



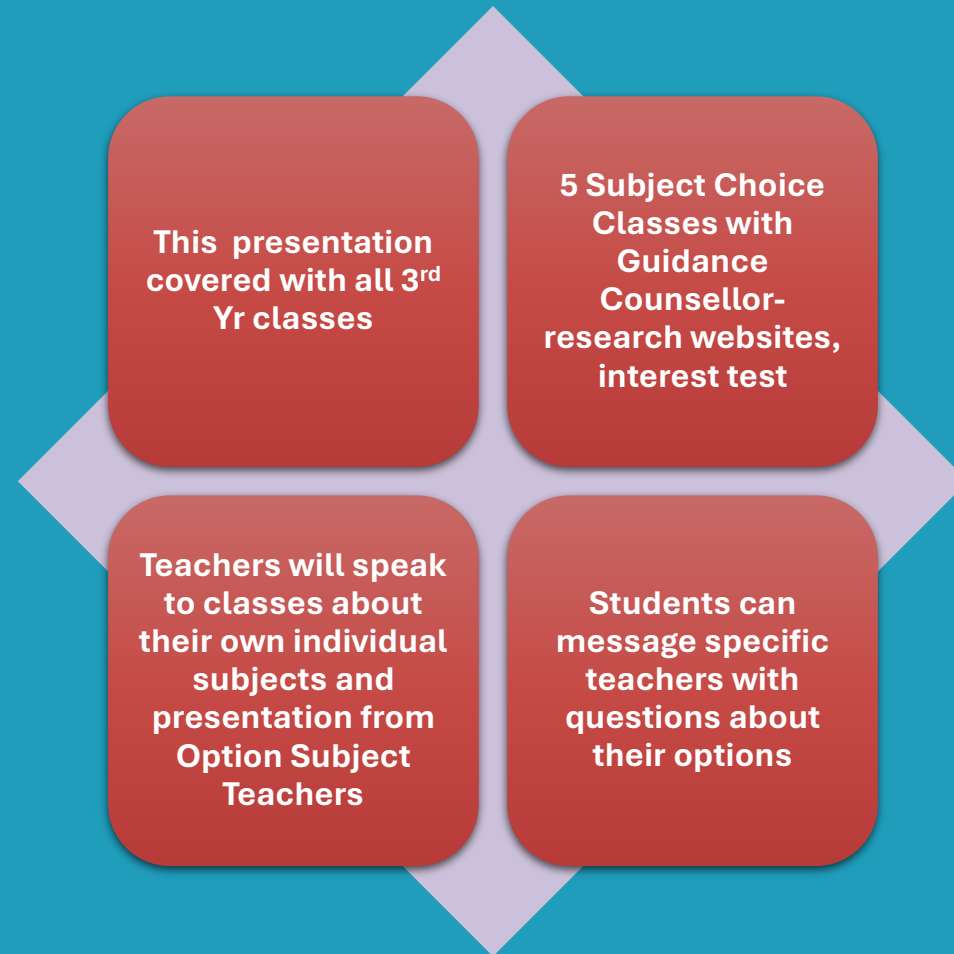
Welcome

Senior subject and programs choice
Parents/guardians evening
2025

Subject Choice for LC Established



The Subject Choice Process



Subject Choice Classes covering:



Overview of subjects that are on offer and what might need them for



Learn to use websites such as Careersportal and Qualifax



Research skills so students can investigate subject requirements for specific college courses.



An Interest Test to give a general indication of career areas of interest

Subject Choice Procedure:

- **A Subject Choice Information Pack** will be uploaded to Teams with an Information Sheet on each subject and the names of teachers to contact for each subject if the student has further questions
- Mr. Quealy will talk to all 3rd years about TY and LCA
- All Third Year sat the **CAT4 Aptitude Tests**

CAT4 & Subject Choice

- CAT4 data is a useful tool in Subject Choice
- Take note of the student's strongest ability
- Will receive an individual report and predicted grades for some subjects
- Verbal Reasoning & Spatial abilities form the basis for this

CAT4 Reports:

- Gives a graph of where the student's strengths and weaknesses lie
- Gives insight into what kind of learner the student is
- Profiles are expressed as:
 - Mild/moderate or extreme bias
 - Most students have *no* discernible bias.

CAT4 Results:

- Will meet Ms.Fitzpatrick individually to receive CAT4 Report
- However, this is a brief meeting must do own research before and after this meeting

Subject Choice Process:



Forms need to be filled in by 3rd of April



Students need to give Subject Choice a lot of thought and consideration over this next month

What are the options after Junior Certificate?

Transition Year?

**Leaving Cert
Applied?**

**Leaving
Certificate
Established?**

Whether or not the student is considering TY or LCA...

- **Must still fill in Option Subject Form**
- **No guarantee the student will get either TY or LCA therefore still give Options significant consideration**

Important Considerations:

- the student interest in the subject
- the student ability in the subject
- the student future career aspirations

Starting the Subject Choice Journey

General Advice:

- **Get hands on subject text books / past papers to review the course content.**
- **www.examinations.ie**
- **Speak to current students about the course**
- **Speak to the specific option subject teachers**
- **Think seriously about the type of learner the student are.**

Core Subjects

- **Every student has to take:**

- **English**

- **Irish (unless exempt)**

- **Maths**

PLUS

- **3/4 Option Subjects depending on whether the student takes French/German**

- **Every 5th year student takes LCVP and decides in 6th year whether wants to keep it or not**

17 Option Subjects to choose from:

- History
- Geography
- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- DCG
- Art
- Music
- LCPE
- French/German
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Agricultural Science
- Applied Maths
- Business
- Accounting
- Home Ec

Please note...



All options are open to all students regardless of what options the student studied for Junior Certificate



Some subjects are considered more difficult to pick up without the Junior Cert foundation, but it *is* possible to pick them as new options

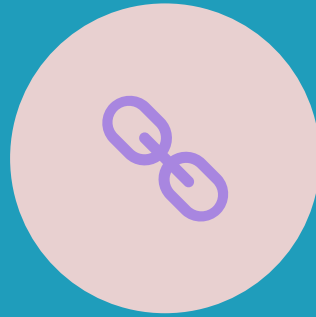


Discuss with the teacher first before the student choose a totally new option

3 Important Things to Understand when undertaking Subject Choice:



**1. MATRICULATION AND
SUBJECT
REQUIREMENTS**



2. THE POINTS SYSTEM



3. CAREER CHOICES

❖ Matriculation



Matriculation is to meet the basic entry requirements for a college or course.



