

# Transition Year

Newsletter brought to you by Villiers School

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22 October 2021

## Top stories in this newsletter



TY e-Portfolio

**Subject Sampling - choices**

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Accounting	Ag. Science	Art
Biology	Biology	Biology
Economics	Business	Chemistry
History	Japanese	Geography
Home Economics	Physics	Politics & Society
Religious Education	Technology	Spanish

Subject Sampling

**Modules - more choice!**

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
Art	Chinese	D & CG
Business	Food Safety	Debating
Construction	Origami	Italian
Podcast	Podcast	Chemistry
Red Sox	Theory of Knowledge	Music
		Sports Science

Modules



Fashion Show

## Communication on MS Teams: Stay up to date with TY activities

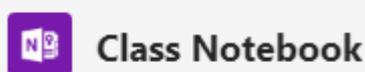


TY 2021-22

TY 2021-22 is a special *Team* on Microsoft Teams which we have created for our TY 2021-2022 group. This is essentially an electronic noticeboard and we ask students to check into this group very regularly. We recommend TYs check the *Team* last thing in the evening, first thing in the morning and again during the school day, especially when there are trips and other events planned. We hold a weekly TY Briefing during the school day and it is through this *Team* that we make the video call to the students and tutors. Subject teachers and particularly the Careers Guidance and Counselling teacher make important posts to this group on a regular basis.

At the end of this academic year we will no longer be using the *Team* for TY matters and therefore the group name will change to LC / IB 2024. At this point it will become a very important source of information on senior cycle school events as well as careers, colleges, open days, applications, scholarships, the CAO, UCAS, studying in Europe and further afield.

## TY electronic portfolio of learning



Our TY programme is subject to review each year as we strive to improve the learning experience for each group of students. The key objective of the programme is to facilitate students as they transition from the learning style and approach adopted in Junior Cycle to a more independent and academic style of learning which is required to navigate through the challenges of the Leaving Certificate or the IB Diploma Programme.

Our students refine their learning pathways in TY and our aim is that our TY programme helps our students gain greater insight and understanding of themselves as learners. They begin to understand the importance of hard and soft skills and the role they play in



developing learning capacity. They identify their strengths and weaknesses as learners and can explore ways of improving their approach to learning.

Our students are supported in doing so by their subject teachers, form tutors, the TY Briefing sessions and our guidance counsellors. This year, our students are being asked to identify two specific learning skills as areas of development in their learning journey. They have received support in doing so over the past number of weeks and will now get further support in designing actions to encourage them to explore these skills.

Additionally, our students are required to upload materials to their electronic portfolio (e-portfolio) in each subject area so that they can organise and reuse material with ease. This also allows them to access classroom activities if they have been at activities during class times. These e-portfolios also serve another important purpose as they act as a research base and evidence bank for our students in skill development.

During the weekly briefing session our students are encouraged to extract work from their portfolio to reflect upon their progress with their chosen learning skills and to provide evidence to their tutor that they are engaging in developing these skills. This will culminate at the end of the year in an academic interview where our students will present their findings and describe the progress in developing these learning skills. The portfolios will provide the evidence base for progress. Each student will receive a certificate outlining their success in the area.

Where parents can help?

It would be helpful if parents spoke with their TY students about their skills to try to understand what they are working on. It would also be beneficial if parents look at their portfolios of learning and praise them for their endeavours, and also point towards areas of potential development.

We believe this initiative is an important step in your TY student's education as they transition towards senior cycle. Your support is welcomed and appreciated.

## TY Subject Sampling

TY subject sampling aims to assist students to make an informed decisions in relation to subject selection for Form V. The subject sampling sessions run as follows:

Session I: September 1<sup>st</sup> to November 5<sup>th</sup>

Session II: November 8<sup>th</sup> to March 4<sup>th</sup>

Session III: March 7<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup>

In each sampling session, students take one subject from each of these option blocks.

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Accounting	Ag. Science	Art
Biology	Biology	Biology
Economics	Business	Chemistry

History	Japanese	Geography
Home Economics	Physics	Politics & Society
Religious Education	Technology	Spanish

The material taught/studied in Sessions I and II is pretty much the same and therefore students are encouraged to try different subjects in both of these sessions.

During Session III, students decide which of the two subjects they sampled during Sessions I and II, in each of the three Options, and study these three subjects for the remainder of the year with the focus being on preparation for Form V.

Some students will request to sample a third subject during this session. We are almost always able to facilitate this.

