

# MY PATHWAYS LESSON PLAN



## **MY PATHWAYS - AN OVERVIEW**

LESSON TITLE:  
**MY  
PATHWAYS**

### **AIMS**

This lesson will:



- Explore stages of Education in Ireland
- Reflect on students hopes and desires for this stage of their educational journey – Post Primary School.

### **OUTCOMES**



At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Identify the different stages of the educational system in Ireland.
- Write a letter to their future self about their hopes and wishes for this stage of their educational journey.

### **LINKS TO JUNIOR CYCLE KEY SKILLS**



- Communicating (listening and expressing myself, discussing and debating, using language).
- Managing myself (knowing myself, making considered decisions, using digital technology to manage myself and my learning).
- Staying well (being healthy, being social, being safe, being responsible).
- Being creative (exploring options and alternatives, implementing ideas and taking actions).
- Working with others (learning with others, respecting difference, developing good relationships, co-operating).
- Managing information and thinking (gathering and recording information, being curious, thinking critically, using digital technology to access, manage and share knowledge).

### **LINKS TO JUNIOR CYCLE STATEMENTS OF LEARNING**



In this lesson students will

- Take action to safeguard and promote her/his wellbeing and that of others.
- Bring an idea from conception to realisation.

## **MY PATHWAYS - AN OVERVIEW**

### **LINKS TO WHOLE SCHOOL GUIDANCE**



#### **Developing Myself**

In this lesson students will

- Develop & maintain self-esteem & a positive self-concept.
- Interact effectively with others.
- Develop & grow throughout life.
- Students will be able to identify and describe their personal qualities, attitudes and strengths, interests and how they influence behaviour.
- Students will be able to demonstrate effective social skills when cooperating, collaborating & negotiating with peers and teacher.
- Students will be able to participate in a range of activities & tasks to enhance emotional, social, cognitive & physical development.
- Ask for help when required.

#### **Developing My Career Path:**

In this lesson students will

- Explore the education requirements for further study & career interests.
- Recognise personal qualities & attitudes required for working life.
- Understand the career decision making process & the importance of making informed decisions.
- Describe how attitudes & motivation can affect career planning & decision making.

## MY PATHWAYS - LESSON PLAN

### LESSON PLAN: **MY PATHWAYS**

### MATERIALS NEEDED FOR THIS LESSON

#### BY TEACHER

- PowerPoint
- Worksheets

#### BY STUDENTS

- Worksheets (on-line or hard copy)

### AIMS

This lesson will:

- Explore stages of Education in Ireland
- Reflect on students hopes and desires for this stage of their educational journey – Post Primary School.



### OUTCOMES

At the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Identify the different stages of the educational system in Ireland.
- Write a letter to their future self about their hopes and wishes for this stage of their educational journey.



### OPENING 'THE HOOK'

Ask students "Why are you in post-primary school today?"

Students may provide some of the following answers

- a. First year follows sixth class.
- b. I wasn't allowed to stay in bed this morning.
- c. I'm too young to earn a living.
- d. Other.

Ask a few volunteers to share their reasons for being in post-primary school. Write these answers on the board. Answers will vary, such as: to get a better job after high school; to get into college; to learn new things.

Then tell the students the Aims of the class, which is based around the concept of "Pathways".

## MY PATHWAYS - LESSON PLAN

### BODY OF LESSON

#### TEACHER ACTIVITIES

#### STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Teacher introduces students to the concept of 'Pathways'.

Teacher asks students "What happens after Post Primary school?"

Teacher clarifies some of the different pathways after school including work, further and higher education and travel

Open floor discussion on 'Pathways'.

Students respond with suggestions.

Teacher focuses in on what happens in Post Primary school, paying attention to some important subjects in Post Primary school (requirements for college).

Post Primary school, It Matters. The teacher asks students to write a letter to their future selves. Teacher will keep this letter until graduation. Students will be delighted to see how far they have has developed along their pathway when this is opened in Sixth Year.

Students asked to write a letter to their future selves. In this letter they must think about their future goals and also spend some time reflecting on their pathway so far.

In the letter students will:

1. Write about their life at the moment – who is in their family – what their hobbies are?, what is important to them – what their favourite subject is - who they look up to?
2. Write about their first month in School – i.e. the subjects they like, the new friends they have met, etc.
3. Write about their dreams and hopes for the next six years (a subject they look forward to studying, sport they would like to join/ a musical instrument they would like to play or a club they would like to join)
4. Write about their dreams and hopes for the future (after school)
5. Finish with some advice to themselves!

## **MY PATHWAYS - LESSON PLAN**

### **CLOSING LESSON**



The teacher reminds the students of all of the pathways available to them after Post Primary school. Teacher reminds them that this is an important and exciting stage on their pathway through life. Finally, the teacher re-examines the lesson's aims.

# MY PATHWAYS

## POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL AND BEYOND . . .



**YOU ARE ON  
A JOURNEY**

**AND POST-PRIMARY  
SCHOOL IS AN  
IMPORTANT PART OF  
THAT JOURNEY!**





# AIMS

In this lesson you will:

- Pathways: Learn about the stages of Education in Ireland.
- Reflect on your hopes and desires for this stage of your educational journey – Post-Primary School.