To get a place in college the CAO (College Applications Office) first checks the student are doing the correct subjects and **THEN** they consider the points the student got.

Matriculation different in different categories of Third Level colleges:

- **Universities** e.g. UL, Uni of Galway, TCD
- **Technological Universities** – formally known as ITs. Many of the ITs have amalgamated together to form Technological Universities e.g. LIT and AIT
- **Colleges** e.g. Mary I

Traditional Universities in Ireland

- UL
- University of Galway
- UCC
- UCD
- DCU
- TCD
- Maynooth University
- *2 in Northern Ireland: Queen's University, Belfast and University of Ulster – NOT in the Irish system must apply to the UK system called*

NUI's

- **NUI's (Uni of Galway, Maynooth University, UCD, UCC, St. Angela's Sligo, Shannon College of Hotel Management)**

Basic Matriculation:



Maths, English & Irish - most required.



A 3rd Language is required by the NUI colleges (Uni of Galway, UCC, UCD, MU, St. Angela's Sligo, RCSI, Shannon College of Hotel Management) except for Science and Engineering courses

Summary of basic Entry Requirements:

- **NUI's:** English, Irish, Maths and a 3rd language (except for Engineering and Science)
- **UL and TCD :** English, Maths and Irish or another language
- **DCU, TUS and other Tech Universities:** English or Irish and Maths
- **Mary I:** English, Irish (HL if Primary) and Maths

Course Requirements:

- **Specific subjects for matriculation**
- **This is something have to consider carefully when choosing options**

Examples of Course Requirements:

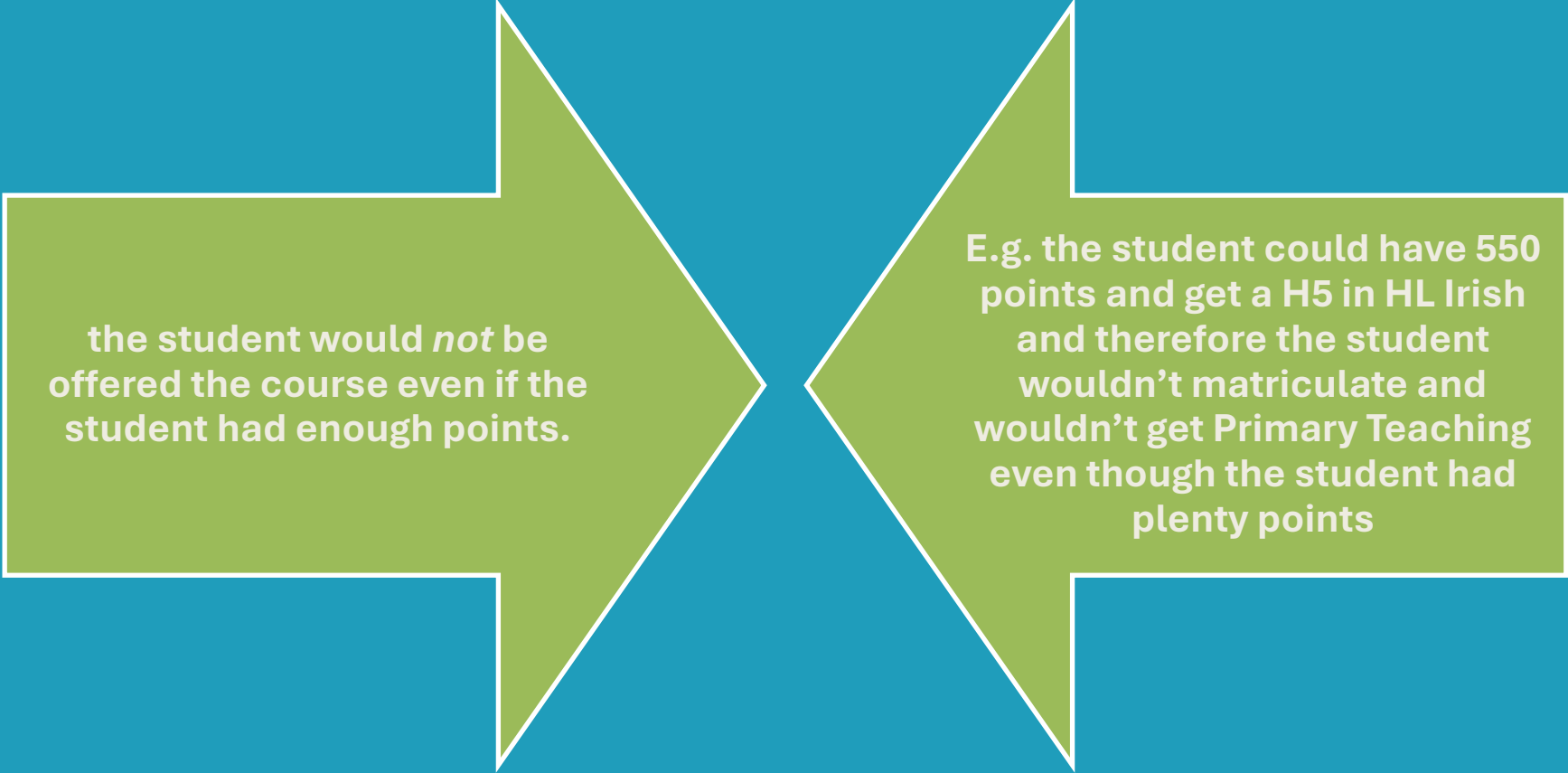
- **Engineering UL-** Honours Maths (H4), O6 in any of the following: Physics, Chemistry, Agricultural Sc, Biology, Engineering, Technology or DCG
 - **Biological Chemical Science in UL:** O3 in Maths and H4 in Ag/Physics/Biology/Chem/Applied Maths
 - **Primary School Teaching:** H4 in HL Irish
 - **Nursing :** O6 in a lab science
 - **Computer Games Development UL:** O2 in OL Maths or H6 in HL Maths

As we look at the individual subjects we will look at courses that require them

Matriculation:

- **When a specific grade in a subject is required to matriculate for a course the student *have* to do it in order to get into the course.**

What would happen if I didn't get the required grade in a subject?



the student would *not* be offered the course even if the student had enough points.

