



Transition Year Arts Experiences 2026/27

Introduction

Longford Arts Service organise arts experiences for Transition Year Students in County Longford. This opportunity is open to a limited number of transition year students (or similar aged, home-schooled students) in County Longford with an interest in finding out more about the role of artists and art making where they live.

This initiative gives TY students an opportunity to volunteer their time in a creative environment. For many young people this will be their first experience of active citizenship. No prior experience in any art form is necessary to secure a place. The ideal participant is a young person who is curious, brave, kind and willing to try something new—it is important that you demonstrate this in your application. These programmes are designed to facilitate any student who wants to use them as part of their Gaisce Bronze Award preparation.

There is an administration fee of €25 charged by County Longford Arts Service to participants who accept placement offers. All day programmes will take place in Longford Town area between 10am and 3pm. Some of the programmes will take place evenings between 7pm and 9pm.

Assessment & Acceptance Criteria

- Applicants who have completed application in full.
- Applicants who have clearly demonstrated that they have an interest, passion and commitment to participating in the programmes.
- Applicants accepting place must make their own arrangements with the school they are attending regarding their absence for the programme duration.
- Parents and guardians will be invited to attend an information session prior to programme and will be required to sign a programme consent form.
- A waiting list will be compiled in case awarded places are not taken prior to programme.

TY Arts Experiences Available 2026/27

TY Arts Programme	Artist/Organisation	Dates
Dead of Night Parade	Longford Arts Office	1–31 Oct
4-Part Harmony Choir	Longford County Choir	Oct–Dec
Learn Circus Skills	Longford Social Circus	25–29 Jan
Street Art Murals Skills	Darrin Finnegan	5–9 Apr
Behind Scenes of a Variety Show	Longford Variety Show	Oct–Nov
Dress Making & Design	Alla Shmyhovska	23–27 Nov
Learn More About Vocal Training & Choreography	Voices of Longford	Oct–Feb
Move • Play • Make —Dance & Physical Theatre	Orla McCarthy	30 Nov–4 Dec
Film Making Skills	Harp Media	15–19 Feb

Administration Fee

All students who accept offer must pay
 an administrative fee of €25 to
 County Longford Arts Service
 before the first day of a programme.



Dead of Night Parade

The Dead of Night Festival is a street spectacle parade that occurs in Longford Town on Halloween night. Local artists spend many months of planning and preparation to develop this premiere spectacle event. Students will get a chance to work with artists to become performers in the parade. Preparation for this programme takes place between 6th and 31st October and involves a time commitment of approximately 15 hours over 6 sessions. These sessions will take place between 5pm and 8pm and some Saturdays. Participating students will work with the Artistic Director and the production team and participate in the parade as:

- Parade performers
- Stilt walkers
- Float operators

Application Process:

There are 20 places available—6 stilt walkers and 14 performers / float operators. This is a competitive process. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 25th September, 2026. Offers will be made by end of September.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Dead of Night Parade** Experience



4-Part Harmony Choir

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to sing with a full four-part harmony Choir? This is an ideal experience for students who love to sing and are interested in performing or studying music. Longford County Choir is the largest in Longford and performs a Christmas Carol Service every year. They are inviting 20 students to apply for a place on their TY choir programme.

What is a four-part harmony? Four-part harmony singing means that the choir is divided into four parts comprising soprano, alto, tenor and bass singers. Soprano and alto are generally females with sopranos having higher pitched voices than altos. Tenors and bass singers are generally male with tenors having lower pitched voices. Each section will usually sing different notes producing a rich harmonic sound. Students who have a love of singing and who want to experience what it is like to be in a choir will really enjoy this programme. Students will learn how the different parts of a choir work together and how a musical director gets the best performance out of everyone. Rehearsals begin in mid-September and take place every Wednesday 7.30pm to 9.30pm. The Christmas concert takes place on 20th December, 2026.

Application Process:

There are 20 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 25th September, 2026. Offers will be made by end of September.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **4-Part Harmony Choir** Experience



Learn Circus Skills

Circus TY Experience provides a great opportunity for students to learn a variety of new skills and talents and an opportunity to get active, make friends and try something new.

Over one-week students will be introduced to the various disciplines of circus including juggling, stilt walking, balance, prop manipulation, and acrobatics. Students will practice teamwork, make friends and have the opportunity to develop strength, focus, imagination and creativity. The programme takes place from 25th to 29th January, 2027.

