, e.g. Home Economics and Craft Design Technology.

The above does not include the cost of the one week Outdoor Pursuits trip which will be charged separately on the fees and details of which will be sent out during the Christmas term (Nov). The cost will be in the region of €300.

Students should also be aware that:

If you take ECDL as an option there will be an extra charge in the region of €140

If you take Model Making as an option there will be an extra charge of €35

THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE CURRICULUM

For the information of parents/guardians the present choice of subjects offered to 5th Year leading to the Leaving Certificate examination is shown below. During the Christmas and Spring terms, Transition Year pupils will be given help with the choice of subjects for the Leaving Certificate, beginning in December. They will be addressed by the Guidance Counselor and will sit an aptitude test. A detailed booklet of information will be issued for the guidance of pupils and parents/guardians. A meeting will be arranged in the College at the end of December when staff will brief parents/guardians. The pupils will hear presentations from the various subject departments and also have the results of the aptitude test explained to them in an individual session with the Guidance Counselor, helping them to make an informed choice.

All pupils study the following core subjects: Irish, English, Mathematics, Religious Education, Physical Education, and Choir/Study. In addition, pupils choose one subject from each of the following groups:

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4
Art	Agricultural Science	Accounting	Applied Maths
Business	Biology	Biology	Business
Chemistry	Classical Studies	Technology	Construction St.
Geography	Economics	French	French
History	History	German	Geography
Home Econ. S&S	Home Econ. S&S	Spanish	German
Design Communication Graphics	Physics	Construction St.	Musicianship
			Spanish

EXCHANGE VISITS TO CONTINENTAL COUNTRIES

In order to complete the full Transition Year programme, privately arranged exchanges to other countries are not encouraged.

The linguistic, cultural and educational benefits of an exchange are clear but it should also be borne in mind that pupils on exchanges will miss substantial opportunities within Transition Year. For this reason if any exchanges are organised, they should take place during the summer holidays.

Parents are reminded that the appropriate fees are payable to the College during the period of any school based exchange.

We regret that the number of foreign exchange pupils who can be accommodated in the boarding houses is very restricted. Boarders are therefore encouraged to arrange exchanges for the holiday periods.