E.g. the student could have 550 points and get a H5 in HL Irish and therefore the student wouldn't matriculate and wouldn't get Primary Teaching even though the student had plenty points

❖ The Points System:

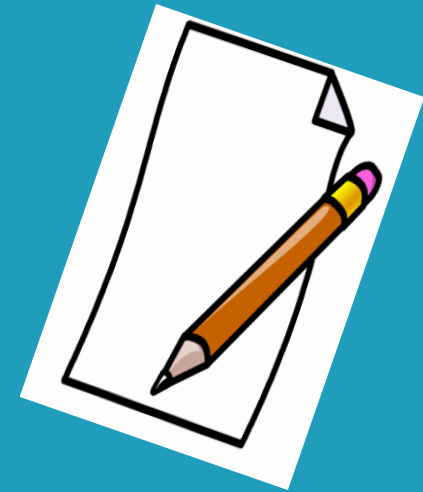


Selection system used to get into 3rd Level Colleges is the



POINTS SYSTEM

Calculating CAO points



Calculating CAO Points



Points total is calculated from SIX best subjects



Can be ANY combination of six subjects – does not need to include core subjects or subjects the student need for matriculation

Points System:

Higher Level Grades	Higher Level Points	% Bands	Ordinary Level Grades	Ordinary Level Points
H1	100	90-100%	O1	56
H2	88	80-89%	O2	46
H3	77	70-79%	O3	37
H4	66	60-69%	O4	28
H5	56	50-59%	O5	20
H6	46	40-49%	O6	12
H7	37	30-39%	O7	0
H8	0	0-29%	O8	0

Higher Level Maths Points Scale:

Higher Level Maths	Points
H1	125
H2	113
H3	102
H4	91
H5	81
H6	71
H7	37
H8	0

LCVP Points Scale:

Distinction	Merit	Pass
66	46	28

The Points System:

- **Courses that are popular will generally have high points**
- **Points change EVERY year – rise and fall depending on POPULARITY**

What have points got to do with Subject Choice?

- **It is important to try and pick optional subjects that will maximise points**
- **What subjects is student likely to do well in?**
- **The more they enjoy an option the more likely they are to do well in it!**

❖ Subject Choice and Career Choices

- **When considering which subjects to take for the Leaving Cert, bear in mind that this decision will have long-term consequences on what careers are open to them.**

Subject Choice and Career Choices:

- **For example, a decision to drop all Science subjects or French/German will have major implications on the career choices open or closed to the student later on.**

Career Choices:

Although lots of college courses do *not* require any specific LC options, it is still worth considering whether a particular option would be helpful in a future area of study

Spot the difference!

Example of Matriculation:

- **HAVE to have LC Chemistry if want to study Pharmacy in 3rd level**

Example of helpful but not essential:

- **Would be HELPFUL to have studied Physics if want to study Engineering in college but it is NOT essential**

The Science Group



BIOLOGY



PHYSICS



CHEMISTRY



**AGRICULTURAL
SCIENCE**



**OFTEN
REFERRED TO AS
LAB SCIENCES IN
COLLEGE
LITERATURE**

Examples of Courses which require a Lab Science:

**Sport and
Exercise Science**

**Science degrees
(Genetics,
Pharmacology,
Forensics,
Biomedical Science,
Neuroscience)**

**Speech and
Language
Therapy**

Nursing

Radiography

Physiotherapy

**Occupational
Therapy**

**Engineering
(in some
universities)**

Lab Science:

126 courses require or may require a Lab Science to matriculate

If students are not picking a Science they need to examine this list very carefully

Qualifax Minimum Subject Module –
students will be shown how to use this

Biology:

**Is the most popular of all LC science subjects
– new syllabus being introduced Sept 2025**

**However, don't fall into the trap of thinking
Biology is the "easy" Science subject.**

**Need to be good at learning definitions, rote
learning, cannot bluff the student answers!**

General Topics covered:

- Cell structure, metabolism and diversity
- Genetics
- Plants: photosynthesis, respiration
- Function of Food
- Blood, human digestion
- Tissues, organs, DNA structure
- Micro-organisms, Bacteria, Fungi etc
- Ecology, ecosystem and biosphere

Who does Biology suit?

- **Student with a good understanding of Junior Science at Higher level.**
- **A student with an aptitude and interest for laboratory work.**
- **It requires a lot of memory work so is a good choice for students with good attention to detail**
- **A considerable amount of learning and study is necessary to do well in this subject**

LC Biology Exam Structure:

Exam Structure

Biology	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Biology in Practise Investigation	Common Brief - 40% of Marks	Common Brief - 40% of Marks

5 Courses specifically require Biology

- Genetics in UCC
- Human and Health Disease in TCD
- Health Science with Dietetics (ATU Letterkenny)
- Health Science with Physio (ATU Letterkenny)
- Health Science with OT (ATU Letterkenny)

Helpful but not essential...

- Veterinary
- Health Sciences –Nursing, Dentistry, Medicine, Physiotherapy, OT etc
- Agriculture,
- Biomedical sciences -Biochemistry, Genetics, Physiology, Anatomy, Microbiology
- Earth Science, Environmental Science, Botany, Ecology
- Marine Science, Aquaculture
- Animal Science and Zoology
- Psychology
- Sports science
- Beauty Therapy
- Biomedical Engineering

Chemistry

- **Chemistry deals with the composition of matter, the laws of chemical change and the relationship between the properties and composition of substances**
- **New Leaving Certificate Chemistry specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Chemistry syllabus.**
- **The Leaving Cert. course follows on directly from Junior Cert Science, and deals with more topics in a lot more depth.**
- **Second most popular Science**

Sample Topics will be studying:

- Periodic Table
- Atomic Structures
- Radioactivity
- Electronic structure of atoms
- Oxidation and Reduction
- Chemical Compounds
- Ionic and Covalent bonding

What type of student is suited to Chemistry? :

- **Someone with good understanding JC Science -builds on the foundations section of Junior Cert Science**
- **So, if the student found that tough, think carefully about taking Leaving Cert Chemistry.**
- **Students must have an aptitude in Maths- calculations involved**
- **Most students that choose Chemistry would be doing HL Maths or be very comfortable with OL Maths**

Exam Structure:

Chemistry	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Chemistry in Practice Investigation	Common Brief - 40% of Marks	Common Brief - 40 % of Marks

9 Courses specifically require Chemistry:

Human Nutrition and Dietetics in TUD

Pharmacy in TCD and UCC

Veterinary Medicine in UCD – don't know requirements for new Veterinary courses yet!

