

Second Level Education

There are 15 words missing from this text. With a partner, find the correct word from the list below and complete the text. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Priorswood Community School is situated about three (1) _____ from the town of Foxwood. It is a second level school and it has 500 (2) _____. It is (3) _____ and it has 255 boys and 245 girls. It is a second (4) _____ school and students are aged between 13 years and 18 years.

Foxwood was a small village in the midlands of Ireland. In the last five years it has developed into a town as more and more houses are being built and the population is expected to double in the near future.

The students come from the town and the surrounding areas. Some travel more than 25 kilometres a day. School buses are provided by the Department of Education for students who live too far to walk. The service is (5) _____.

Pupils at Priorswood attend for five or six years. After three years they take the Junior (6) _____ examination when they are about 15 years old. They may then take a Transition year before they begin to study for their Leaving Certificate which is the final school exam. The (7) _____ year is optional. Students can (8) _____ different subjects. Some do a computer course, some learn to run a business, some organise projects in their community, and some might choose to do drama or (9) _____. This is a good (10) _____ for students to develop other skills and to mature before they start the final two years at school. It also helps them to (11) _____ what future careers interest them.

Most secondary schools have a career guidance teacher to help students decide on their (12) _____ and to give them (13) _____ on university and college and other training courses.

The Leaving Certificate can be a difficult examination because the results are used for entrance to university. Students study six or seven (14) _____ and if their marks are good enough they can get into college. For some university courses, like law, (15) _____, dentistry and others students need to get excellent marks so that they can get the points for these courses.

Priorswood students work very hard in their final year.

decide

sports

level

transition

study

free

co-educational

information

pupils

opportunity

medicine

careers

subjects

kilometres

certificate

Now ask your partner these questions and write down the answers

1. Where is Foxwood?

2. Is Foxwood a small village?

3. Where do the students come from?

4. Do students pay for the school bus?

5. What examinations do pupils take in second level schools?

6. What is the transition year?

7. What do students do during transition year?

8. Why is transition year good for students?

9. What is a career guidance teacher?

10 Why is the Leaving Certificate examination so important for some students?

Education Quiz

1 What is the head of a school called?

2 What is a vice-principal?

3 Name three universities in Dublin

4 What is a National School?

5 What is a university teacher called?

6 What is a text book?

7 What is a parent–teacher meeting?

8 What is a boarding school?

9 What sports are played in Irish schools?

10 What is a fee-paying school?

11 When a student is expelled what has happened?

12 What is P.E.?

13 Name 3 science subjects.

14 Up to what age must children stay at school in Ireland?

Class Discussion

- Do you think that 4 years of age is too young to start school?
- Do you think the Irish education system is good? What do you like and dislike about it?
- Should university education be free for everyone, even those who are wealthy?
- Of the following subjects which do you think are most important and why?
Irish, English, European languages, mathematics, history, geography, science (physics, chemistry, biology), business studies.
- Should children in Ireland be forced to learn Irish?