



2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2019.

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

This is a quick update as you prepare for Idirbhliain. 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 now be putting plans in place for work experience, placements and programmes. Please note that the dates for next year's work experience placements have changed from previous years, and students will now have four weeks of work experience. This is based on feedback from students and parents.

Students are covered by school insurance when they are on work experience placement in the designated weeks. The insurance letters have been emailed to all students. Once again, we advise students to be ambitious in their securing their work experience, aiming for their dream job rather than an easy option. If you have any questions regarding school policy on work experience or other placements, you can contact me throughout the summer at [cmccabe.cni@lmetb.ie](mailto:cmccabe.cni@lmetb.ie).

For students considering work experience 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. We are able to complete this process in about 4-5 weeks through the LMETB. Garda vetting forms will be completed (if necessary) in the first two weeks when we return to school.

Many programmes contact the school during the summer 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 €305, and final payment is due on July 31<sup>st</sup>. This price is extremely competitive and the school subsidises many of the 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. Idirbliain dáлтаí return on **August 26<sup>th</sup>**, when they will choose their option subjects for next year. I very much look forward to meeting you and your dáлта on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> for the Idirbhliain Information Evening to begin this journey as a clann.

Enjoy the remaining days of third year, and best of luck to everyone in your Junior Certificate exams.

Le Meas,

Ciarán McCabe

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

#### Idirbhliain Calendar 2019-2020

Idirbliain Return to School	26 <sup>th</sup> August, 2019
Idirbliain Information Evening	9 <sup>th</sup> September, 2019
Work Experience 1	2 <sup>nd</sup> - 6 <sup>th</sup> December, 2019
Work Experience 2	3 <sup>rd</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup> February, 2020 (Two Weeks)
Work Experience 3	11 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020
Idirbhliain Turas	To Be Confirmed
Idirbhliain Gradam	To Be Confirmed

#### Student Advice

Below please find the most common pieces of advice from last 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.”

“Forget everything you learned about how things work in the Junior Cycle. Have an open mind and try everything out. You won't enjoy the year if you're not willing to put yourself out there. Make the year yours.”

“I have gained so much more self-confidence and I got the opportunity to do stuff that I thought I could never do. I also got closer to such much people in my year group.”

“Apply for work experiences early and if you put in the work it will be great. 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.”

“Honestly just try anything and everything even if you might think it's not for you. It's better to try and fail than regret not doing it.”

“Volunteer for every job. You meet so many people and make friends.”

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

“Try everything, even if you're the most introverted person in the world just go for it because at the end of the day IB is about new experiences.”

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

“I was nervous about my new rang group, but they were really friendly.”

“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 email [cmccabe.cni@lmetb.ie](mailto:cmccabe.cni@lmetb.ie) during this period.