

**Coláiste Pobail na Mainistreach**  
Bóthar na Mainistreach An Port Mór Portláirge X91 PC91  
Príomhoide: Michelle Ní Sheafraídh  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Colm de Rís  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Helen Ní Chonchubhair  
Leas-Phríomhoide: Laura Ní Ghiolla Phádraig

**Abbey Community College**  
Abbey Road Ferrybank Waterford X91 PC91  
Principal: Michelle Jefford  
Deputy Principal: Colm Rice  
Deputy Principal: Helen O'Connor  
Deputy Principal: Laura Fitzpatrick



31.08.20

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

We hope that you are keeping well and we look forward to communicating with you throughout the year.

Plans have already commenced for Transition Year and we ask for your support and understanding while we attempt to navigate these uncharted waters. We intend to proceed with TY with the same spirit and determination as we did pre Covid but of course there may be changes, losses and a lot of positive and creative thinking required.

We would like to welcome your son/daughter to Transition Year. There is a range of experiences available and we hope the students will enter enthusiastically into the programme and so gain socially, emotionally and intellectually from the year.

We would like you to encourage your son/daughter to commit fully to the year. Transition Year is a very important foundation for the Leaving Cert Programme. Students must continue to strive for excellence in their academic studies. Homework/Project work is very important and must be completed each night.

### **Activities:**

The start of Transition Year is an important opportunity for building relationships and connections. Bonding activities can continue to be a part of the TY programme, provided they adhere to health and social distancing guidelines. In this context, the Bonding Trip to Dunmore East Adventure Centre will take place over two days. This is provisionally booked for September 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>.

One of the key features of many TY programmes in schools is the extensive co-curricular and extracurricular activities that support the four interdependent layers of the programme.

These aspects often involve students travelling to locations outside schools on private transport to participate in the activities. However, restrictions that may exist in the context of COVID-19 could place considerable constraints on these aspects of a school's programme.

In planning for these activities, alternative arrangements are being considered. For example, many of the usual providers of these activities/experiences have adapted to providing online access.

A common feature of TY programmes is the involvement of visiting speakers or outside agencies in delivering talks or programmes to students. While we have booked and planned a number of workshops as normal some 'Virtual Visits' rather than face-to-face visits will be considered and appropriate arrangements will be put in place. We have received guarantees from the facilitators of the on-site workshops that they will adhere to health & social distancing guidelines.

Full co-operation and willingness to participate in all extra-curricular activities is expected from students. Appointments should be made for after the school day.

School activities / trips organised in Abbey Community College are seen as a school event and we would like to remind you that our code of conduct applies on all school activities / trips.

When representing the school, students are required to wear the full school uniform/PE uniform as requested by the teacher.

Should any behaviour contravene the code of conduct, we would like to make you aware that your son/daughter could be prohibited from further school trips and/or be asked to return home at parents' expense and may then face further disciplinary measures at school.

### **Work Experience:**

Guidelines from the Department of Education and Skills states that work experience can still go ahead "in accordance with public health advice and social distancing requirements". However, some businesses may no longer be able to offer work experience to Transition Year students as they have switched to working from home.

Until we receive further clarification from the DES we cannot give advice on work experience, however we would encourage students to actively seek work experience.

We acknowledge receipt of €300 paid, and the TY team have spent the last number of weeks restructuring costs of TY to ensure we keep them as low as possible. The majority of materials and course providers will be paid for in advance by the school so it is vital that we ensure that we have the budget to supplement it. Any families experiencing financial difficulties or concerns should contact Ms. O Rielly/Ms Doherty.

In the event of further school closures and the cancellation of activities or courses, a refund will be issued.

Please note that TY students do not pay book rental and their TY Journal/Personal Record Book is included in the fee. Monday afternoon activities are also included in the Transition Year Fee.

The following are the courses and workshops that are planned for our students:

- SEPTEMBER 8TH HEAT & PAD WORKSHOP Ferns & Tory
- SEPTEMBER 15TH HEAT & PAD WORKSHOP Shelton/Tory
- SEPT. 23rd DUNMORE EAST ADVENTURE CENTRE Glen/Tory
- SEPT. 24TH DUNMORE EAST ADVENTURE CENTRE Shelton/Ferns
- SEPTEMBER 28TH PERSONAL SAFETY WORKSHOP Shelton/Glen
- SEPTEMBER 29TH PERSONAL SAFETY WORKSHOP Ferns & Tory
- SEPTEMBER 30TH CSI Forensic WORKSHOP
- OCT 11TH – 23rd WORK EXPERIENCE
- OCTOBER 7TH CAP (Cancer Awareness) PROGRAMME- MARIE KEATING FOUNDATION
- NOVEMBER 24TH TY COMEDY SHOW-THEATRE ROYAL
- NOVEMBER 26TH TY RETREAT

(These dates and workshops are subject to change)

Further details will follow in the next few weeks regarding the structure of the year, assessment and updates on new courses. This information will be available under the TY tab on our school website.

Yours Sincerely,

Claire O Rielly  
Year Head

Anne-Marie Doherty  
Co-Ordinator

Michelle Jefford  
School Principal