Medical and Health Sciences (UCC)

Dentistry in UCC and RCSI

Medicine in UCC

Helpful but not essential..



Pharmaceutical Science courses



Forensics



Food science



Nutrition



Any Biology-related course in Third Level will have a significant amount of Chemistry

Physics

This subject aims to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life.

It is the most mathematical of the sciences.

Many exam questions require the student to solve a problem using learnt formulas.

Not as difficult Mathematically as students think however, Mathematically-minded students are usually the students who choose Physics – same ordered thinking mentality applies (Max.20% is calculations)

New Physics Syllabus:

- **This new Leaving Certificate Physics specification will be introduced for fifth year students in September 2025 and will replace the current Leaving Certificate Physics syllabus.**
- **The Leaving Cert Physics course follows directly from Junior Cert Science and covers more topics in greater depth.**
- **Physics aims to enhance the student's ability to think logically, observe and understand scientific method.**

Sample Topics:

- Heat
- Waves
- Electricity
- Light
- Mechanics
- Vibrations
- Particle Physics

What kind of student is suited to Physics?

- While there is an element of Maths in the Physics course, HL Maths is not a requirement.
- Students should not avoid physics on the basis of not having honours maths but must be **VERY GOOD** at OL Maths.
- Pupils should become capable at drawing and reading graphs and competent in using a calculator through the course.
- Pupils who will gain the most from studying physics are those who have an interest in science at Junior Cert level and those who enjoy learning about how things work.

Exam Structure:

Physics	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Physics in Practice Investigation	Common Brief - 40% of Marks	Common Brief - 40% of Marks

Only one course requires LC Physics for admission...

- **Theoretical Physics in TCD**

Helpful but not essential....



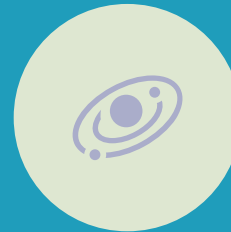
Engineering courses such as Civil, Mechanical, Aeronautical, Biomedical



Apprenticeships such as Aircraft Maintenance, Electrical



Paramedical courses such as Radiography, Radiation Therapy and Optometry



Space Science/Astronomy

Agricultural Science



Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture.



It is recognised as a laboratory science subject for almost all 3rd level courses including Nursing.

Topics studied:



THE REARING OF
ANIMALS



THE GROWING OF
CROPS



SOIL TYPES



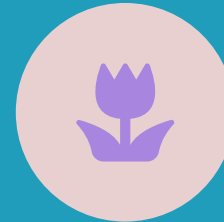
GENETICS



ECOLOGY



ANIMAL AND
PLANT SCIENCE



ANIMAL AND
PLANT
PHYSIOLOGY

Agricultural Science:



It can be a good subject to study with Biology and/or Geography due to the overlap in course content. Some experience of farming would be desirable.



NB: Some experience of work experience in a farm is desirable. Recommended it is done regularly throughout the year – must experience all four seasons. Must keep a notebook and pictures etc. as evidence for the student project which the student do, the majority of, in the student own time.

Agricultural Science Exam:



Terminal exam worth 75%



Portfolio and project is worth 25%



(b) (i) portfolio of activities and investigations, including laboratory and field investigations, farm visits and other appropriate activities.



(ii) a student project, through which a topic of agricultural significance is explored in greater depth. This will be based on a theme, which will be set annually

Helpful but not essential:



Food Science



Earth Science



Marine Science



**Agricultural
related courses**



**Veterinary Nursing
or Veterinary
Medicine**



**Environmental
Science**

- **No courses specifically require Ag. Science but it is helpful for the future study of...**

Applied Maths:

- **Is, the study of practical applications of mathematics to the real world and physical problems.**
- **It is typically associated with engineering and physics, but also finds use in economics, finance, business, environmental studies, and even chemistry and medicine.**

Why Might the student Choose Applied Maths:

- If the student are getting Distinctions (90-100%)/ Higher Merit (75-90%) grades in Maths and Physics part of science, the student should be capable of getting similar grades in Applied Maths thus enabling the student to increase the student points in the Leaving Cert.
- There is overlap between some parts of the Leaving Cert Physics course and the Applied Maths course, such as Linear Motion, Newton's Laws, and Circular Motion. Thus, it will also help the student have a deeper understanding of these topics in Physics.
- As there is a high Maths content in the course it will also give the student a better understanding of some parts of the Honours Maths course – especially Trigonometry, Calculus (Differentiation and Integration) and Vectors.

Applied Maths:

- **Not required for any specific college course**
- **If the student are considering studying any kind of Engineering in college, Applied Maths is an excellent option to consider**
- **Forms part of First Year Engineering courses and the student will have a head start if the student have the Leaving Cert course done.**

Exam Structure:

Applied Maths	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 80% of Marks	1 Paper - 80% of Marks
Practical	1 Paper - 20% of Marks	1 Paper - 20% of Marks

The modelling project assessment will require students to demonstrate proficiency in course content and skills that cannot be easily assessed by the written examination. The assessment will require students to present a solution to an authentic modelling problem, and to report on the work and process involved.

The Social Group



HOME ECONOMICS



PE

Home Economics

Home Economics is divided into three sections

1. Food studies (45% of the total mark)

- Which includes topics such as food science, food composition, microbiology, food safety, and special diets.

2. Resource management and consumer studies (25% of the total mark)

- This covers topics such as financial institutions, taxation, insurance, and money management.