Before Easter, parents and students will be surveyed to rank their top six subjects from the twenty choice subjects Villiers offers within the Leaving Certificate. From this survey, a computer-generated set of blocks for Form V is issued based on student preferences. This means that the subject blocks for the Form V and VI Leaving Certificate Programme will be tailored to match the students' preferences and requirements. This process will be completed by the end of May.

Students will also take the core subjects Maths, English, Irish and French/German for the Leaving Certificate programme.

This is a huge choice and we wish to remind parents and students that these sampling sessions are an important part in facilitating students' decision-making regarding Leaving Certificate subject choice and their college aspirations.

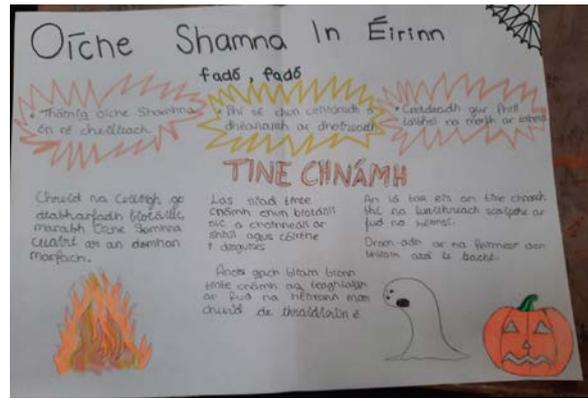
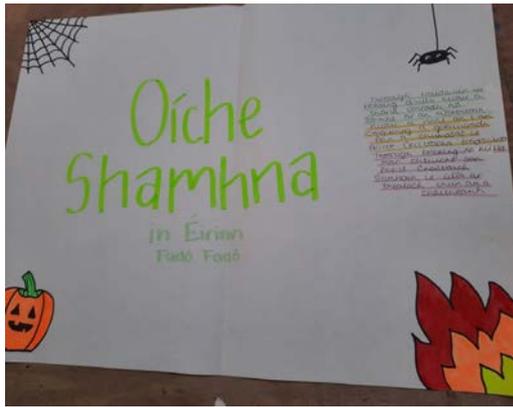
Students who will take the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) will hear separately from our IBDP coordinator, Mr Shane Hanna.

## English

The students have just completed their first English module of the year. The modules on rotation include comparative studies with Mr Griffin, poetry with Ms Sullivan, horror with Ms Mooney, and Language Development with Ms Dillon. Students are working on a variety of skills which will help them in their Senior Cycle classes, including comparing different texts, textual analysis, writing skills, and critical thinking.

## Irish & Irish Studies

Oíche Shamhna / Happy Halloween. Some images below of Irish in action!



## Maths

Students have an important Maths test coming up just after their return from mid-term and we expect that the mid-term will be used to prepare for this.

## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) – Chinese / French / German / Italian / Japanese / Spanish



MFL teachers are asking students to join the national celebration of languages on Monday November 22<sup>nd</sup> and host [#ThinkLanguages](#) in the School! This is a flagship TY event organised by [Languages Connect](#) who hope is that it will be bigger and better than ever this year! Though MFL teachers have come up with some very interesting events, we would like to hear from our students and ask our students to come up with their own ideas on what they would like to do on the day. One highlight is that we will have university students talk to the TYs about their experience on ERASMUS and other student exchanges. These are former

Villiers students who travelled to Europe and even as far away as Argentina for their course work and studies.

## Modules

Students take three modules from September to December and three other modules from January until May. Please note that the subjects in **bold** below are also **Leaving Certificate subjects**; consequently students are afforded the opportunity of doing further subject sampling in this timetable slot if they so wish.

Module 1	Module 2	Module 3
<b>Art</b>	Chinese	<b>D &amp; CG</b>
Business	Food Safety	Debating
<b>Construction</b>	Origami	Italian
Podcast	Podcast	<b>Chemistry</b>
Red Sokz	Theory of Knowledge	<b>Music</b>
		Sports Science

### Podcast

*Exploring the creative process through making a podcast.*

This module began in September and will run until December.

The technology we carry in our pockets gives us unprecedented opportunities to create and publish digital creative content. This module gives a framework to unlock that potential, develop new skills and explore one's own creativity in the process.

The module will cover and use the following techniques over the three-month period of weekly sessions:

- Storytelling
- Scripting
- Interviewing skills
- Research
- Preparation
- Listening skills
- Steering interviews
- Recording audio
- Editing
- Creating podcasts

At the end of the module, students will have taken part in researching, approaching and creating sample podcasts as well as completing a weekly journal of creative exercises.

