# **Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed**



# PROGRAMME/ SUBJECT CHOICE FOR LEAVING CERTIFICATE 2018



A guide to help you to choose your Leaving Certificate subjects

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# **Transition Year Programme**

# What is Transition Year?

A one year programme taken after the Junior Certificate and before a Leaving Certificate Programme.

# What is the purpose of the Transition Year Programme?

To promote maturity, social competence and personal development;

Maturity in studies by making students more self-directed learners.

Maturity in relation to work and careers by developing work-related skills.

Personal maturity by providing opportunities to develop communication skills, self-confidence and a sense of responsibility.

Social maturity by developing greater people skills and more awareness of the world outside school.

# Is Transition Year suited to all students?

With its emphasis on personal development and maturity, all young people can benefit from the programme. Transition Year, in particular, can allow for the development of an individual's multiple intelligences:

Linguistic "word smart"

Logical-mathematical "number/reasoning smart"
Spatial "space/picture smart"

Musical "music smart"
Bodily-kinaesthetic "body smart"
Interpersonal "people smart"
Intrapersonal "self smart"
Naturalist "nature smart"

The Transition Year programme can also develop key skills for the 21st century such as the three Ts

Thinking Teamwork Technology

### **Mission**

To promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative, and responsible members of society.

# **Overall Aims**

Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.

The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.

Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.



# Subjects offered at Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed

Irish English Maths

European Language

P.E./Games

Information Technology

Art

Home Economics

Science Music Enterprise

Technology (Construction Studies / Engineering)

Social Education Career Guidance

# Modules offered at Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed

Science Trip Media Studies

Trip to Outdoor Centre

Enterprise Awards (North Tipperary)

Mini Company

Musical

Foreign Trip (every 2 years)
Work Experience (2 week Block)
Chinese Language and Culture
Irish Culture and Heritage

Tourism

**Green Schools** 

Promoting Positive Mental Health

Gaisce

The above modules and subject areas may change from year to year depending on student needs.

### What about exams?

Assessment is a key part of any worthwhile learning programme. Transition Year is an opportunity to move beyond the narrow focus of end-of-year, written exams. The emphasis is on-going assessment with students themselves becoming involved in identifying their own learning strengths and weaknesses. Work is the principal method of assessment, but this is complemented with project work, based on other forms of experiential learning. Exhibitions of students' work are carried out during Transition year. Each Transition Year student maintains an **E-portfolio** throughout the year.

Transition Year offers students a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study and/or vocational preparation. It provides a bridge to help students make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision-making.

Students participate in learning strategies which are active and experiential and which help them to develop a range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills. The Transition Year Programme provides an opportunity for students to develop an awareness of the value of education and training in preparing them for the ever-changing demands of society.

Transition Year is not part of the Leaving Certificate programme. The programme content for Transition Year, is chosen largely with a view to augmenting the Leaving Certificate experience, laying a solid foundation for Leaving Certificate studies, giving an orientation to the world of work and, in particular, catering for the pupils' personal and social awareness/development.

# **Work Experience**

Transition Year offers opportunities to vary the learning environment and dispels the notion that learning is something that happens only within the classroom. One of the ways of doing this, and of providing an orientation towards the world of work, is to include a component of actual work experience. Students at Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed participate in two work experience placements during the year. Each work placement is two weeks in duration.

### What the students say

'TY is the best year ever'

'great chance to see what working life is like'

'great chance to develop skills and make friends

'TY is a really enjoyable year that allows you to do so many activities. It is a great way to mature and become more responsible before going to Leaving Cert.'

# **Leaving Certificate Applied**

This is a self-contained programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. It places an emphasis on forms of achievement which the traditional Leaving Certificate has not focused on in the past. The two-year programme is divided into four half-year blocks called sessions and achievements are credited in each session. After completing the LCA programme a student is eligible for employment, including apprenticeships. Students are also eligible for most Post Leaving Certificate Courses (PLCs) in colleges of further education. LCA students cannot proceed directly to Third Level Education; however, those successfully completing a QQI level 5/6 course can become eligible for admission to Third Level courses in the Institutes of Technology and some Universities. LCA students also avail of the



benefit of participating in work experience on one day per week throughout the two year programme.

# What the students say

- 'I like that there is alot more practical work and that you can get most of your leaving cert done by being in school and doing assignments'
- 'doing all the tasks has given me a lot of confidence because we get the chance to work on our own'
- 'I feel I am getting somewhere because I know how much of my leaving cert I have already
- 'Learning is fun in LCA'

### What's after LCA?

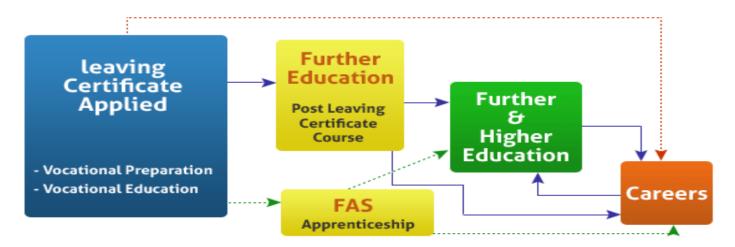
Many of the students who complete LCA at Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed go on to study a PLC course. Some complete apprenticeships and others move directly to employment.

Students considering LCA will have the opportunity to study some of these subjects.

Mathematical Applications
English & Communications
Graphics & Construction
Languages (French/Japanese/ Irish)
Social Education
Science
Vocational Preperation & Guidance
Leisure & Recreation
Craft & Design
ICT

(Subjects to be confirmed in September 2019)

# The LCA Route Map.



# **Leaving Cert Established**

The majority of students sit the Leaving Certificate Established. Students opting for the Leaving Certificate Established (LCE) study seven subjects at Higher, Ordinary or Foundation level.

# Consider the following factors when choosing your subjects:

### ABILITY & APTITUDES

All students have different strengths - you might love Maths but not languages or perhaps you prefer more practical subjects. Consider your abilities in the different subjects and choose subjects in which you are likely to get good grades. You are also more likely to want to continue with these subjects when you leave school.

### INTEREST

Choose subjects that you are genuinely interested in as you are much more likely to study those subjects and do well in them.

