

Irish Guide Dogs
for the blind

TY PROGRAMME 2020/2021

Together we are changing lives

At Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind we believe the students who participate in our TY Programme are potential future members of our community of Staff, Puppy Raisers and Volunteers. With this in mind, we have developed an interactive programme which aims to inspire students to consider a career with us or to support our work raising awareness and funds so they too can make a difference to others and change lives!

At the end of our week long programme, each student will have a greater understanding of:

1. our Clients and the services and supports we provide;
2. our Dogs and their welfare and what is involved;
3. Technical Training and what is involved;
4. the structure, governance, funding and running of a Charity; and
5. how to undertake a fundraising event.

Because of the pandemic, we have adapted our Programme to deliver it online. However, this programme aims to deliver real insights for those TY students who apply to participate. Our promise to engage with the students and their schools is now stronger than ever.

- To deliver an the interactive, engaging schedule which aims to inspire;
- To provide a platform to meet many members of our community and to ask questions;
- To develop skills in the area of planning and executing a fundraising event; and
- To empower the students with a desire to make a difference to someone's life.



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inside**
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OUR PROGRAMME

Our TY Programme is built around the four pillars which are the foundations of our organisation.

DAY ONE



Outline of the Week

60 min virtual session led by Fundraising/Communications

An outline of the week, what will happen, how to make the most of the week and what we would like from each student.

Presentation and discussion on how to plan for a fundraising event to be run in your school. We will take you through the outline of the plan and tasks to complete over the next 4 days.

By the end of the week, we would really love you to present to our Fundraising team with a plan for a fundraising event you will run in your school on Guide Dog Day, 7 May 2021. Guide Dog Day is our annual nationwide campaign which brings together our entire community with the aim of raising awareness and funds for our work. We're looking for innovative, creative ideas which communicate clearly what we do and which utilise social media including mobile video content. The Fundraising team will explain further!

Dogs

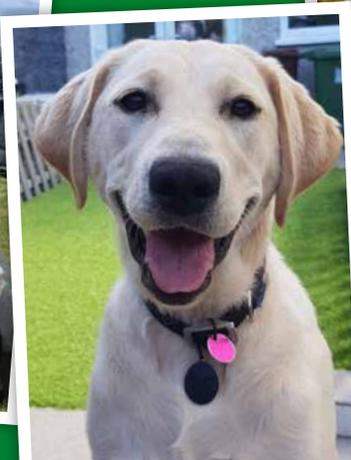
90 min virtual session led by our Dog Pillar

Meet our Breeding Team and learn how we manage our Breeding Programme to ensure we are able to provide Guide and Assistance Dogs to as many people as possible each year. Find out about our Volunteers across the country who hold our brood bitches and stud dogs in their homes and how our pups are cared for in the first weeks of their lives. If you're lucky, we may even have a pup available to say hello!

A Volunteer Puppy Raiser will explain what is involved in caring for a pup from approximately 8 weeks old up to 12-15 months. We call this our Puppy Academy. Every member of the family is involved in helping each pup to take the first steps to becoming a life-changer. You will learn how during this time the Puppy Raiser and family help the dog to become familiar in surroundings such as shops and public transport and how the pup learns the basics before they return to our National Training Centre to begin formal training.

Kodaline helped us with a video about our Puppy Raising Programme.

[Click to view](#) 



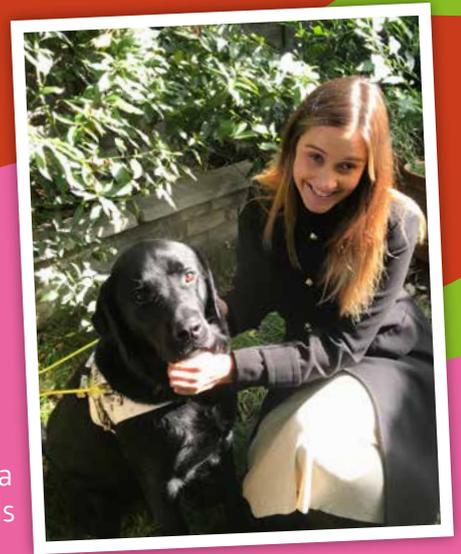
DAY TWO

Clients 90 min virtual session led by our Client Pillar

One of our youngest Guide Dog Owners will talk to you about how life was before receiving a Guide Dog and how their life has now changed allowing them to do many things a young person enjoys.

An Assistance Dog Owner will explain how family life has changed since their Assistance Dog arrived in their home to support their child with autism.

With support from our Head of Client Services, Mel Conway, our Clients will be happy to take any questions you may have.



DAY THREE

Training 90 min virtual session led by our Client Pillar

Have you ever wondered how a Guide Dog knows how to safely cross a road? Did you know some dogs can be trained to detect if their owner is experiencing a medical emergency?

Our fantastic Training team will explain everything including how they train our dogs, how they decide which dogs will make the grade, and critically how they match the right dog to the right person to give each partnership the best chance of success.

Using a GoPro, we'll give you access to a Day in the Life of a Puppy in Training from their viewpoint. You will also view a formal Puppy Assessment and learn how our Trainers can identify if a pup has what it takes to be a life-changing Guide Dog or Assistance Dog. You can also find out how to qualify as a Trainer and what is involved in the role.

DAY FOUR

Resources 60 min virtual session led by our Resources Pillar

It costs over €5 million to run our organisation each year and 85% is dependent on the generosity of the public. Our Fundraising team will explain how they work with our network of Branches across the country to raise awareness for our work and to fundraise through various events such as challenges, on-street collections, raffles, quizzes etc. and even giving talks in schools and colleges.

The team will also explain how they put together an annual calendar of events including Guide Dog Day, our Car Raffle and our Christmas cards and calendar campaigns. You will learn from the Digital team how they adapted to the impact of Covid-19 which saw social media becoming the focus of all fundraising activities. Further input will come from our Corporate Team who will explain how you can support us in the future while in school, college or in your future career.

Q&As

A Question and Answer session will be led by our Shared Services team plus one of Manager / Director / Sub-Committee members (60 mins).



DAY FIVE

Guide Dog Day plan

At the end of the week, we would like each student to;

- have done some research as to what other charities do to raise funds and what Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind could do a little differently based on what you have learned during the week;
- suggest ways our charity could interact with primary schools to help young children understand the work we do; and
- to submit your plan for a fundraising event you will run in your school on Guide Dog Day, 7 May 2021.

Graduation

Following Guide Dog Day, we would be delighted to welcome you all to our Headquarters on the Model Farm Road, Cork where you will be given a certificate marking the completion of our TY Programme. You will also get the opportunity to have a guided tour of our Training Centre and to meet some of those who feature on the various virtual sessions and many of our PAWsome pups and dogs in training.



**We hope you can join our
TY Programme and
learn how you too can
help change lives.**



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