### TY Environment – a year-long module

Our TY Environment class planted 160 bulbs as part of the **Gaisce Bulbs for Bees** campaign. According to the *All-Ireland Pollinator Plan* this the largest ever nationwide pollination campaign with over half a million pollinator-friendly bulbs planted right around the country.



For more environment news in the School, check out our Biodiversity garden and our plant potters; we are seeing examples of some fantastic work being done by our TY Environment group which is led by Ms Carswell. They tell us that they are looking forward to the *Biodiversity Action Day* on November 8<sup>th</sup>. Amongst other activities, one of the highlights of the day is the visit of past pupil Maeve Stone (LIT – TUS) who is facilitating a Climate Café in Villiers on the day. The tree identification treasure hunt will get the students out and about and give an appreciation for the vast array of native and non native trees on campus and beyond.

The Environment students are also looking forward to the TY Biodiversity trip to Dublin Zoo on November 15<sup>th</sup> when they will participate in the zoo's conservation initiatives.

### **Fashion Show – December 6<sup>th</sup> in the Radisson Blu Hotel**

Fashion Show induction continues on November 1<sup>st</sup> when some students will attend a session with Hilary Thompson in the Dining Hall at 11:15. During this time, they will be placed into modelling groups of three to four students and the rehearsal schedule will begin immediately after the groups are formed. Small groups will also be put together to work on artwork, set-design, posters, tickets and general committee work. We urge parents and extended family to support our students and school community by attending on the night.





### TY Law Modules and Mock Trial

The four visiting barristers delivered a fantastic session on Monday October 18th; students learned about the law, the courts, the various roles and especially the steps to take to become a lawyer, a solicitor, a barrister and a judge. There was a 100% thumbs up given by the students in their evaluation when asked should this be put on next year’s TY programme.

### Physical Education

Last Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, PE students changed over activities when they moved to Block 2 in the five block rotation as follows; it’s all fun and games in PE this year!

**Activities**



Tennis – Limerick Lawn Tennis Club ,  
Golf - Barbara Hackett - Coonagh Driving Range ,



Judo - James Bourke - Sports Hall,  
Yoga - Daragh Frawley - Delta,

Crossfit - David O'Halloran - Clondrinagh Business Park

Activity Dates:	
<b>Block 1</b>	– Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> Sept, Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept, Fri 1st Oct, Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct.
<b>Block 2</b>	– Fri 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct, Fri 22 <sup>rd</sup> Oct, Fri 5 <sup>th</sup> Nov, Fri 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov.
<b>Block 3</b>	– Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov, Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov, Fri Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan.
<b>Block 4</b>	- Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb, Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> Mar, Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar, Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar..
<b>Block 5</b>	– Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar, Fri 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr, Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr, Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr

Teacher	Mr. Normoyle	Mr. Gray	Ms. Nicholson	Ms. Warde	Mr. Barret
Group	1	2	3	4	5
Block 1	Tennis	Golf	Crossfit	Yoga	Judo
Block 2	Crossfit	Yoga	Judo	Tennis	Golf
Block 3	Judo	Crossfit	Tennis	Golf	Yoga
Block 4	Golf	Tennis	Yoga	Judo	Crossfit
Block 5	Yoga	Judo	Golf	Crossfit	Tennis

## Outdoor Pursuits

We have enjoyed two great days of hiking, once to the 12 O'Clock Hills and once to the Slieve Feilim Way. Through these days, we encourage students to work on their fitness, to prepare for the next challenges ahead. We have one day of outdoor pursuits to look forward to in November and one in December.

## In the next issue

- ❖ There will be more information on the year-long main project where students picked one of the following: [Active Schools](#), Environment, [Enterprise](#), [Junk Kouture](#) and ICT - [Whizkids](#)
- ❖ Leadership for Life
- ❖ Extended Essay
- ❖ Work School College (WSC)

## Advance Notice

Fashion Show:	Radisson Blu Hotel	Monday Dec 6 <sup>th</sup> 2021
Mock Interviews:	Villiers School	Week of December 13 <sup>th</sup> 2021
Drama:	Dance Limerick	Thursday February 4 <sup>th</sup> 2022 and Friday February 5 <sup>th</sup> 2022
TY Work Experience:		February 7 <sup>th</sup> to February 18 <sup>th</sup> 2022