# CAREER

In addition to the core subjects (Irish, English, Maths) there are other subjects that are essential for some courses and careers. It is important to check out these subject requirements with a Guidance Counsellor or the course provider and it is *your responsibility* to do this.

• Do not choose subjects based on what your friends are choosing - there is no guarantee you will be in the same classes. Similarly it is unwise to choose a subject solely because of who teaches it - again there is no guarantee you will have that teacher.

### TIPS FOR SUBJECT CHOICE





- Look at Subject Textbooks
- Seek advice of older pupils
- Talk to your Guidance Counsellor
- Talk to the Subject Teachers
- Consult with your Parents/Guardians
- Look up career websites (listed at back of this booklet), do some online interest tests- see careers portal, career directions, qualifax.
- Go to <a href="www.qualifax">www.qualifax</a> useful tools mininimum subject requirement leaving cert subjects to find out if a particular subject is required for third level courses. This tool is particularly useful when considering science and language subjects.
- Subject choice should not depend on rumours that suggest it is an easy option or a doss, what your friends are doing what teacher may or may not be teaching it. Avoid choosing a subject solely because your sibling, older relatives or friends studied the subject everyone has different interest, aptitudes and abilities.

# **Subjects Offered by Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed Secondary School:**

There are three subjects which are compulsory: Irish, English and Maths. Students must then choose a further *four subjects* from the following groupings:

Languages	<u>Laboratory</u> <u>Science</u>	Social Studies
French	Biology Physics Chemistry Ag Science	Geography History
<u>Business</u>	Applied Science /Technical	Artistic Group
Business	Construction Engineering Design & Communications Graphics Home Economics (S&S)	Art Music

# THIRD LANGUAGE:



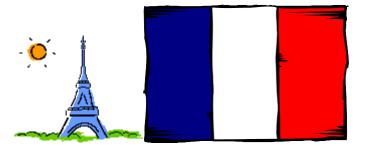
- UCC, NUI Galway, UCD, NUI Maynooth, Pontifical University of St Patrick's College Maynooth, St Angela's College Sligo and the Royal College of Surgeons require a pass in a third language for most of their courses. \*
- Other colleges have it as a requirement for certain courses that have a large language component. Eg: European Studies, Languages & Marketing, Hotel Management, Languages & International Tourism.
- Entry to the Cadetships in the Defence Forces requires a third Language.
- NCAD require a third language **or** Art
- Many science and engineering courses include the study of Technical French or German ab initio (from scratch).

# NO Third Language is required for:

- Trinity College, University of Limerick, D.C.U., and the Institutes of Technology unless it is a specific course requirement (a pass in Irish will suffice).
- Engineering & Science, Business, Law, Accounting, Finance in Maynooth University
- Engineering, Science & Ag Science in UCD (except for DN037- Biomedical, Health & Life Sciences)
- Engineering, Science & Food Science UCC
- Engineering & Science NUI Galway (except for GY304 Biotechnology)
- Gardai, Nursing, Apprenticeships and most PLC Courses

This information is correct in February 2018 but is subject to change - check with the course provider or your Guidance Counsellor.

# French:



French for Leaving Certificate builds on the knowledge of the language acquired for Junior Certificate. The aim is to improve students' skills in reading comprehension, aural comprehension, written and oral work.

There is a greater emphasis on oral work, as one of the components of the Leaving Certificate is an oral test accounting for 25% of the total marks. Course content for Higher and Ordinary levels is similar. However, oral and written skills are of particular importance at higher level. A grade 'C' at Higher Level in the Junior Certificate is the absolute minimum requirement for Higher Level French at Leaving Certificate.

The learning of a language can be achieved by steady work and is much helped by a period spent in France, if that is possible.

A motivated, hard-working student can acquire a high standard of spoken and written French in the 2/3 years of Senior Cycle.

A good knowledge of French allows one to avail of this option. Specific careers in which French would be of benefit include teaching, translation, interpreting, journalism, and media. There is a particular need for French speaking graduates in the I.T. sector at present.

Indeed, in all career areas employment prospects are much enhanced for graduates who have a good working knowledge of a European language especially in the post-Brexit era.

# THE SCIENCES



# Currently at least one science subject is required for entry to 203 CAO courses

If you are applying for anything in the Engineering, Medical, Nursing, Paramedical (Radiography, Physiotherapy, Human Nutrition/ Dietician, Pharmacy, Medical Laboratory, Podiatry, Veterinary Nursing etc) or Science areas at Universities you need to have a minimum grade O6/H7 in at least one Laboratory Science Subject.

Course requirements should be checked on an individual basis.

# Chemistry is required for:

- Human Nutrition and Biomedical Science DIT
- Dentistry UCC and Medicine UCC (plus either Physics or Biology)
- Veterinary Science UCD (Please note that applicants to this course will be required to demonstrate that they have acquired at least 2 weeks practical experience relevant to animal handling or veterinary practice).
- Pharmacy TCD, UCC, Royal College of Surgeons
- Medicine 5 year programme NUI Galway & RCSI

# **Biology** is required for:

- Genetics UCC
- Human Health & Disease TCD
- Strongly recommended for Veterinary Medicine in UCD.
- Very useful for P.E. teaching with Biology in D.C.U.
- Beautician

# **Physics** is required for:

- Theoretical Physics TCD
- Anyone considering courses in Engineering or Electronics would be encouraged to study Physics
- Electrician

# **Bonus Points for Higher Level Mathematics:**

Any student who achieves a grade H6 or higher will earn an extra 25 points in their Leaving Certificate. To calculate your points: FIRST add 25 points to the points achieved for your maths result, THEN select your best 6 subjects. Eg if you get a grade H5 (56points) in higher level maths, add 25 points giving you a total of 81 points

Foundation Level Maths is recognised by many colleges for matriculation purposes but not for points. A small number of courses allow points for Foundation Level Maths. Further information is available from college websites.

New for 2017: Any students who get a H7 (30-39%) in their Leaving Certificate will now receive 37 CAO points. Please note that bonus Points for Higher Level Math's cannot be added to a H7 grade in Math's.

# **Physics:**



# Topics covered include:

- Light/Sound
- Mechanics
- Temperature/Heat
- Electricity
- Magnetism
- Radioactivity
- Particle Physics or Applied Electricity for Honours candidates
- 24 Mandatory Experiments to complete.
- A student with good mathematical ability does well in Physics, as

problem- solving skills are needed.

