



## GOING TO SCHOOL IN IRELAND – AUG/2025

### **Junior Cycle**

The Junior Cycle is a 3-year programme, with students taking the Junior Certificate exam in 10 or 11 subjects at the age of 15 or 16. A wide range of subjects is available, and compulsory subjects include: English, Mathematics and Civics, and Social and Political Education. Irish is compulsory for Irish students, but foreign students can receive an exemption from this subject.

### **Transition Year (age 15 – 17)**

Transition Year is an optional one-year school programme that can be taken the year after Junior Certificate in Ireland. Irish students may skip Transition Year, and choose to proceed directly to 5th year. Transition Year is designed to allow students to build life-skills and engage in work experience and is a very popular choice for foreign exchange students, as there is less of a focus on exam preparation, and more focus practical and real-world skills. Both foreign and local trips are made available to students during this year, in order to give a more hands-on aspect to learning.

### **Senior Cycle**

The Senior Cycle is a two-year programme designed to prepare students for the Leaving Certificate Examination. The Leaving Certificate Examination takes place directly at the end of 6th Year. Students enter 5th Year between ages 15 – 18 and normally study 6 or 7 subjects. Students must study a minimum of 5 subjects, including English, Irish and Maths, but foreign students can be exempted from Irish Language. French, German and Spanish can be studied at Senior Cycle level, but not all languages are offered by every school and students usually can only study one language.

### **Reports**

At the end of your stay you will get a report detailing your dates of attendance, punctuality, subjects, academic ability and progress. If your documents are not ready before your departure, you should leave a stamped envelope with your home address on, so the school can post the documents to you.