



Naas CBS Transition Year



Back to School

Information for Transition Year Parents and Students.

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you are keeping well and we look forward to communicating with you throughout the year. As you are aware we are working towards a full return to school in the coming week. Plans have commenced for Transition Year and we ask for your support and understanding while we attempt to navigate these uncharted waters.

The following information is important for your son's safety, please take the time to read it carefully.

We intend to proceed with TY with the same spirit and determination as we did with our pre-Covid programme but of course there may be changes, losses and a lot of positive and creative thinking required.



The school has introduced a number of measures to help create a safe environment for everyone in the building. It is imperative that our Transition Year students follow these measures and act in a responsible manner.

Students are expected to:

- Wear a mask or face shield at all times inside the building.
- Follow the one way system which has been implemented throughout the school.
- Sanitise hands when entering and exiting classrooms.
- Practice good coughing/sneezing etiquette and hand washing.
- Be punctual to classes/ designated rooms and not to congregate in corridors or common areas.
- Sit in assigned seats and adhere to social distancing.

Each TY class will work together as a group for all activities planned and will also be further divided into 'Pods' of 5 - 6 students.

It is vital that parents complete the medical form available on the school app. Instructions to do so were put on the app last week.

Class lists and timetables are still being finalised. Keep an eye on the app for updates.

Student Induction and Return to School

The transition year group will start their year with a 2 hour induction session with their form classes. This induction will include Covid-19 training. All students must wear face coverings.

Some additional information can be found through the following link with respect to the procedures in place within the school:

[Naas CBS Back to School Roadmap](#)

As we gradually increase numbers in the school to the 1000 threshold we plan to stagger transition year students return. **Class lists and timetables are still being finalised. Keep an eye on the app for updates.**

This will take place over Monday 7th & Tuesday 8th September.

Monday 7th September		Room	Tuesday 8th September		Room
4A	9.00 - 11.00	2/20	4D	9.00 - 11.00	2/20
4B	11.10 - 13.10	2/20	4E	11.10 - 13.10	2/20
4C	14.00 - 16.00	2/20	4F	14.00 - 16.00	2/20

Please note:

- Students are only to attend school at the times outlined. Please arrive for that time and not before, going straight to room 2/20. Please be punctual.
- Students can go home after their induction session.
- Students in classes 4D, 4E and 4F **will not be in school on Monday 7th.**
- Students in classes 4A, 4B and 4C will attend normal classes beginning Tuesday 8th at 9.00a.m. These students will finish school at 13.10p.m that day.
- **All students will then attend normal classes on Wednesday 9th.**

Carlingford Adventure Trip 21st - 23rd September

Currently, we still aim to travel on our first major team building event of the year to Carlingford Adventure Centre.

I have been in continuous contact with Carlingford Adventure Centre since early August to ensure that such a trip would be safe for our students. This falls under the category of outdoor educational pursuits which is under the same category as schools. Carlingford have been hosting groups all summer for kayaking, high-ropes, axe throwing, climbing, zip lining etc. All wetsuits are steeped in Milton fluid after every use. Activities are strictly timed and staggered.

Each TY class will eat together and do the activities together so as to limit students mixing.

Carlingford has also reassured me that sleeping arrangements will accommodate social distancing and there will be no more than 6 students per room. The class 'Pods' will be used to organise room allocations.

Carlingford have also provided me with their Covid plans and risk assessments which can be viewed through the following links.

[Carlingford AC Safety Statement](#)

[Carlingford AC Risk Assessment](#)

We will be travelling via bus and I am in contact with Tom Cross regarding the logistics behind this. It is most likely that we will have to work to a 50% capacity on each bus so each TY class will travel on a separate bus with supervising teachers. The bus will stop after one hour to allow for a break. Students will have to sanitise hands when entering and exiting the bus, be seated in assigned seats and required to wear masks at all times.

The option of parents bringing their son to and from the adventure centre is also possible if they have any reservations with them travelling on a bus.

The school's insurance provider and Board of Management are happy for us to travel knowing that all reasonable precautions are being taken to ensure that the undernoted activities are in compliance with public health guidelines and restrictions.

Should a student develop any symptoms of Covid-19 while on the trip they will be kept in isolation and we will be contacting parents to collect them.

As an additional precautionary measure students will not have to attend school on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th September. The school is also closed on Monday 28th.

I do appreciate that some people may still have reservations about travelling.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns.

If you know that your son can not attend this trip will you please inform me ASAP via email sc@naascbs.ie

If you are happy for your son to travel can you please confirm this through the following link.

[Carlingford Student Attendance Form](#)

Work Experience

Work experience is one of the drawing factors for many students to do Transition Year. For many it is the highlight of the year giving invaluable experiences and helping students grow toward maturity. Our aim is to maintain work experience in so far as we can under the current circumstances.

The following are our timetabled blocks for work experience:


Block 1	Week 1	9th - 13th November
	Week 2	16th - 20th November
Block 2	Week 3	8th - 12th February
	Week 4	22nd - 26th February

Finding work placement will be a very difficult task in the current climate with many businesses and companies not accepting students.