Physics helps students with real life situations

How speed traps work,

Does the space shuttle orbit the earth? How does a motor work?

Why do diamonds sparkle?

Why is the follow through in golf and snooker important?

- A minimum of a C in Higher Level Junior Certificate Science and a D in Higher Level Maths is required for admission.
- Students must have a good aptitude for maths. Students who do honours maths in the Junior Certificate perform very well in Leaving Certificate physics.

Students who are interested in the following careers would be advised to study Physics: Electrician, Optician, Doctor, Dentist, Engineer, Computer Technician, Programmer.

# **Chemistry:**



### Course content includes:

- History of famous scientists and discoveries in Chemistry
- High detail on Periodic Table and Atom
- Lots of detailed but interesting and accurate chemical analysis
- Organic Chemistry will learn about chemicals in everyday life eg.
   Drugs, plastics, how the breathalyser works!
- Water Analysis

Ordinary Level covers most of the areas that are covered for Higher Level but is much simpler and contains far less calculations.

**Careers:** it is most useful for careers in Pharmacy, Ag Science, Medicine, Engineering, General Science and Biotechnology and those going into these faculties without it may find themselves at a disadvantage.

- A minimum of a C in Higher Level Junior Certificate Science is required for admission.
- Pay attention to course content at Junior Certificate Science as a lot of basics are taught here come with as good a background as possible.
- You must be reasonably good at problem solving
- In the Leaving Certificate exam the paper is quite predictable as you will have covered all the material in class

# **Agricultural Science:**



This is one of the fastest growing subjects on the curriculum and is the fastest growing science subject, with the numbers studying it increasing by over 500 a year.

The programme of study covers the following topics:

The rearing of animals, the growing of crops, soil types, genetics, ecology, animal and plant science.

Practical Work and Projects form an important part of the course and are assessed by the Department of Education and Skills and account for 25% of the final marks in the Leaving Certificate.

### Advice:

This is a good subject to study with Biology and / or Geography due to the overlap in course content.

Some experience of Farming/Gardening is desirable but not essential.

Students who apply themselves and are willing to work hard can do extremely well at this subject at Higher Level.

Agricultural Science is recognised as a laboratory science subject for almost all 3<sup>rd</sup> level courses including nursing – students should check science requirements on Qualifax. .

Careers in this area include: Greenkeeping, Horticulture, Food Science, Agricultural Advisers, Sports Turf Management, Environmental Science, Forestry, Farming, Marine Science, Teaching, Careers in Renewable Energy.

# **Biology:**



The course is divided into three main areas:

- The Study of Life
- The Cell
- The Organism

The Study of Life includes topics such as plant and animal nutrition, ecology and the study of ecosystems.

The cell includes cell structure, cell function, cell division and quite a large section on genetics and its recent applications

The organism includes Diversity of Living Organisms, cell types, cell organisation, plant systems and animal systems.

Within the course there are 22 Mandatory Practical's. Students must write up a report on these practical's and the Report Book must be available for inspection should a D.E.S. Inspector visit the school.

### Advice

- Students should be good attendees as there is only one opportunity to do these practicals
- Students should have an interest in living things, the environment and its conservation, fieldwork, biological issues and these modern applications.
- There is extensive vocabulary for students to become familiar with and learn accurately.
- Recording information and drawing diagrams is important.
- Biology should not be seen as the easiest of the Sciences at senior level. There is quite an amount of knowledge to learn and process.

### JUNIOR CERT BUSINESS BRANCHES INTO:

ACCOUNTING BUSINESS ECONOMICS

# **Business:**



### **Course Content**

The course is made up of three sections:

Section A

- People in Business
- Business Conflicts and their Resolutions

Section B

- Enterprise and the Management of Business Section C
- The Irish Business System, E.U. and International Business

# Requirements

It is not absolutely necessary to have studied Business Studies at Junior Certificate Level for admission into Leaving Certificate Business but it would be an advantage. It is essential to keep up to date with current affairs and the news.

# **Higher v Ordinary Level**

Course content for both levels is almost identical. The difference between the levels at Leaving Certificate lies in the exam paper where ordinary level questions require less information and the questions are also less complex.

# Careers

Business would be of great benefit to anyone considering a course in Business on completion of the Leaving Certificate. It is a useful subject for careers in areas such as Banking, Insurance, Administration, Marketing, Business Management and Human Resource Management. Business would be useful to anybody contemplating starting his or her own business in the future.

# **Advice**

Students do need to be informed before taking Business for Leaving Certificate that the course is largely theory based and therefore taking business for Leaving Certificate requires a great amount of learning. Having stated this, the material is very practical and interesting to someone of a business mind.

# Home Economics (Social & Scientific):



An applied subject combining theory with practical work, which enables students to take care of their lives at present and in the future, whether that be at home, in further education, in the world of work or other life situations.

# **Course Content**

- A. Food Studies 45%
- B. Resource Management & Consumer Studies 25%
- C. Social Studies 10%
- D. Elective 20%

### Elective choice:

- 1. Social Studies,
- 2. Textile, Fashion and Design,
- 3. Home Design and Management.
- Practical work is an integral component of this subject. During 5<sup>th</sup> Year students carry out practical
  and written assignments, which account for 20% of their result at Leaving Certificate.
- There is a significant amount of theory to be covered which requires commitment and concentration.
- Having stated this, the material is practical.
- It is expected that students choosing to study Home Economics at Leaving Certificate level will have completed the Junior Certificate course.

**Level Difference**: The syllabus for this course has been designed as a common syllabus for both levels. Some material is designated Higher Level only. This material is an extension of ordinary level. Higher level students will be expected to demonstrate a greater depth of understanding of concepts, processes and principles and a greater degree of proficiency in skills, both practical and procedural.

**Assessment:** A terminal written exam and assessment of assignments.

There is no practical cookery examination for the Leaving Certificate.

# Why choose Home Economics?

It is a subject for both genders which provides learning for life. It also provides a learning foundation for careers in the food industry, tourism, clothing & design, health & social services, interior design & education.

