



Coláiste / Gaelcholáiste Choilm

Transition Year / Idirbhliain Admissions Policy

Coláiste /Gaelcholáiste Choilm offers Transition Year / Idirbhliain as an optional one-year programme post Junior Cycle.

The aims of the Transition Year Programme reflect the guidelines published by the Department of Education and Skills, namely:

- Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.
- The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with the emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
- Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

The Transition Year / Idirbhliain Programme in Coláiste /Gaelcholáiste Choilm is not compulsory.

For acceptance on to the Transition Year/ Idirbhliain Programme, the school must be satisfied that a student is capable of benefiting from participation in Transition Year / Idirbhliain and, equally, that his/her participation will not prevent any other student(s) from benefiting from participation. Interested students should apply using the procedure outlined below.

1. Application Procedures

1.1 From 2021 the criteria for admission to this year will be explained at the Information Meeting for Parents of 1st Year Students starting the following September.

1.2 In early November of 3rd Year, the Deputy Principal of the Senior School will visit all 3rd Year classes. She will outline the choices available to them after Junior Cycle: 5th Year, 5th Year Leaving Cert Applied and TY / Idirbhliain. The DP will make the critical factors in gaining entry to the programme clear to all prospective applicants:

- attendance, application, attitude to work and behaviour over the past 3 years
and
- knowledge of, research into and preparation for Transition Year, as evidenced in the application process

1.3 In late November of 3rd Year the TY / Idirbhliain Pastoral Team will host an Information Meeting on the TY / Idirbhliain Programme. Attendance at this meeting by BOTH the prospective TY / Idirbhliain Student and a Parent/ Guardian is essential and expected. The qualities and disposition essential for successful participation in Transition Year will again be fully outlined to students at this presentation. The final submission date for applications will be given at this meeting (mid-December). Late applications may not be considered.

1.4 Students apply for a place on a formal application form, witnessed by their parent(s)/guardian(s). A Personal Statement must accompany each application. This Personal Statement will outline some research into the Transition Year Programme and state clearly the reasons why they are applying for a place. It will also outline the commitment that they will give if they are offered and accept a place. It will be impressed upon applicants that this is a critical factor in the application process.

1.5 Applications will be considered valid only if they are fully completed and submitted to the Main Office and Oifig an Ghaelcholáiste within the specified deadline.

1.6 Any application received subsequent to the stated deadline will be considered only after students whose applications were submitted on time have been processed.

2. The Transition Year Admissions Committee:

2.1 The TY / Idirbhliain Admissions Committee will be responsible for assessing applications and offering places. The Committee will comprise of the Programme Coordinator, the 3 Deputy Principals (CC & GCC), Guidance Counsellors and Year Heads (CC & GCC) of the current third year students, or a nominee of the Principal to replace one of the above who may be unavailable due to illness or other circumstances.

2.2 Members of the teaching staff will be advised of the list of applicants, and will be invited to offer professional advice and judgements in writing to the T.Y. Admissions Committee within a time schedule specified by the Programme Coordinator.

2.3 The criteria outlined in 3.1(below), the Application Form, the Personal Statement and the Professional Advice and Judgements of the teaching staff will be critical factors in determining a student's admission on to the Transition Year Programme.

2.4 The Transition Year Admissions Committee reserves the right to interview students, and communicate with their parents in relation to their applications and their suitability for participation. Shortlisting of applications for interview will be based on the admission criteria set out below.

2.5 The Transition Year Admissions Committee reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place, and accommodate the student in 5th Year or 5th Year Leaving Cert Applied, as appropriate.

3. Admissions Criteria

3.1 Each application will be considered on its own merit. In addition to the level of serious commitment indicated by the students in the application process and/or at interview, the following criteria will apply in assessing a prospective Transition Year student's application:

1. Student's behaviour
2. Attendance and punctuality
3. Involvement in school life
4. Completion of an Application Form and a Personal Statement of interest and suitability for the programme.

3.2 Personal Statement Guidelines (Max 200 words/ minimum – 150 words) Please include the following in your personal statement:

1. The reasons why you would like to do the TY / Idirbhliain Programme
2. The contribution that you can make to the programme
3. Career areas you are interested in exploring as part of work experience
4. Why you should be offered a place on the programme

4. Offer & Acceptance of Places:

4.1 Places will be offered in writing to successful applicants. Unsuccessful candidates will be informed in writing. Guidance support will be available to all students moving directly to 5th Year and 5th Year LCA.

4.2 At this stage, both the student and his parent(s)/guardian(s) are expected to give an undertaking to arrange work-experience placements for the specified periods during the academic year.

5. Programme Fees:

The Programme Fee set annually by the Board of Management of Coláiste /Gaelcholáiste Choilm is intended to assist in defraying costs associated with the various activities and courses fundamental to the programme. It will be used to pay for buses and entry fees for day trips as they arise, and to pay for activities and workshops provided in school time. Further details will be provided at the information evening in late November.

6. External Applications:

Any application to transfer to Coláiste /Gaelcholáiste Choilm from another school will be considered strictly under the terms of the school's Admissions Policy in relation to such transfers. The Admission Policy can be accessed on our Website: www.colaistechoilm.ie

This Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: 10th November 2020

It will be reviewed annually and ratified at the September Meeting.

Triona Fitzgerald
Chairperson
15/9/2021