Home Economics

3. **Sociology (10% of the total marks)**

This includes the study of Family /marriage/ relationships/ family problems e.g. alcoholism, gambling, the elderly, housing, problems facing teenagers/ child care development

4. **Elective area comprising three optional areas of study of which students choose one (20% of the total mark) a). Social Studies b). Textiles c). Home Management**



Home Economics Exam:

- **Practical Coursework - 20%**
- This is worth 20% of the final mark.
- Submitted in journal form in LC2 – a lot of the work is done in LC1
- **Written Exam paper – 80%**



Type of Students who suit Home Economics:



Students who can rote learn



Can take direction on how to study topics – style and technique needed



An interest in Food and Health as this is most of the course



Overlap with Business and Biology in some topics

Two courses require Home Economics:

1. **B.Ed. Home Economics at ATU Sligo**
2. **BA Home Economics ATU Sligo**



Not essential but helpful for...

- **Culinary Arts**
- **Food Science**
- **Nutrition and Dietetics**
- **Sports Science**
- **Vet Nursing**
- **Food Science**
- **Beauty Therapy courses.**

LC PE

- **Introduced as an option subject 2018**
- **Designed to appeal to a broad range of learners**
- **Those with a keen interest in physical activity**
- **Either as a performer, coach/choreographer**
- **Theory underpinning performance and how to improve the student own performance**

Assessment

- **3 assessment components**
- **Physical Activity Project 20%**
- **Performance Assessment 30%**
- **Written Paper 50%**

Warning!!!!

- **As the written assessment comprises 50% of the marking, ability in the physical activity alone will not be sufficient, students will need to engage with the classroom portion of the course.**

Physical Activity Project enables student to....

- Analyse performance in one activity
- Set 4 performance goals
- Plan & implement a programme to improve
- Reflect on progress

Performance Assessment

- **Video of the student best performance**
- **Video of a variety of contexts including fully competitive and/or conditioned practices**
- **Designed to showcase particular aspects of performance e.g. attacking play**

Sample Topics in Theory Section:

- **Biomechanics of performance**
- **Performance related fitness**
- **Psychological factors on performance**
- **Contemporary issues in physical activity- Promoting physical activity, ethics and fair play, inclusion, technology and sport, gender and physical activity**

Who does it suit?

- **Physically active students who are engaged in individual or team sports, dance or gymnastics**
- **Students who plan to pursue a career in sports and fitness occupations, such as physiotherapy, physical training or sports coaching, will benefit from the course.**

Linked to subjects such as...

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology
- Home Economics
- English & DCG

Not essential but helpful for...

- Sports science
- PE
- Health and leisure
- Recreation
- Media.

The Business Group



**Business
Studies**

Accounting

Business

- Very factual so requires the student to do a lot of learning.
- the student should try and keep an eye on business and current affairs in the news.
- Students need to be good rote learners for this subject and again good at learning definitions

New Business Syllabus 2025

- **Investigating Business**
- **Exploring the Business Environment**
- **Understanding Enterprise**
- **Leading in Business**
- **Being Informed & Making Informed Decisions**

Sample Topics:

- Introduction and definition of enterprise
- Entrepreneurs and enterprise skills
- People and their relationships in business
- Conflicting interests and how they are resolved
- Introduction and definition of management-management skills and activities
- Household and business manager
- Human resource management
- Changing role of management
- EU and International Business
- Identifying opportunities, Marketing, Expansion
- Categories of industry, Community development, Business and the economy Government and business, Social responsibilities of business

Exam Structure:

Business	Higher	Ordinary
Written Paper	1 Paper - 60% of Marks	1 Paper - 60% of Marks
Business Alive Investigative Study	Common Brief - 40% of Marks	Common Brief - 40% of Marks

3rd level courses which require Business:

- None


However, extremely useful if interested in studying...

Business, Commerce, Marketing, Human Resource Management, Advertising, Insurance, Tax, Finance

Other courses such as Sports Management, Hotel Management, Strength and Conditioning, Construction Management, Quantity Surveying all have Business in their content

Accounting

Accounting concerns itself with the business of keeping records (book-keeping but goes beyond that to analysing and interpreting these).



Examples of accounts completed

**Sole trader and Ltd
company accounts**

**Farm and Club
accounts**

Accounting:

Accounting is a continuation of the Bookkeeping element of the Junior Cycle Business Studies course.

It is very numerically based and is preferable to have done Business Studies to the Junior Cert if taking it at Senior Cycle. Numerically strong.

It is divided into two main areas: (a) financial accounting (two thirds of the course) and (b) management accounting (one third of the course)

Type of student Accounting suits:



Numerically strong



Organised and self-motivated – will be practising in own time



Enjoy repetitive work – must be consistently in class and have a strong attendance



It is not a last minute, cramming type subject



Very helpful if studying Business at Third Level

Courses which require Accounting:

- **Accounting in Uni of Galway is the *only* course that requires LC Accounting**

Not essential but very helpful for...

- **Business and Commerce courses**
- **Finance**
- **Tax**
- **Financial Maths**

The Creative Group



Music



Art

What type of Student does LC Music suit?

Students who have shown an aptitude for Music, such as getting high grades in Junior Cert Music and are eager to develop and practice more.

If the student can read music and have a competence in singing or playing an instrument

Students who are looking for a break from intensive memory-work in their other subjects

How is Music Accessed?

A performance practical exam is carried out in April of Year 2. This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject.

A 3-hour terminal examination paper has two sections; Core (listening) and Composition. This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject.

Quick Facts

- **Performance** - Examined in April of 6th year
- **Listening Paper** - Examined in June of 6th year 90 minutes duration
- **Composition Paper** -Examined in June of 6th year 90 minutes duration

Leaving Cert Music is required for 2 courses:

- **DC012B.Ed. Religion and Music secondary teaching in DCU (H4 Music)**
- **MH101 Arts with Music in Maynooth**
- ***Please Note that most Music courses require students to audition for a place***

Not essential but helpful....

- **Media and film courses**
- **Music technology**
- **Primary teaching**
- **Sound engineering**
- **Music therapy**

Art

- **Art involves being creative and interpreting and appreciating the creative work of others.**



Art

- **Involves many of the areas studied at the Junior Certificate but in greater depth- for example drawing, painting, design and craftwork.**

3 components to Art Assessment:



Practical coursework. This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject



An Invigilated Examination. This is held in term 2 of LC 2. It carries 20% of the total marks for this subject.



A 2.5-hour terminal written examination- History of Art and Appreciation. Carries 30% of the total marks for this subject.