# Art, Craft and Design.



# **Course Content:**

Whilst lessons are mainly practical in nature, developing skills in observational drawing, painting and craftwork options, there is also an art history and appreciation element covered each week, usually one/two class periods. Written assignments in preparation for the history and appreciation examination at the end of the two year period

are required, with at least one visit to galleries/museums in fifth or sixth year.

### **Examinations and Levels:**

Examinations may be taken in Higher or Ordinary Level in each of the following areas:

- Imaginative Composition or Still Life 25%
- Design or Craftwork 25%
- Figure/Life Drawing 13%
- Art History and Appreciation 37%

While the course content is the same for both levels, Higher Level students must show evidence of more elaborate expression through written and practical examinations.

# **Transition from Junior Certificate Art, Craft and Design:**

It is expected that students choosing to study Art, Craft and Design at Leaving Certificate level will have completed the Junior Certificate course. Significant differences will be experienced, most notably the change from working with a theme based project (Junior Certificate) to a time restricted examination (Leaving Certificate)

# Note re Revision to Assessment Arrangements for Leaving Certificate Art (for first examination in 2018)

Revised arrangements are being put in place for students entering Leaving Certificate Year 1 in September 2016 and taking their examinations in 2018 and thereafter. The revision to the practical components will include execution of the Imaginative Composition or Still Life component and the Craft or Design component as coursework in schools over an extended period of 10 weeks therefore students should be good attendees as there is only one opportunity to do these practical's.

# **Career Options:**

Art is beneficial for: animation, art historian, art teaching, art therapist, archaeology, architecture, computer design, industrial design, fashion/costume design, craftwork, curator, graphic design (Visual Communications), interior design, illustration, photography.......

A portfolio of artwork may be required for entry into some college/university courses. Students who intend to apply to colleges of art and design should aim to have some of their portfolio completed in fifth year.

# Music:



### **Course Content**

There are three compulsory sections in the course:

- Listening (25%)
- Composing (25%)
- Performing (25%) (please note that voice is also an instrument)

For the final 25% students may choose between **Performance** or Music Technology

# Requirements for admission:

Ideally, students should have studied this subject at JC Level. However if a student is extremely good on the performance side, it is worth their while learning to read music as they will be able to handle the composing and harmony section.

### Levels

All students study the same course and the only difference between levels is the difficulty of the questions. Ordinary level students perform fewer pieces for their practical exam.

### **Careers**

Music is useful for Primary Teaching, Second Level Teaching, Sound Technician, and any area of the Music Business, performing or production.

### **Advice**

If a student plays an instrument or instruments they would be advised to take this subject as the practical performance can be worth 50% of the leaving cert exam. This goes for classically trained musicians, members of rock bands, brass bands, pipe bands and singers of any sort. Learning to read music is not a long or painful process.

Guitarists find the harmony section very easy as they are simply choosing chords to put with a melody.

# Geography:



Geography involves the study of the Earth, its environment, its people and their relationship with the world in which they live. It is a subject which helps you to have a broader view of the world.

Geography is a useful subject for students considering further study or careers in Tourism, Transport, Travel, Environmental Science and Politics. Students who study Geography at third level can also go on to take up careers in Town Planning, Surveying, Weather Forecasting, Map-making and Environmental Assessment.

# **Subject Content:**

The Geography Course at Leaving Certificate is divided into a number of different units.

# **Core Units:**

There are 3 *Core* or *Compulsory* units which must be studied by all students both Higher and Ordinary level.

- 1. Patterns and Processes in the Physical Environment eg earthquakes, volcanoes, rivers.
- 2. Regional Geography. Students study different regions of the world, eg. South of Italy and Paris Basin, India.
- 3. Geographical Investigation
  All students must complete a fieldwork project which must be submitted by the April of their
  Leaving Certificate exam. This project is worth 20% of the final examination.

# **Elective Units:**

All students, both Higher and Ordinary level, study **one** of these units.

- 4. Patterns and Processes in Economic Activities.
- 5. Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment. eg population, migration.

Note: We usually study: Patterns and Processes in the Human Environment

# Optional Units: Higher level only.

- 6. Global Interdependence
- 7. Geoecology eg soils, desert biome
- 8. Culture and Identity
- 9. The Atmosphere-ocean environment eg weather.

Note: We usually study: Geoecology eg soils, desert biome

Students are encouraged to improve their ability to gather information (from map- reading, statistics, charts), present information (using diagrams, maps and writing), and evaluate information (separate fact from fiction, make informed judgements, propose sensible solutions to problems). These skills are particularly important in the Geographical Investigation.

# **Exam Structure:**

Leaving Certificate Geography is assessed at Ordinary and Higher level by:

- Written examination (80%)
- Geographical Investigation (20%) Requirements:

Students considering Geography at Leaving Certificate must have studied Geography to Junior Certificate Exam level. Students are advised that a good standard of English is necessary for Higher Level.

# **History**



The Leaving Certificate History syllabus was recently revised and now consists of 5 topics, each worth 20% of the overall mark. This framework is common to both Higher and Ordinary Level but the content matter differs for each level.

Two topics are taken from Irish history and two from international events. Popular courses include 'The United States and the World' in which students learn about key events in American history from 1945 to 1990.

Divided into political, social/economic and cultural, the contents vary from President Johnson's escalation of the war in Vietnam, the Civil Rights movement under Martin Luther King to the developments in technology that led to the Moon Landing. Other core material includes an investigation into the growth of the 'movie mogul' system in Hollywood and the economic boom in the United States directly after World War II.

The second 'International Topic' can be chosen from: Dictatorship and Democracy; a study of European events between the two world wars; Division and Realignment, a delve into the highlights of the Cold War between 1945 and 1989 and Withdrawal from Empire, investigating key areas such as independence for India and race relations in France during the 1980s.

There is also an excellent and varied list of topics in Irish history from which to choose. The most popular area is the Pursuit of Sovereignty which analyses the movement for independence in Ireland or an investigation into the history of Northern Ireland during the Troubles. Another topic available is an in-depth study of events in the Republic of Ireland between 1950 and 1990; this includes a social element analysing the effect of TV in Ireland during the 1960s as well as movements for social change such as divorce and the women's movement during the 1980s.

The fifth topic for Leaving Cert History is called the Research Study Report & is a compulsory component. Students do their own project, on a person, movement or historical phenomenon they are interested in. Students' research project reports can deal with political history, military (such as a significant battle), social (a person's work for a particular organisation), economic, local.....There are opportunities here for students to choose a subject of personal interest.

