

Second Level Education

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

decide, sports, level, transition, study, free, co-educational, information, pupils, opportunity, medicine, careers, subjects, kilometres, certificate

Priorswood Community School is situated about three (1) _____ from the town of Foxwood. 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.

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. What is a career guidance teacher?

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