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7th October 2020.

Dear TY Parents & Guardians,

This year has brought untold challenges to the running of our school and none more so than in the running of our Transition Year programme. We are limited in what we are able to undertake given the public health guidelines.

A key component of Transition Year is work experience and we took the decision to postpone the work experience weeks. As per the Dept. Guidelines

“In cases where it is possible for students to safely complete their work experience in accordance with public health advice and social distancing requirements, they should do so. Where it is not possible for all or some students to do so during the block(s), they should attend timetabled classes as normal during the designated weeks.”

If it is possible for students to complete a placement within the guidelines, we are designating the weeks before and after February Midterm break for this. This includes the weeks of the 8th – 26th of February. Regular lessons will continue for students who do not have a placement.

Trips outside of school and in-school workshops have all been postponed. Our primary aim was to reopen the school in a safe and controlled manner during the month of September. We are limited in the activities that we can undertake that adhere to public health guidelines. We are exploring all possible alternative including walking and cycling options.

We are investigating various virtual activities that our students could undertake. We hope that these might replace a portion of the usual activities that students undertake. One initiative that we are pursuing is an eLearning Platform that will allow students to enhance their Career, Personal, Computer & Driving Skills. This is something new to the TY programme this year and circumvents Covid restrictions.

We are looking forward to getting as many students involved in The Gaisce president’s award consisting of self-development programme that runs throughout the year. We will be in touch soon with our TY students regarding what is expected of them for participation on this.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Manners

TY Coordinator