For Higher Level students the Research Study Report should be between 1,200 and 1,500 words; for Ordinary Level students the Report needs to be between 600 and 800 words. This Report is submitted before the exam, thus having the chance to gain up to 20% of the overall mark before sitting the terminal exam.

Studying History will sharpen your communication skills. You will learn the importance of supporting your argument or point of view with relevant evidence. You will encounter a variety of types of sources when

you study history, such as maps, political cartoons, memoirs, public records and photographs. History develops an ability to think independently without jumping to unsupported conclusions.

Employers tend to look for people who are independent thinkers, open-minded, disciplined, good at problem solving and able to pick out the essential from the trivial. 'Which?' magazine in the UK has written: 'History is an excellent preparation for many, many jobs' – the Arts, journalism, web-based research, museums, tourism, local and national government, broadcasting companies, banking, teaching, and many more.

Students at Higher Level study the topics in more detail than Ordinary Level. At Ordinary Level the exam is comprised of short questions from the core 'case studies' in each topic; the Higher Level exam demands longer, more analytical answers.

However all students will learn about people, countries and cultures and how to separate fact from fiction. Students will come to a better understanding of the world we live in, and will sharpen their writing and research skills.

Studying History for Leaving Cert, whether Higher or Ordinary Level, will give students an understanding and appreciation of the society in which they live. It will also foster an awareness of one's own historical inheritance and one will gain insights into your own identity and tradition. Furthermore, the internet is a valuable tool to the historian; ICT sources are numerous and help make History relevant to modern life and the workplace of the twenty-first century.



# **Construction Studies:**



Construction Studies offers students an opportunity to experience a broad variety of skills through project work and a practical exam. Students taking the Higher Level paper are also challenged on a wide range of interesting, relevant and current topics associated with sustainable residential architecture. Students, parents / guardians are invited to discuss queries with any of the subject teachers. Past exam papers are available for viewing on the State Examinations web site. (www.examinations.ie)

### Allocation of marks:

- Theory paper 50%
- Project 25%
- Woodwork practical exam 25% (4 hours)

**Topics studied include**: Irelands historic buildings; Appreciation & conservation of architecture; Rural & urban planning; Principles of passive house design; Sustainable building design; Universal design principles in contemporary residential architecture; Super insulated buildings; Air tightness; Mechanical ventilation & heat recovery systems; Energy conservation; High performance windows; Zoned heating systems; Geothermal heating; Embodied energy values of building materials; Carbon neutral buildings; Water conservation & rain water harvesting systems; Renewable energies

- wind turbines, solar panels; .....

**Theory exam:** Higher level (3hours); Ordinary level (2 ½hours)

Answer five questions out of ten. Q1 is the only compulsory question and students are required to draw a particular building design detail to a given scale. The drawing skills required for this question are thoroughly practiced during the two years of senior cycle

**Project:** Students choose the type of project they would like to undertake. Projects must be relevant to the construction industry and completed under the supervision of the teacher in the school. *Examples of Craft type projects* - Items of furniture incorporating at least any two (or more) of the following: joinery, woodturning, veneering/marquetry, laminating or wood carving. *Examples of architectural models* 

- Vernacular buildings – historic or contemporary, Tower houses, Public buildings, Religious / monastic buildings, Round towers, etc. *Examples of New technologies and building science projects* - Geo Thermal heating, Solar panels, Passive house foundation design, etc. 3D computer software programmes are available to students for all course work.

**Woodwork practical exam:** (4hours). This exam takes place in May of sixth year and those students who have not taken woodwork at Junior Certificate are well practiced in the skills and techniques required throughout the two years of senior cycle.

# **Engineering:**



Introduction: Engineering is the Leaving Certificate subject which continues from Junior Certificate metalwork. It has three elements to its examination: (A) A twelve week design and make project in the final year which accounts for 25% of the total grade. (B) A six hour examination in May of the final year which accounts for 25% of the total grade (C) A three hour theory examination in June of the final year which accounts for the remaining 50% of the total grade.

# **Course Content:**

The content of Engineering is split between a practical (hands on experience) element and a theory (written knowledge) element.

Students who take Engineering will be expected, over a period of two years, to complete practical projects which include the use of hand tools and electrical machinery. They will be required to fine-tune these skills to enable them to complete their exam project and six hour practical (assembly) exam. Students will use machines such as: Drilling; Milling, Lathes, Band Saws, Various Welding procedures and computer aided machinery.

Students will also be expected to design for themselves various parts of any projects they undertake. This will be of extreme benefit to them in designing their final year examination project (25%). The main headings of the theory aspect are as follows: (A) Metals (B) plastics (C) materials testing

- (D) welding (E) machining techniques (F) alloy technology
- (G) mechanisms and electronics.

# Requirements for admission to this subject:

It is almost essential that any student taking a subject for the Leaving Certificate has taken the equivalent Junior Certificate subject (Metalwork in this instance). It is also advisable that they have taken technical graphics or at least one of the following to Junior Certificate level: technology or woodwork. The reason for this is that some aspects of these subjects overlap. Students will find the transition much easier if they have done well in Junior Certificate Metalwork.

# Differences between higher and ordinary levels:

Both levels are quite similar in that the student is required to do each of the three aspects of the examination (Project, Practical, and Theory). The practical examination is identical for both levels. However the project and the written exams are less difficult for ordinary level. Having said this, most students opt for the higher level as 50% of the exam is carried out under the supervision of the teacher.

# **Career Options:**

Engineering is useful for the following careers which do not require a 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Degree but do require an apprenticeship or equivalent:

Mechanic, panel beater, sheet metal worker/ fabricator, welder, fitter, turner, plumber, electrician, steel fixer etc.....

Engineering is useful for the following careers which do require a 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Degree: Engineering teacher, mechanical engineer, electrical/ electronic engineer, structural/ civil engineering, marine engineer, computer aided manufacture, architecture, designer etc....

# **Design and Communication Graphics (DCG) (formerly Technical Graphics)**

# Who should study DCG?

- Any student with an interest in construction or engineering.
- Any student who has studied Technical Graphics for Junior Certificate
- Any student with a flair for mathematics and problem solving who would challenging and rewarding subject.
- Any student who likes freehand sketching and computers including Computer Graphics using Computer Aided Design such as SolidWorks to complete student project.