# OUTCOMES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Identify the different stages of the educational system in Ireland.
- Write a letter to your future self about your hopes and wishes for this stage of your educational journey.



# WARM UP: WHY AM I HERE?

Welcome, everybody! Before we begin today,  
I have a very important question for all of you:

**Why are you in post-primary school today?**

**a.**

First year  
follows  
sixth class.

**b.**

I wasn't  
allowed to  
stay in bed  
this morning.

**c.**

I'm too  
young to  
work

**d.**

Other.

Raise your hand if you said a...b...c.  
And who chose d, another reason?

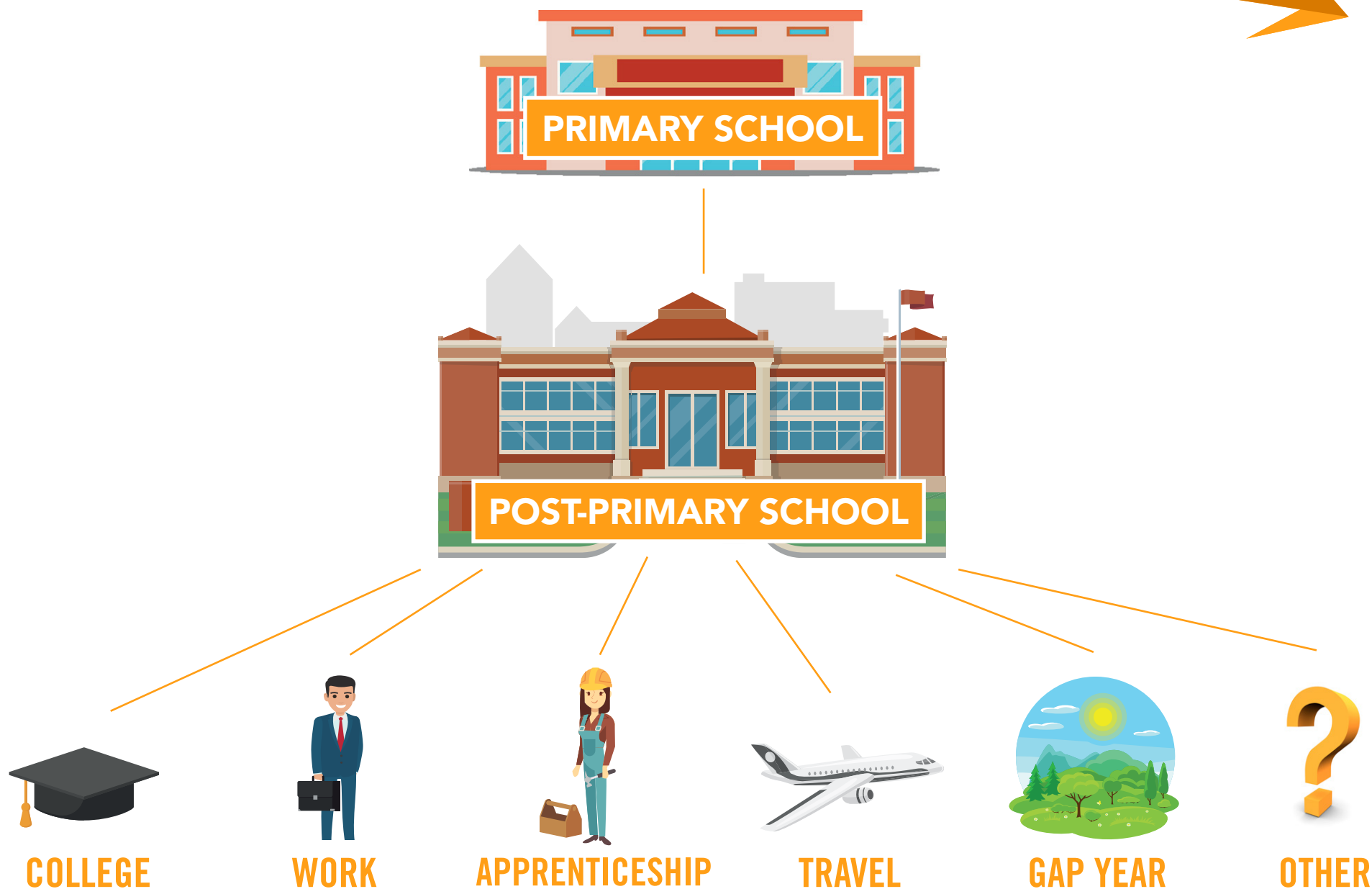


# MY PATHWAYS



# WHAT HAPPENS AFTER POST- PRIMARY SCHOOL?



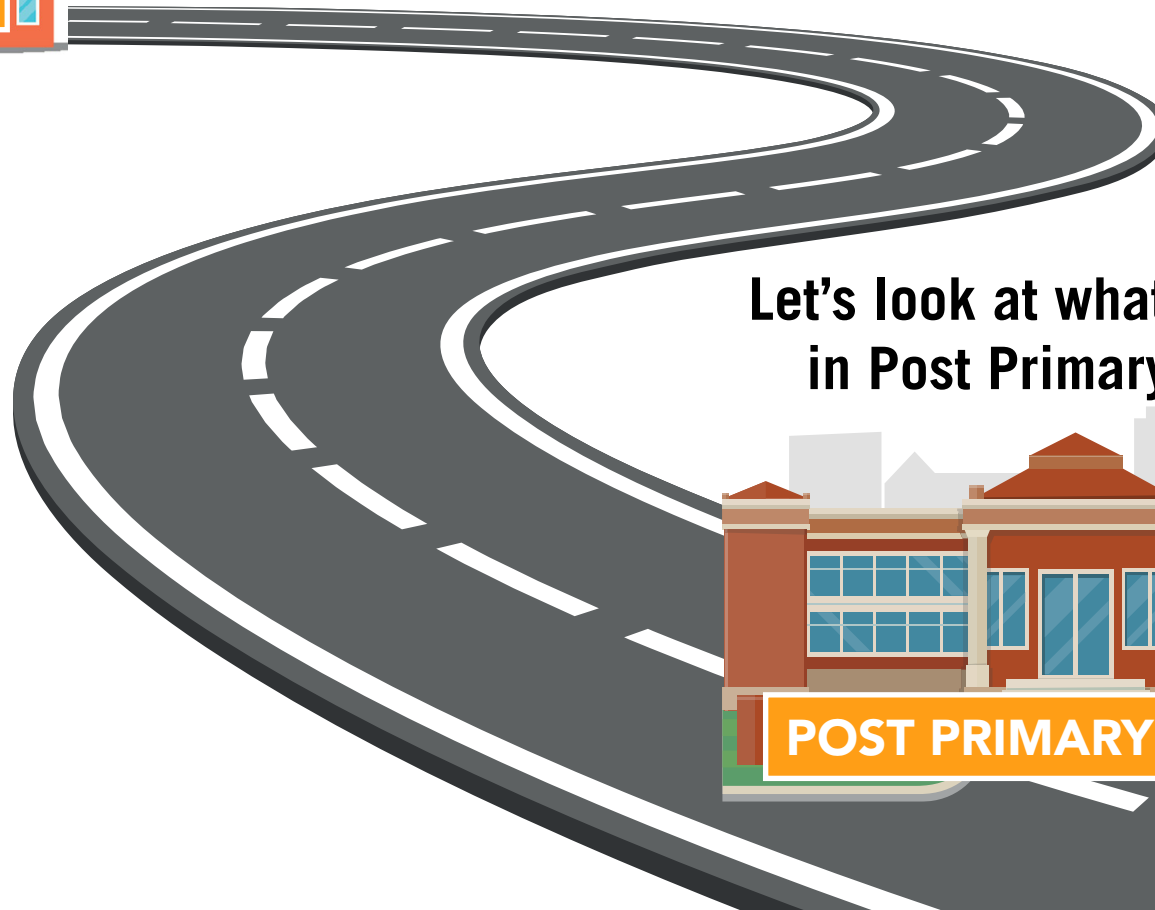


# **DISCUSSION**





**Primary School  
is Complete** 



**Let's look at what to expect  
in Post Primary school**



# WHAT TO EXPECT



## SIXTH YEAR:

In Sixth Year I will sit my Leaving Certificate Examination. I will choose my next pathway.

## FIFTH YEAR:

In Fifth Year I will start some of my Leaving Cert Projects. I will start going to college open days and finding out more information about careers.

## TRANSITION YEAR:

In Transition Year I will try new subjects and I will do work experience. I will also select what subjects I will do for my Leaving Cert.

## THIRD YEAR:

In Third Year I will be doing my Junior Cycle Projects and assessments.

## SECOND YEAR:

In Second Year I will be doing some Classroom Based Assessments i.e. important projects.

## FIRST YEAR:

In First Year I am going to settle in to my new school.



# OVER TO YOU....

**Write a letter to yourself**

**You will open this letter in sixth year**

In the letter:

1. Write about you at the moment – who is in your family – what are your hobbies?, what is important to you – what are your favourite things – who do you look up to?
2. Write about your first month in school – i.e. the subjects you like, the new friends you have met, etc.
3. Write about your dreams and hopes for the next six years (a subject you look forward to studying, sport you would like to join/ a musical instrument you would like to play or a club would like to join).
4. Write about your dreams and hopes for the future (after school).
5. Finish with some advice to yourself!

## Worksheet

# MY PATHWAYS

**Write a letter to yourself**

**You will open this letter in sixth year**

In the letter:

1. Write about you at the moment – who is in your family – what your hobbies are, what is important to you – what are your favourite things – who do you look up to?
2. Write about your first month in School – i.e. the subjects you like, the new friends you have met, etc.
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## LETTER TO MYSELF

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