

**St. Dominic's High School
Santa Sabina
Sutton**



**TRANSITION YEAR
PROGRAMME**

Young Social Innovators: (half year)

This is a national competition. Each student will be part of a team of 12. They decide on a social issue that they feel strongly about. The team then produces a project which is assessed by YSI which is a non governmental organisation .The assessment includes a section called a Speak Out where students present their findings in an innovative way to other students in their area. The best projects are then selected to be entered into the national finals.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

This entails the student finding a placement with an agency or voluntary organisation involved with multicultural awareness. The week can involve working with the elderly, the sick or people

COMPUTERS:

All Transition Year students have the opportunity to participate in computer studies. The programme includes word processing, file management, spreadsheets, powerpoint, Internet, e-mail and web design.

EGYPTIAN STUDIES: (half year)

This module involves the study of an ancient civilisation, life and death, hieroglyphics gods and goddesses. It aims to develop an understanding of an early civilisation. Case studies of Tutankhamun, Akhenaten and Ramesses II are included.

ENGLISH:

The course is divided into 4 modules.

- a) Poetry: Broaden students knowledge of various poets and their poetry and encourage critical analysis.
- b) Fiction: Incorporates the reading and critical analysis of a novel.
- c) Drama: Play reading, theatre studies and improvisation.
- d) Film Studies: Includes a critical analysis of films. Encourages the student to develop an understanding of what goes on in front of and behind the camera.

FRENCH:

Students will further their competence in aural, oral, written comprehension skills through language and cultural awareness, grammar revision and educational video work.

GERMAN:

Will develop written, oral and aural language skills in a less formal and restricted environment while laying the foundation for Leaving Certificate.

HOME ECONOMICS: (half year)

This course aims to foster an understanding of the importance of diet in a healthy lifestyle, by developing basic and broadening existing culinary skills, demonstrating the need for balanced eating and introducing the concepts of international cookery whilst incorporating the increasing importance of safety in food preparation.

IRISH: (4 modules facilitated at higher and ordinary levels)

The emphasis is placed on improving oral, aural and written skills. Students will study various aspects of Irish culture, e.g. folklore, customs, proverbs etc. This is done to encourage an interest in the language.

ITALIAN:

The Transition Year Italian programme develops written, aural and oral language skills in a less formal and restricted environment encompassing language and culture, while laying a foundation for Leaving Certificate.

LEISURE:

The leisure programme includes preparation for a certified Royal Life-Saving Society Resuscitation Course and Examination, badminton, squash, aerobics, golf and game skills based on activities available in the local community. The leisure programme hopes to highlight the importance of leisure activities in the personal and social development of the students, to encourage the students to participate competently and confidently in an adult leisure community.

MATHEMATICS:

Transition Year mathematics lays the foundation for Leaving Certificate mathematics. Students have the opportunity to address areas of mathematics they may have had difficulty with at Junior Certificate level. The following topics are covered: use of calculators, algebra, probability, statistics and graphing.

R.S.E: (RELATIONSHIPS AND SEXUALITY EDUCATION)

This course helps students understand the skills necessary to form healthy friendships and relationships. The course will also help students understand human physiology with particular reference to the reproductive cycles, human fertility and sexually transmitted infections. It will also enable students to appreciate sexual identity, sex role stereotyping and gender issues.

RELIGION:

The Transition Year religion programme looks at the themes of “Justice in Ireland and the world.” It makes a study of the “Family Awareness Education Pack,” and poverty in Ireland using the St. Vincent de Paul education pack. A study of traveller culture is also undertaken.

ROAD SAFETY/DRIVING MODULE: (half year)

Students will study Road Safety issues and the rules of the road. They will learn to identify hazards and look at the relationship between speed of vehicle and distance required to stop. They will gain an understanding of the value of seat belts and airbags. It is hoped that during the year students may get the opportunity to drive in a driving school in a controlled environment.

SCIENCE:

This course consists of four modules.

- i) Applied Science: Experiments in areas of enzymes, DNA, forensic science and plastics
- ii) Physics: Theoretical and experimental physics including some topics from “Paper Clips” course, using household items to demonstrate physics as a science
- iii) Electronics: Problem solving using MFA boards in decisions counter and memory modules. A design challenge will also be set.
- iv) Biology: Microbiology, zoology and human biology with special reference to practical work, e.g. culturing microorganisms. All students will be encouraged to take part in the Young Scientists Competition.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL:

This course consists of four modules:

- i) Geopolitics – a background to current world political problems.
- ii) Sustainable Development – the investigation into how we can develop globally without compromising the needs of future generations. Students will recognise the need for harmony between economy, society and environment.
- iii) Irish Politics gives a basic knowledge of the Irish political structure and the concepts of citizenship, democracy and participation

- iv) The Spanish Speaking World – basic conversation and language skills and an exploration of culture traditions and dance in Spanish speaking countries.

WORLD OF WORK AND WORK EXPERIENCE: (2weeks)

To explore the world of work by looking at career areas, employment laws etc. To develop job search skills, e.g. interviews, curriculum vitae. Students will take part in a two-week block of work experience (usually in the second term), and write follow up reports. In the last term, subject options and career planning will be looked at. Work experience will be run over two consecutive weeks .

MUSIC:

Students will be introduced to music technology using Sibelius software. Students also select, rehearse and perform a song or instrumental piece of their choosing.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY:

Students will be introduced to operations and functions of digital cameras. They will also be exposed to software packages used to manipulate the images they themselves have taken. Form, construction and depth of field will also be explained and practised in order to enable each student to take more aesthetically pleasing photographs.

LEGAL STUDIES:

The aim of this course is to give students an overview of the Irish Legal system. It includes a description of the different ‘players’ in the courtroom, an introduction to court decisions, and a look at homicide, forensic science and employment law.

ART:

Introduction to a variety of crafts and design skills / art history.

Acting up: (half year)

This is a drama module. Students write, direct, produce and star in their own performance piece.

Any of the above are subject to change