- The class takes place in a designated DCG room. All course work is drawn by the student using drawing instruments and freehand sketching.
- Over the 2 years the student will compile a portfolio of drawings covering a broad variety of topics. The main areas of study are: Plane and Descriptive Geometry, Communication of Design and Computer Graphics, and Applied Graphics.
- Neatness and attention to detail are desirable attributes for any student wishing to succeed at this subject.

# What career options are there?

DCG is a core element of many 3<sup>rd</sup> level options i.e. Engineering, Construction, Industrial Design and Architecture. Knowledge of DCG will greatly enhance a student's ability to succeed in any 3<sup>rd</sup> level engineering based programme.

Some apprenticeships include the study and completion of detailed technical drawings. Again the studying of DCG to leaving cert standard is a distinct advantage.

# Is it difficult?

The subject requires good levels of concentration and commitment. You will work on your problem solving and creative thinking skills as you have to use 2D and 3D graphics.

### Exam:

DCG is assessed at two levels, Ordinary level and Higher level, by means of two assessment components: a student project, of which SolidWorks forms a significant and compulsory element, and an examination paper.

One Exam Paper worth 60%

A Student Project worth 40%

The exam is 3 hours long

**Careers:** Useful for careers in engineering, construction, interior design, architecture and all apprenticeships.



# **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme:**

# What is it?

LCVP, introduced by the Department of Education & Skills, consists of Link Modules. It deals with Enterprise and Preparation for the world of work.

# Why do it?

- To improve interpersonal, vocational and technological skills
- To learn how to run an enterprise
- To conduct a Curriculum Vitae, Career Investigation and Summary Report
- To gain up to 66 points in the Leaving Certificate

# Skills learned and/or developed include:

- Communication
- Research
- Teamwork
- Information Technology
- Problem solving
- Innovation
- Evaluation
- Self-confidence

### Students will:

Arrange visits into and out of school to businesses, financial institutions and/or vocational organizations Run a business or a fundraising event

Word process all documents, send and receive e-mails, conduct on-line research

Prepare for interview

Do work experience or work shadowing

### **Programme Requirements**

At least five Leaving Certificate subjects, one of which must be Irish

Two of the above subjects must be selected from one of the designated Vocational

Subject Groupings (see page 21)

Two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education

A recognised course in a Modern European Language other than Irish or English:

What is a recognised Modern European language course for LCVP students?

The school has the discretion in this case – there are various options open to students.

They can take a language at Junior Certificate level or they can follow one of the FETAC language modules or the language teacher can devise a school programme in the language.

Students must take the language class for a minimum of one class period per week or equivalent over the two years of the programme within school time.

# Vocational Subject Groupings (VSGs) 2018/2019 Specialist Groupings

- 1 Construction Studies; Engineering; Design and Communication Graphics; Technology Any Two
- 2 Physics and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design & Communication Graphics
- 3 Agricultural Science and Construction Studies or Engineering or Technology or Design &

**Communication Graphics** 

- 4 Agricultural Science and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
- 5 Home Economics; Agricultural Science; Biology Any Two
- 6 Home Economics and Art Design Option or Craft Option
- 7 Accounting; Business; Economics Any two
- 8 Physics and Chemistry
- 9 Biology and Chemistry or Physics or Physics/Chemistry
- 10 Biology and Agricultural Science
- 11 Art Design Option or Craft Option and Design & Communication Graphics

# **Services Groupings**

- 12 Engineering or Technology or Construction Studies or Design & Communication Graphics and Accounting or Business or Economics
- 13 Home Economics and Accounting or Business or Economics
- 14 Agricultural Science and Accounting or Business or Economics
- 15 Art Design or Craftwork Option and Accounting or Business or Economics
- 16 Music and Accounting or Business or Economics

# **Assessment of the Link Modules:**

LCVP students follow the same subject syllabi and are assessed in the same way as their peers in the Leaving Certificate. For the Link Modules they are assessed by Written Examination (40%) and by Portfolio of Coursework (60%).

- 1. Portfolio: 60% (6 Documents see below)
- 2. Written Exam: 40% (2.5 hour Exam in early May of Leaving Certificate)
- 3. Exam Structure:
  - a) Audio Visual
  - b) Case Study
  - c) 4 out of 6 General Questions

### Portfolio:

The Portfolio of Coursework accounts for 60% of total marks. Students assemble the portfolio over the two years of the programme and it is assessed at the end of the final year of the Leaving Certificate.

Core Items: Curriculum Vitae Optional items: Work Diary

Career Investigation (select 2) Enterprise Report
Summary Report Recorded Interview

Action Plan Report on My Own Place

# Certification:

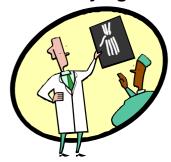
LCVP students receive the same certificate as other Leaving Certificate students but their Certificate includes an additional statement of the results of the Link Modules.

Grades for the Link Modules are as follows:

Grade:	Per cent	Universities & Institutes of
Distinctio	80% 100%	66 Points
Merit	65%-79%	46 Points
Pass	50%-64%	28 Points

# Information for students who are interested in studying medicine:





Applicants to medicine must sit the HPAT (aptitude test). Check out <a href="www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au">www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au</a> for HPAT practice questions and tips. Register for the HPAT-Ireland online at ACER's website: <a href="www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au">www.hpat-ireland.acer.edu.au</a> Registrations for HPAT-Ireland open in early November and must be submitted online by 17:15 GMT on 20th January each year.

The application fee is €135.00 (reduced application fee may be available).

Late registrations will be accepted until 5.15pm GMT on 1 February on payment of a late fee of €70 in addition to the registration fee.

**Note:** In addition to an application to ACER, students must first apply to the Central Applications Office (CAO) <a href="https://www.cao.ie">www.cao.ie</a> to complete the HPAT-Ireland test.

The HPAT-Ireland is usually held in February / March. The results will be released in late June.

The HPAT-Ireland is usually offered in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Sligo and Waterford.