If it is possible for students to obtain work placement **that is safe** then we would encourage them to do so. Any potential placement must be discussed and passed through the Year Head. A parental consent form will be required providing all relevant details of the placement. (This online form will be distributed upon request).

If a student has the option of doing work placement outside of our timetabled blocks we will also try to accommodate this.

We plan to take a different approach to our work experience blocks scheduled for November.



Students will adopt a 'work from home' strategy where it is not possible to obtain an actual work placement.

Our aim is to promote students' independent learning and initiative while giving them an honest insight into various career paths of interest to them.

This will be a very structured affair. While details will be confirmed in the weeks leading up to it, in a nutshell students will have to:

- Prior to these two weeks students will take part in 4 'Psychology in the Workplace' workshops that will train them how to structure & organise their day, how to conduct themselves professionally, how to recognise and cope with stresses that can exist and finally how to motivate themselves and others. The course has been designed by an educational psychologist.
- Do a series of career investigations that will make part of their work experience portfolio and also part of their overall TY digital portfolio.
- Reflect on each day keeping a daily diary of work completed and insights to new learnings.
- Each class will link in with the year head and form teachers through virtual calls.
- Students will have to link in with several people working in a career that may be of interest to them. This can be done in a variety of ways, virtually over a zoom call, through a phone call or possibly meeting in person/visiting their workplace (pre-arranged and if safe to do so).

My aim is to set up a series of Zoom conferences over the two weeks with various professionals from different walks of life. These professionals would give a personal insight into their occupation, what they studied in college and what their working day consists of etc. Students can sign up to those of interest to them (they will have to attend a certain minimum amount) and also include them as part of their career investigations.

More information will follow.

In the meantime if you know of someone, or perhaps a business/company that might be interested in linking in with the school for the work experience Zoom conference calls or in any virtual/ physical capacity I would love to hear from you. Please contact me at any time sc@naascbs.ie

Communication, School App & School Website

Under the current circumstances of Covid-19 and to facilitate additional communication I would appreciate it if parents would supply me with their contact details (email & mobile number). This can be done through the following link.

[TY Parent/Guardian Contact Information Form](#)

All information provided will be secure and treated as strictly confidential.

As mentioned all TYs and parents must download the school app. It will be our main method of communication on the various elements throughout the year.

There is a TY Specific Section of the App that will contain all long term information and media.

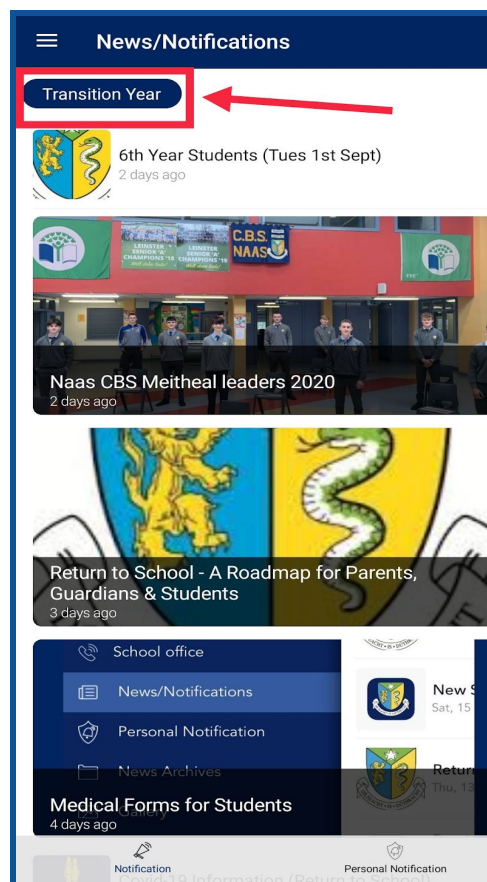
This is located by going to - Main Menu - 'School' - 'Transition Year'

We have also added a transition year notification category within the main news feed of the school app to allow users to filter content specific to TY.

This can be seen at the top of your notification feed.

See image on right.

The TY section of the school website will also be updated in the coming weeks with a live timetable of events happening for TY.



Additional TY Information

Students this year will be working mainly in a digital format. Our school's digital learning platform is Google Classroom. Most students will be familiar with this from before the summer.

It will be imperative that students use their school Google accounts for all school work. Personal accounts will not be allowed. During induction we will aim to have every student access their account again.

It is important that students have Google Classroom, Gmail and the school app downloaded onto their phone as these will be our main sources of communication.

This year students will compile a digital portfolio using Google Sites. The students will be given all the relevant guidance to do this.

I hope to keep the year as enjoyable as any other providing as many different learning opportunities and experiences as possible.

As well as a variety of curricular aspects being explored we hope to get the lads active and outdoors doing some local/hill walks, orienteering, mountain biking and other sports based activities.

Additional information will be provided but should you need to contact me for any reason please do not hesitate to.

Looking forward to getting started!

Stephen Coy

TY Programme Coordinator & Year Head

Naas CBS

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