



7<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

Dear Students, Parents & Guardians,

This is a quick update for the year ahead as you prepare to return to school on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Enclosed are some details that will help you plan for the year ahead including key dates and where to access information.

Many of you will have plans now in place for work experience, placements and programmes. Once again, we advise students to be ambitious in their securing their work experience, aiming for their dream job rather than an easy option (check out [www.tyireland.com](http://www.tyireland.com) for some examples of the possibilities available). If you have any questions regarding school policy on these, or have queries about them you can contact me throughout the summer at [cmccabe.cni@metb.ie](mailto:cmccabe.cni@metb.ie).

For students considering work experiences outside of the assigned blocks, placements abroad or other opportunities to supplement their year, there are formal procedures in place to apply. These will be explained to students upon their return. Alternatively, if it is time sensitive please do not hesitate to contact me.

Also, for those who plan to work with children (for example, in a crèche, primary school or on a coaching course), you must have completed Garda vetting if you will be sixteen or older at the time of your work experience. For more details, visit <https://vetting.garda.ie/Application/About> and discuss the issue with the club or school you are working with. Expect the vetting process to take **at least eight weeks**, so begin the process soon.

Many programmes contact the school in August offering places to students for the year ahead. Information on these courses and programmes will be forwarded to the school email address of students and we advise you to consider applying to those that interest you.

The cost for the course is €275, and final payment is due on August 11<sup>th</sup>. This price is extremely competitive and the school subsidises a large number of costs throughout the year. While competitive it is still another expense at an expensive time of year. Anyone in any difficulty with the programme cost should contact the principal directly to discuss options.

Idirbhliain is a fantastic opportunity and a genuine challenge. I very much look forward to meeting you and your dalta on **September 6<sup>th</sup> (note change of date)** for the Idirbhliain Information Evening to begin this journey as a clann.

Enjoy the remaining weeks of the summer break,

Le Meas,

Ciarán McCabe

Idirbhliain Coordinator- [cmccabe.cni@lmetb.ie](mailto:cmccabe.cni@lmetb.ie)

### Idirbhliain Calendar 2018/2019

Eachtra (Event)	Dáta
Idirbhliain Information Evening	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
Work Experience One	22 <sup>nd</sup> October – 26 <sup>th</sup> October, 2018
Work Experience Two*	21 <sup>st</sup> January-25 <sup>th</sup> January, 2019
Work Experience Three	8 <sup>th</sup> April-12 <sup>th</sup> April, 2019
Idirbhliain Turas	TBC
Idirbhliain Gradam	TBC

*\*Students are required to take a placement with a NGO, voluntary organisation or a company working for the promotion of civic responsibility. The Life Skills teachers will clear all of these placements prior to commencement. Students may undertake this option in any of their three work placements*

### Student Advice

Below please find the most common pieces of advice from this year's Idirbhliain students who completed their end of year reflection and portfolio interviews.

“The subjects I thought I wasn't going to like are the ones at the end of the year that I ended up liking the most so give everything a chance.”

“Organise your work experience as early as possible. Otherwise you end up doing something that you aren't actually interested in.”

“To stay organised, keep a record of all your key assignments and when they're due. When you're panicking at the end of the year trying to organise your portfolio, you'll be glad you did.”

“Treat core classes like they're part of the Leaving Certificate as they really help with keeping you up to date for fifth year.”

“Don't just sign up for things in September like sports or extra-curricular, see them through to the end.”

“Do Gasice, I've already used it on my CV to help me get a job.”

“Don't leave everything until the last minute! Yes you have more freedom but that just means in the end that it's up to you to get stuff done.”

### Contact

As you can imagine our school office is still inundated with requests during the summer months. For Idirbhliain specific queries please use the email address provided during this period.