**HPAT-Ireland** measures a candidate's logical reasoning and problem solving skills, non-verbal reasoning aptitude and the ability to understand the thoughts, behaviour and/or intentions of people. The test results complement the Leaving Certificate Examination in selecting applicants for admission into an undergraduate medical school programme.

**Format of the HPAT-Ireland** The HPAT-Ireland test is a 2½ hour paper-based test consisting of three modules or sections:

- **Section 1 (40%):** tests your *logical reasoning and problem solving skills*. Some questions test your logical and critical thinking skills. Other questions test your ability to solve problems and interpret data. Overall, this section is designed to test how fast you can interpret information and your ability to think in various ways.
- **Section 2 (40%):** tests your ability to *understand people*. You will be given various passages or scenarios describing people and interactions between people. You will need to empathise (put yourself in another person's shoes), and understand what they might be thinking or feeling. You may also be asked to explain why a person behaves the way they do,
- **Section 3 (20%):** tests your non-verbal reasoning. This involves finding patterns and trends in a sequence or block of pictures. It tests your ability to think non-verbally.

All questions are in a multiple choice format with 4 or 5 possible responses. The maximum overall score a candidate can receive is 300. An overall percentile rank is also given. This indicates how well a student has performed against other HPAT- Ireland candidates.

In order for school leavers to be eligible to compete for entry to undergraduate medicine in 2018, they must:

- 1. achieve a minimum of 480 points and
- 2. meet the minimum entry requirements for each Medical School for which you have applied and
- 3. complete the required admissions test (HPAT-Ireland) in 2018.

Criteria 1 and 2 above must both be met in the same sitting of the Irish Leaving Certificate Examination, or equivalent

Pre 2018 Leaving Certificate results may be presented but the HPAT must be presented in the year of entry. See Table 1

for details of requirements for each medical programme.

# **Explanation of CAO points for entry to Medicine:**

Normal Leaving Certificate	Adjusted Leaving Certificate Points before	
Points	the HPAT score is added	
551-555	551	
556-560	552	
561-565	553	
566-570	554	
571-575	555	
576-580	556	
581-585	557	
586-590	558	
591-595	559	
596-600	560	
601-605	561	
606-610	562	
611-615	563	
616-620	564	
621-625	565	

Maximum HPAT score is 300.

Therefore maximum possible score for medicine applicants is 865.

# 2017 Minimum Points for Medicine (Leaving Certificate points & HPAT combined)

CAO Code	Minimum Entry Level
CK701 (UCC)	730
DN400 (UCD)	734
GY501 (NUI Galway)	724*
RC001 (Royal College of Surgeons)	728*
TR051 (Trinity)	731*

<sup>\*</sup> Not all on these points score were offered places. Random Selection applied.

# **Information on Post Leaving Certificate Options:**



When you leave school there are many different options open to you, ranging from apprenticeship training to P.L.C. courses to Honours Degree programmes. Under the National Qualifications Framework students can study for level 5,6,7 or 8 qualifications. Here at Colaiste Mhuire we have many options that may be of interest.

# Level 5:

One year Post Leaving Cert courses.

Available in many Second Level schools and colleges around the country. Can lead on to level 6 courses in Further Education and or Institutes of Technology

### Level 6:

Two year Higher Certificate Courses available in the Institutes of Technology. Can lead on to Level 7 and 8 courses in the same field.

### Level 7:

Three year Ordinary Degrees available in the Institutes of Technology. Can lead on to Level 8 Honours Degree courses in the same field and or Universities.

### Level 8:

Three or four year (with some exceptions such as medicine) Honours Degrees available in all of the Universities and the Institutes of Technology.

Having completed Level 8 students can continue on to Level 9 (Postgraduate / Masters) and Level 10 (Doctorate)

# **Higher Education Link Scheme.**

Progression to Universities and other Colleges from QQI programmes delivered here at Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed is possible through the Higher Education Links Scheme (HELS). This Scheme provides access to Level 5 and some Level 6 Advanced Certificates to a number of reserved places on higher education programmes through the CAO (Central Applications Office). WIT provides a number of reserved places for all QQI Programmes in Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed -conditions apply. Learners successfully completing QQI Certificate Level 5 with CMCO will be offered entry to WIT programmes based on this collaboration agreement. Learners who achieve a major award at level 5, and apply through CAO for a programme of study at WIT, are guaranteed access to any Level 6 or Level 7 programme. Learners who complete Advanced Certification Level 6 with CMCO may apply for advanced entry straight into second year for linked programmes. This is a Pilot scheme and will be reviewed annually. The skills acquired while pursuing our courses provide an excellent foundation for third level independent learning, research, multimedia presentations, communications and I.T Skills etc. All of these are invaluable for any prospective Third Level student.

Remember: it is *your* responsibility to check course requirements!

### Universities

- University College Dublin
- Dublin City University now incorporating Church of Ireland College of Education (Primary teacher training, Mater Dei Institute of Education (second level teacher training) & St Patrick's College, Drumcondra (primary teacher training & arts)
- Trinity College Dublin
- Maynooth University now incorporating Frobel College (primary teacher training)
- University of Limerick
- University College Cork
- NUI Galway

# Institutes of Technology:

- Athlone Institute of Technology
- Cork Institute of Technology
- Dublin Institute of Technology
- Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Dunlaoghaire Institute of Art Design and Technology
- Galway Mayo Institute of Technology
- Institute of Technology Blanchardstown
- Institute of Technology Carlow & Wexford
- Institute of Technology Tallaght
- Institute of Technology Tralee
- Letterkenny Institute of Technology
- Limerick Institute of Technology
- Limerick Institute of Technology, Thurles, Clonmel,.
- Sligo Institute of Technology
- Waterford Institute of Technology

# Smaller, specialized colleges and private colleges:

- All Hallows College (fees apply for some courses)
- American College Dublin (private-fees apply)
- Carlow College
- College of Computer Training (private-fees apply)
- Dorset College (private-fees apply)
- Dublin Business School (private-fees apply)
- Dunlaoghaire Institute of Art, Design & Technology
- Galway Business School (private-fees apply)
- Grafton College of Management Sciences (private-fees apply)
- Griffith College Cork, Dublin & Limerick (private-fees apply)
- IBAT College (private-fees apply)
- ICD Business School (private-fees apply)
- Independent Colleges Dublin (private-fees apply)
- Irish College of Humanities & Applied Health Sciences, Limerick (private-fees apply)
- Marino Institute of Education (primary teacher training)
- Mary Immaculate College, Limerick (primary teacher training & arts)
- National College of Art & Design
- National College of Ireland
- Pontifical University, Maynooth (theology)
- Portobello Institute (private-fees apply)
- Royal College of Surgeons (Medicine, Physiotherapy & Pharmacy)
- Shannon College of Hotel Management
- St. Angela's College, Sligo (home economics teaching, nursing, food, textiles)
- St Nicholas Montessori College (private-fees apply)

See www.cao.ie for contact details of all the colleges listed above as well as the 1300 courses on offer and the point's requirements from previous years.

