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Bóthar na Mainistreach, An Port Mór, Portláirge, X91 PC91
Priomhoide: Michelle Ni Sheafraidh
Leas-Phriomhoide: Colm de Ris
Leas-Phriomhoide: Helen Ni Chonchubhair
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Abbey Community College
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10th October 2023

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We hope you are all keeping well. It has been a busy term for Transition Year students and we would like to congratulate them on their work.

All information on the students' workshops/trips/activities is relayed to the students through their *TY Year Group Team*. We encourage you to discuss this *Team* and check the portfolio where students write an evaluation of each activity.

As you are aware, the trip to Dunmore East Adventure Centre takes place today, October 10th and the TY girls will attend the Shine Festival in SETU on Thursday, October 12th. Please note the Personal Safety workshops will also take place this Wednesday and Friday. This is an extremely beneficial workshop exploring the topics of physical safety, online safety, consent, and other issues.

The State Examinations Commission has announced its intention to issue the Junior Cycle exam results to schools on Wednesday, October 18th. As this is during the TY work experience placement, students are not expected to attend placement on that day as they will be receiving their results. We wish them all well. (More details to follow)

Work Placement 1 will commence for TY students next Monday October 16th – Friday October 27th. An employer pack was distributed to the students yesterday. If your son/daughter did not receive a pack, please ask them to go to Ms. Doherty on their return to school. Please take the time to read the pack and ensure your son/daughter gives it to the employer on the first day of placement. If a student is absent due to illness or for any reason, they must inform the employer and their parent/guardian must send an email to Ms. Doherty through the school office. If a business is closed on a particular day, the students must work on their online bundle. Students must complete 9 days of placement and may attend their placement on Wednesday October 18th if they make a local arrangement with the employer. Full attendance on Thursday October 19th is expected.

As you are aware our students will be having their scheduled *Assessment Zone 1 exams* starting on November 21st. TY students have exams in Irish, English and Maths. They have ongoing assessments in their other subjects and will receive a report on VSware at Christmas. They will receive a credit, result, and comment for each subject that they have completed since September. It is very important that students keep up to date with all their work in all their subject areas, completing tasks on a nightly basis and meeting their deadlines.

Each student has access to the IACT online bundle. Participation in this bundle is compulsory. **Please remind students to bring headphones to school with them.** The courses comprise of approx. 60 hours of online courses in Computers, Hospitality and Driving skills which promote independent learning of students, as the courses can be accessed on any device from home and school. Each course is certified. ALL MODULES ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR. STUDENTS CAN WORK IN CLASS AND INDEPENDENTLY ON EACH MODULE. **We recommend that each student engages in at least 3-4 hours a week from home.** This is a great learning tool for the students in areas that will interest and benefit them. It will certainly enhance their future careers, job opportunities and driving skills.

We are delighted with the uptake of students who have signed up for Gaisce. This is a fantastic initiative which is recognised internationally and will last well beyond Transition Year. We wish the students the very best as they undertake this initiative.

We would like to thank you all for supporting your son/daughter through Transition Year and we look forward to a fulfilling year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Marie Doherty

Programme Coordinator



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