

## Houses of the Oireachtas Work Experience Programme

To: TY students and parents

I am writing to you to provide details of the Houses of the Oireachtas Transition Year work experience programme for the school year 2021-22.

There will be three intake cohorts. The first will commence on Monday 8th November and will be online. There will be two other intakes after Christmas. Final dates are to be confirmed as we await guidance as to whether they will be onsite or online, but I anticipate that our week in March will be from the 7th -11th and will be through Irish. The final week in April will be from the 4th-8th. We propose to accept a maximum of 25 students in each cohort.

There will be a maximum **of one student nomination/application accepted from each school**. Nominated students indicate on their application form which week they would like to attend if selected.

Applying for the programme does not guarantee acceptance as the programme is heavily over-subscribed every year.

Students will hear from the different business units which comprise the Houses of the Oireachtas Service and they will also get a chance to meet and interact with Members.

Students will be required to conduct research on an aspect of politics, political life, or work of the Houses of the Oireachtas which is of interest to them throughout the week and present their findings to the group.

They will also be required to complete a learning journal throughout the week which can be used as part of their Transition Year portfolio.

The marking scheme is attached as a guide for the application.

**Students put their application in writing and submit to Ms O Reilly on or before September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

The very best of luck to all applicants.

Ms O Reilly

**Houses of the Oireachtas Work Experience Programme Application Marking Scheme 50 marks. There is a limit of 500 words (+/-10%).**

- To what level does the applicant set out clearly what motivates them to join this programme (5 marks) Very Good: 4-5 marks Good: 2-3 marks Fair: 0-1 marks
- To what level have they set out what benefits they hope to gain from this programme? (5 marks) Very Good: 4-5 marks Good: 2-3marks Fair: 0-1 marks
- To what level have they shown how this programme fits in with future study/career plans (5marks) Very Good: 4-5 marks Good: 2-3marks Fair: 0-1 marks
- To what level have they identified a relevant area in relation to the work of the Houses of the Oireachtas and explained why it is of special interest to them (20 marks) Very Good: 15-20 marks Good: 10-14 marks Fair: 5-9 marks Weak: 1-4 marks
- To what level have they shown evidence of research into this area (15 marks) Very Good: 14-15 marks Good: 10-13 marks Fair: 5-9 marks Weak: 0-