Art Exam:



History of Art and Appreciation – examined in June of LC2 (30% of marks)



It requires looking at artworks using reproductions, slides and art galleries, reading books and writing essays on different subjects.



Just because the student don't like JC History don't let that turn the student off Art History!!!

0 Courses require LC Art

- No Third Level courses require LC Art However...
- ❖ *Students will need a portfolio (a sample folder of their work) for Art courses which requires a lot of work in and out of school therefore, it obviously makes sense to study LC Art if thinking of any of these courses that require a portfolio such as...*

Not essential but extremely helpful for areas such as...

- ***Fine Art***
- ***Graphic Design***
- ***Sculpture***
- ***Architecture***
- ***Interior Design***
- ***Photography***
- ***Film and Television Production, etc.***

Design and Communication Graphics



DCG expands and covers in greater depth topics covered in Tech Graphics in JC



New topics are covered in Architecture, Engineering and Technology. Basic knowledge ICT helpful



Free hand sketching required with main topics- JC Art or Woodwork helpful!

How is DCG Assessed?

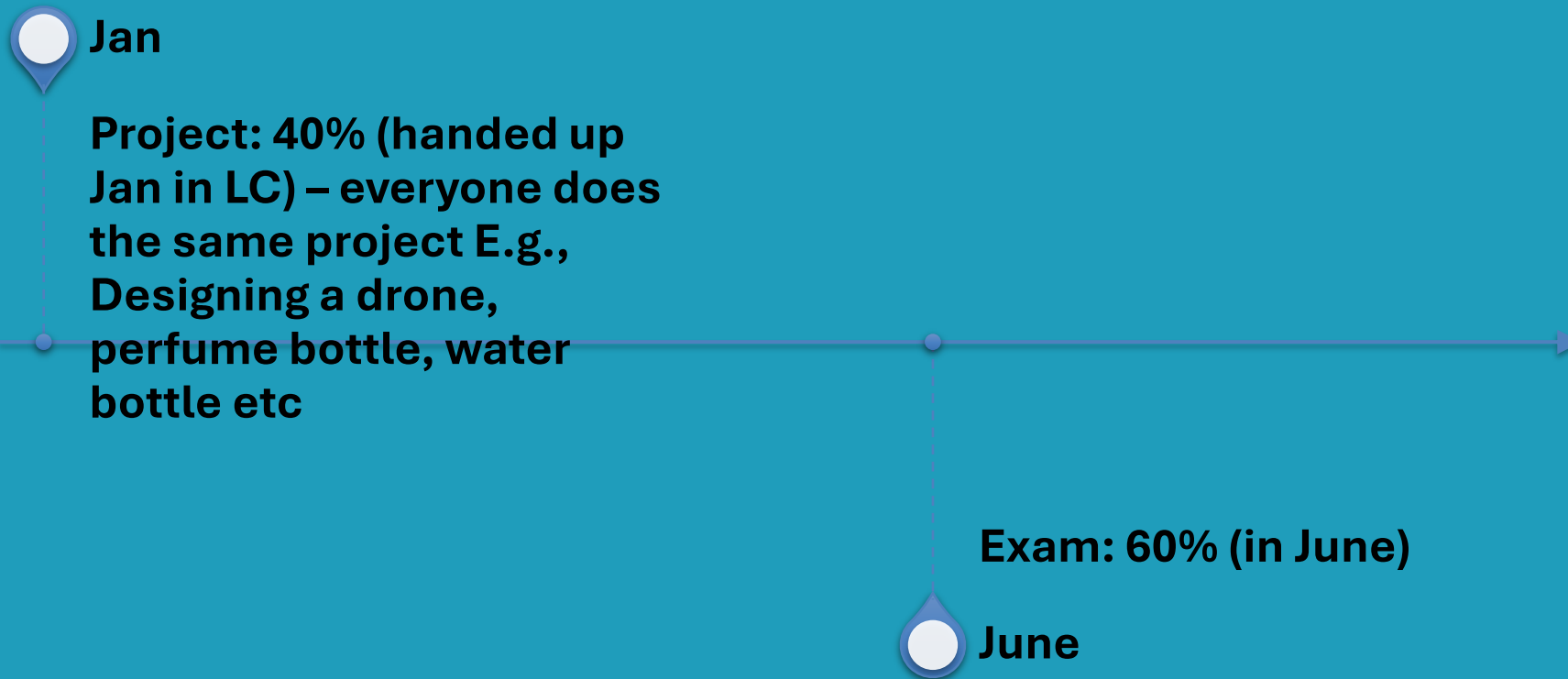


A student assignment, of which CAD forms a significant compulsory element. Given a brief to follow. This runs from September to January of year 2. This carries 40% of the total marks for this subject.



A 3-hour terminal examination paper, with 3 sections involving short and long drawing board style questions. This carries 60% of the total marks for this subject.

DCG



Not specifically required for any course
however useful for careers in ...

Architecture

Engineering

Product Design

Graphic Design

Computer Science

**Construction related
courses such as QS,
Construction
Management etc**

**Apprenticeships
such as Aircraft
Mechanic,
Toolmaking,
Carpentry**

The Practical Group:



ENGINEERING



**CONSTRUCTION
STUDIES**

Engineering:

This subject involves the study of Machining, Technical Drawing, Design, Materials Science, Metallurgy (the study of where materials come from) and Metrology (Measurement).

the student do not have to have studied JC Metalwork to consider Engineering as a LC option

How is Engineering Accessed for Leaving Cert?



**‘DESIGN AND MAKE’
PROJECT &
PORTFOLIO. THIS
RUNS FROM OCTOBER
TO MARCH OF YEAR 2.
IT CARRIES 25% OF
THE TOTAL MARKS FOR
THIS SUBJECT.**



**A PRACTICAL ‘DAY
EXAM’. THIS IS A 6-
HOUR SKILLS EXAM
THAT IS HELD IN MAY OF
YEAR 2. IT CARRIES 25%
OF THE TOTAL MARKS
FOR THIS SUBJECT.**



**A 3 HOUR TERMINAL
EXAMINATION PAPER
WITH A MIX OF SHORT,
LONG AND DRAWING
QUESTIONS THIS
CARRIES 50% OF THE
TOTAL MARKS FOR THIS
SUBJECT**

Not specifically required for any course however useful for careers in ...