Central Applications Office (C.A.O) Students can apply for courses in all of the colleges listed above through the C.A.O. from November- January of their Leaving Certificate Year. Students applying to medicine should register with the CAO in early November in order to secure a suitable location for the HPAT exam which takes place in February or March.

# Leaving Certificate Points calculated as follows:

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	02	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	04	28
H5	56	50-59%	<i>O</i> 5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	07	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

# L.C.V.P

Result:	Points
Distinction	66
Merit	46
Pass	28

Students wishing to apply for Level 5 P.L.C. Courses apply directly to the Course Provider from December of their Leaving Cert year- each college has different application dates so check the websites or ask your Guidance Counsellor for further details.



If you have any queries relating to subject choice or study skills you should see the Guidance Counsellor. All students will have access to a Guidance Counsellor in 6th Year and will have weekly Careers Classes as well as one to one meetings with their Guidance Counsellor throughout 5th Year.

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# **Useful Websites:**



www.cao.ie (points information & links to Irish college websites)

www.qualifax.ie (general careers website-lists all courses)

www.cursa.ie (personality test to link to CAO courses)

www.unibrowse.ie (CAO course search, compares courses)

www.ucas.co.uk (links to British college websites)

www.nursingboard.ie (nursing courses)

www.apprentices.ie (apprenticeship information and links to websites with further information)

www.military.ie (military career information)

www.garda.ie (careers in An Garda Siochana)

www.scoilnet.ie (educational website)

www.teagasc.ie (agricultural courses)

www.careersportal.ie (careers website, information on employment trends)

www.examinations.ie. (link to examination papers and marking schemes)

www.publicjobs.ie (recruitment site, aptitude tests)

www.learnabroad.ie (information on studying in the EU & further afield)

www.eunicas.ie (European Universal Central Application Support Service-apply to up to 8 universities- study through English)

www.accesscollege.ie(information on HEAR & DARE routes-see below)

www.chooseit.ie (information on careers in IT)

www.smartfutures.ie (information on careers in the ICT sector)

www.studentfinance.ie (information on grants- SUSI)

www.careersnews.ie (daily careers updates)

www.skillsireland.ie (future skills needs)

www.studyclix.ie (learning website- covers all junior & leaving cert subjects)

www.examtime.com (learning website- study techniques and resources)

# Additional points to note:

- If you are considering studying ART at third Level you should work on your Portfolio in 5th year.
- Students who are applying for courses requiring an interview as part of the application process (eg PLC courses, UCAS courses) should seek work experience in that area of study during 5th Year
- If you need help ASK for help your parents, teachers and guidance Counsellor are here to help you.
- Look after your mind. If you are feeling anxious or stressed out try the following websites and Apps: Insight Timer (free guided meditation)

Headspace

Smiling mind

Spunout

Reachout

# **Additional Information for Students**

# **HEAR, DARE and Supplementary Access Routes:**

The **Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)** is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

The **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)** is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities. DARE has been set up by a number of colleges and universities as evidence shows that disability can have a negative effect on how well a student does at school and whether they go on to college. See www.accesscollege.ie for more details.

NOTE: all of the Universities and some of the Institute of Technology are part of the HEAR and DARE Schemes. Other colleges offer supplementary access routes for students with disabilities and economically disadvantaged students. Entry on reduced points and financial assistance are offered. Check with the Guidance Counsellor or contact the admissions officer at the college directly for further information.



Garda Vetting: An ever increasing number of courses at Third Level have introduced Garda Vetting as part of their entry criteria.

# **Subject Choice in the Leaving Cert Established**

When it comes to making subject choices it is important to get advice and to choose wisely.

# Keep these points in mind as you explore the various subjects on offer;

- There are certain subjects that are essential for entry into particular courses, colleges and careers; information regarding these entry requirements is available from college prospectuses and websites.
- Points for third level courses are calculated on your best six subjects.
- In terms of entry to third level colleges almost all subjects count equally for points.
- It is important that you enjoy what you are studying, always be true to your interests when making your subject choice.

# Subject choice should not depend on...

- Rumours that suggest it is an easy option or a doss
- What your friends are doing
- What teacher may or may not be teaching it

# **Subject Choice form**

Subject choice will be completed online, however this template gives you an indication of compulsory subjects and choice subjects.

1	Irish	
2	English	
3	Maths	
4	Religion	
5	Games/PE	
6	LCVP in 5 <sup>th</sup> Yr	
PLEASE	NUMBER FROM 1-4 YOU	R SUBJECT PREFERENCE
FOR FIR	TH YEAR	
1	Biology	
2	Business	
3	Home Economics	
4	Construction Studies	
5	Engineering	
6	Design &	
	Communication	
	Graphics	
7	Art	
8	Music	
9	History	
10	Geography	
11	Physics	
12	Chemistry	
13	Agricultural Science	
14	French	

While every effort will be made to provide the requested subject choice, this cannot be guaranteed.

Classes will be formed based on demand and resources.

It is important to discuss subject choice with your parents/guardians before making a final decision.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should feel free to contact the Guidance Counsellor/ Deputy Principal at (0504) 21734 if assistance is required with subject choices.

# **Final Checklist**

1	Have I explored all three programmes on offer?	Υ	N
2	Have I chosen the best senior programme for me?	Y	N

# 5th Year

1	Have I maximised my options for third level?	Y	N
2	Do I have the essential requirements for courses that I have an interest in?	Υ	N
3	Have I investigated what each subject will involve at senior cycle?	Υ	N
4	Have I chosen subjects that I will enjoy and that I have the potential to do well in?	Y	N