Application Process:

There are 20 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 16th October, 2026. Offers will be made by end of October.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Learn Circus Skills** Experience



Street Art Mural Skills

Longford Arts Service are providing an opportunity for young visual artists to learn skills and techniques associated with street art, specifically wall-based murals. This four-day training programme will provide 12 TY students the opportunity to work with an experienced street artist and develop an art piece. The programme led by Darrin Finnegan, who will provide opportunities for students to learn more about street art techniques including research, composition, scaling up, use of stencils and spray techniques. This experience would suit students considering doing art and design as a Leaving Certificate subject. The programme takes place from 5th to 9th April, 2027.

Application Process:

There are 12 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 16th October, 2026. Offers will be made by end of October.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Street Art Mural Skills** Experience



Behind the Scenes of a Variety Show

The Longford Variety group are inviting students to participate in their annual show. Students will work with choreographer Chloe Brady and creative producer Charlie Murray to learn how a variety show is put together. Part of the week will involve some practical learning of chorus choreography and drama sketches.

The Longford Variety Show is a community-based talent and entertainment show held every November. The group focuses on nurturing local talent through music, dance, comedy and theatre. The group aims to bring people together through performance and raise funds for local charities and community initiatives. The event is highly anticipated and aims to foster community spirit and creativity among participants. The programme takes place on Tuesday and Thursday 7:30pm to 9:30pm, from October to November, 2026.

Application Process:

There are 10 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 25th September, 2026. Offers will be made by end of September.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Behind the Scenes of a Variety Show** Experience



Dress Making & Design

This course has been designed for students that are interested in studying fashion design and dress construction. Whether you're a complete beginner or if you are studying art at school in preparation for college, this course will give you creative freedom and control to bring your designs to life under the guidance of textile artist, Alla Shmyhovska. Students will develop creative confidence while working on design research, working with colour and fabric, while also developing technical skills through tutor-led practical garment construction and pattern cutting classes. Students will create their own design development sketchbook to visualise the process as it unfolds.

This programme, taking place 23rd to 27th November, 2026, promises to be an exciting experience for any TY students who:

- Has an interest in colour, fabric and drawing,
- Interested in developing their own creativity,
- Building a portfolio for future studies,
- Wishing to develop their skills in communicating ideas.

Application Process:

There are 12 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 25th September, 2026. Offers will be made by end of September.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Dress Making & Design** Experience



Learn About Vocal Training & Choreography

Voices of Longford is a community arts group that aims to harness the vocal and dramatic talent within County Longford, whilst making friends and having plenty of fun. A Voices of Longford production includes all aspects of theatre—drama, music, singing and dance. They are currently preparing for the annual show, with rehearsals underway in preparation for performing in Backstage Theatre in February 2027.

TY students will spend time with choirmaster, Joanna Pearman and choreographer Sylvia Johnston to experience the processes involved in putting a show together, with Director Brian Murray on hand to support and inform. Rehearsal activities take place 7.30pm to 9pm, every Monday (singing) and Wednesday. The programme takes place October, 2026 to February, 2027.

Application Process:

There are 10 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 25th September, 2026. Offers will be made by end of September.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Learn About Vocal Training & Choreography** Experience



Move • Play • Make Dance & Physical Theatre

Spend a week with dancer and artist Orla McCarthy, inside the creative process of a professional dancer and choreographer, exploring contemporary dance, physical theatre and improvisation. The week will involve moving every day, exploring floorwork, partnering, rhythm and different ways of moving through space using exercises and games designed to spark creativity, curiosity and confidence. Explore how ideas become movement and how movement can be shaped into choreography and performance.

You'll learn to create your own material, collaborate with others, and experience the experimentation, play, and craft that go into making a dance piece. No dance experience needed—just come ready to move, play, make and try something new. The programme takes place from Monday 30th November, 2026 to Friday 4th December, 2026.

Application Process:

There are 12 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 25th September, 2026. Offers will be made by end of September.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Move • Play • Make** Experience



Film Making Skills

Step behind the camera and discover how films are really made. This hands-on programme gives TY students the chance to develop ideas, learn screenwriting, shoot scenes and create their own short film using professional equipment.

Taught by experienced local filmmakers from Harp Media who have worked with acclaimed actors such as Paul Mescal, Eanna Hardwicke and Danielle Galligan, students will explore directing, camera, sound, acting and editing in a fun and creative environment. No experience needed, just ideas and enthusiasm. The one week programme takes place during the February mid-term break 15th to 19th February, 2027.

Application Process:

There are 12 places available. To secure a place you must fill out the form in the link below by 14th October, 2026. Offers will be made by end of October.

[CLICK HERE](#) to apply for **Film Making Skills** Experience