**Engineering-
Civil,
Mechanical,
Aeronautical,
Electronic,
Computer**



**Aircraft
Mechanic**



Mechanic



Welder



Plumber



**Product/
Industrial
Design**



***Nice subject
to consider if
want a break
from rote
learning***

Construction Studies:

Introduces students to the knowledge and skills associated with construction technology and construction materials and practices.



There is a mixture of theory and practical projects which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes



the student do not have to have studied JC Woodwork to pick Construction Studies

Topics include:

**Planning and
design**

**Drawings and
documents**

**Site
preliminaries
and Foundations**

Walls, partitions

Floors, roofs

Fireplaces

**Windows and
Doors**

Stairs

Plastering

Plumbing

How is Leaving Cert Construction examined?

A student project & portfolio. It carries 25% of the total marks for this subject.

A practical 'Day Exam'. This is a 4 hour skills exam that is held in May of year 2. It carries 25% of the total marks for this subject.

A 3 hour terminal examination paper with a mix of short, long and drawing questions This carries 50% of the total marks for this subject

Not specifically required for any course however useful for careers in ...

**The Built
Environment
including:**

Architecture

Quantity Surveying

**Construction
Management**

**Property and Real
Estate**

**Civil Engineering –
roads, bridges,
structures**

**Product
Development**

Furniture Design

**Apprenticeships
such as Carpentry,
Plumbing,
Electrician,
Plastering**

The Humanities

History

Geography

**Third Language
– French/
German**

History

History is a subject which encourages students to think on their feet, to write, speak and think with clarity

History offers the student an opportunity for wide reading, information gathering, cogent reasoning and sustained argument, clear essay writing, and research

Choosing History for LC because the student thought it was easy at Junior Cert is a dangerous move – LC History is a challenging course and requires essay style answers.

What type of student is suited to History:

Good English skills, the ability to do research and an interest in History are all important if the student do this subject.

Willing to commit a lot of time

Self-discipline and ability to self-direct learning

Essay writing is a key skill required for LC History

Topics:

Early Modern (1492-1815)

Late Modern (1815-1993)

Further divided into Six Irish
Topics and Six European Topics

History Exam:

- **The Research Study which must be completed by students must be submitted in April before the actual exam, and is worth 20% of the total grade.**



History Exam:

- **The terminal exam is worth 80%**

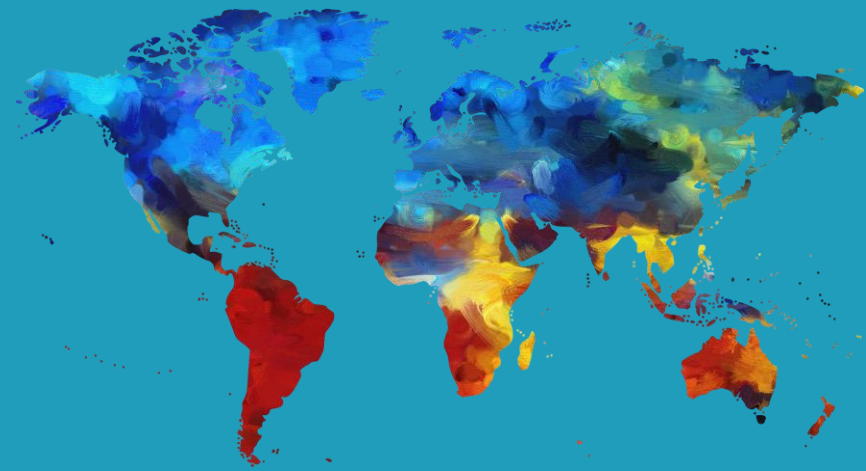
Students have to write three essays and one prescribed document which is known in advance in under 2hrs and 50 minutes.

Not specifically required for any course however useful for courses in ...

- **Law**
- **History**
- **Sociology**
- **Politics**
- **International Relations**
- **Journalism**
- **Economics**

Geography:

- Is the study of people, their environment and the interaction between the two.
- Follows on from JC Geography and covers very similar topics such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map reading and economic activity but, in a lot, more detail
- An ability to rote learn would be necessary for the study of Geography and timing is crucial in the written exam.



Geography Exam:

- **Assessment of Geography in the Leaving Cert will consist of**
 - 1.A terminal written examination- 80% of total
 - 2.A report on a geographical investigation- 20% of total (April)

Not specifically required for any course
however very useful if considering...

Geology

Environmental Sciences

Surveying

Politics

Teaching

Town Planning

Meteorology/ weather forecasting

Third Language



Most students choose to study a foreign language as it ensures that they don't rule out any college where a third language is an entry requirement.



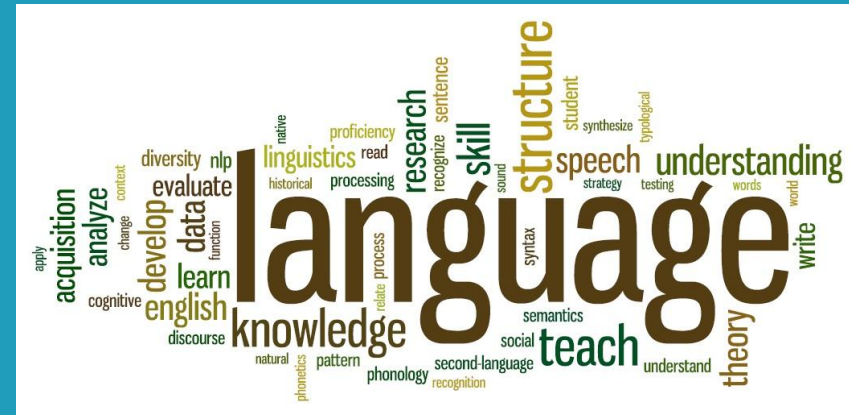
If the student want to keep all the student options open stick with at least one additional language.

The following subjects are accepted as 3rd language:

- **Ancient Greek, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Lithuanian, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.**

3rd Language requirement

- **162 courses in colleges require a Third Language to matriculate**



-

The following NUI universities and colleges require a pass in a 3rd language for a lot of their courses:

UCC

University of
Galway

UCD

Maynooth
University

The Royal
College of
Surgeons

St. Angela's
College, Sligo

Shannon
College of Hotel
Management

Third Language Requirement for these types of courses in the NUIs:



Arts



Psychology



Business



Social Science



Medicine

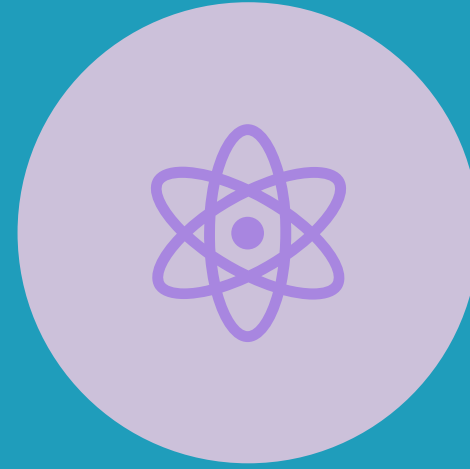


Health Sciences

NUIs do not require a language for...



ENGINEERING DEGREES



SCIENCE DEGREES

Third Language Requirement:

Although Science courses do not require a language

Health Sciences (e.g., Medicine, Pharmacy, SLT, OT) *do* require a third language.

Entry to the Cadetships in the Army, Army Equitation, Air Corps and Naval Service also require a third Language.

Second language is enough for entry to the other universities & Technological Universities

**Trinity
College
Dublin**

**University of
Limerick**

DCU

**Technological
Universities**

Third Language Requirement:

- **UL, TCD, DCU only have a third language as a requirement for *certain* courses that have a language component, e.g., European Studies, Languages, Hotel Management, Commerce and language etc.**

If the student drops French/German..

The option the student will be studying instead is Geography

The student will tick a box on the form to indicate this

Still include Geography as one of the student top 3 in the other list in case the student don't get it instead of French/German

15 Subjects that have a project / practical component:

BIOLOGY 40% CHEMISTRY 40% PHYSICS 40%	BUSINESS 40%	HOME EC 20% HISTORY (20%) GEOGRAPHY 20%
AG SCIENCE (25%) APPLIED MATHS (20%)	DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS(40%)	MUSIC (50%) PE (50%)
ENGINEERING (50%)	CONSTRUCTION STUDIES (50%)	ART (70%)

Important Considerations:

- the student interest in the subject
- the student ability in the subject
- the student future career aspirations

Student should ask: What kind of learner am I?

- Would I be best at?

Writing essays?

Rote learning definitions and lists?

Project work?

Practical work?

Problem solving?

Words vs numbers?

Things to Note:

**126 courses on
the CAO require
a Science
subject**

**162 courses
require a Third
Language**

**71 courses
require HL Maths**

**29 courses
require HL Irish**

**No course
requirements for
alot of courses
eg. Business**

**Since 2012
bonus points for
each grade at HL
Maths up to H6.**

If feeling very uncertain...

Do	Keep on	Pick
Do a Science	Keep on the student French/German	Pick the student 2 favourite subjects that will get the student the best points!!!

Summary:

- **Remember to research –lots of materials out there!**
- **Use handout to access useful websites!**
- **Pick the subjects the student are most interested in or have an aptitude for!**
- **Remember a lot of courses do not require any specific subjects**

Useful websites for Subject Choice



www.careersportal.ie
(Course Search/Subject Choice)



www.qualifax.ie
(Minimum Subject Module)



www.curriculumonline.ie
(Overview of all LC subjects)



www.examinations.ie
(Access to past Leaving Cert exam papers)



www.steps.ie (Overview of courses and careers in engineering)

Presentations Available to look over...

This presentation will be uploaded to Teams and the Guidance Section in the School Website

The Subject Choice Information Pack will also be uploaded to Teams and the Guidance Section in the School Website

Procedure for Subject Choice:

Will be meeting 3rd year students individually

**Contact Ms.Fitzpatrick (Guidance Counsellor)or
Subject Teachers if the student have specific questions**

**Forms to be submitted by 3rd of April – Ms. Glendon-
Garry will go through this with you now**

***As far as is possible, we try to accommodate these choices but no
guarantee so consider more than just the student top 3***



Third Year Options

Parents Information Evening

What is the LCA course?

- It is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing learners for adult and working life.
- It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.
- It offers learners specific opportunity to prepare for and progress to further education and training.



Who would benefit most from the Leaving Certificate Applied?

- Learners who are not adequately catered for by the traditional Leaving Certificate and the LCVP programme.
- Students who up to now have found it difficult to engage with their learning.
- Students who may wish to apply to colleges with direct entry options eg. Portfolios and interviews as opposed to the points system
- Those considering PLC's, certain apprenticeships or those going directly into the workforce after second level education

Rationale for LCA

1. Prepares learners for the demanding transition to adult and **working life**.
2. Recognises **talents of all learners** - programme responsive to aptitudes, abilities, needs and interests.
3. Provides opportunity to develop in terms of responsibility, **self-esteem** and self-knowledge.
4. Develops **communication** and **decision-making** skills.
5. Helps learners achieve a more **independent** and enterprising approach to learning and to life.



LCA

Leaving Certificate Applied
Ardteistiméireacht Fheidhmeach

Key Underlying Principles

student centred
curriculum

personal and
social
development

integration and
cross curricular
links

team work

literacy &
numeracy
development

active
teaching/learning
methodologies

community links

reflection

LCA Curriculum



Vocational Preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Vocational Preparation & Guidance•English & Communications
Vocational Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Mathematical Applications•Vocational Specialisms* (<i>Choose 2 from 11 options</i>)•Information Communication Technology
General Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Arts Education (<i>Dance, Drama, Music, Visual Arts</i>)•Social Education•Languages (<i>Gaeilge and French/Italian/German/Spanish</i>)•Leisure & Recreation (<i>including Physical Education</i>)•Religious Education

Vocational Specialisms

1. Engineering
2. Technology
3. Childcare/Community Care
4. Graphics and Construction Studies
5. Craft and Design
6. Agriculture/Horticulture
7. **Hotel Catering and Tourism**
8. Hair and Beauty
9. Office Administration and Customer Care
10. **Active Leisure Studies**
11. Information and Communications Technology



Choose
2
From
11
Options

LCA Modes of Assessment



Satisfactory completion of modules + 90% attendance

- Evidence of completion of **4 key assignments** for each module
- One credit per course module in which there is a final exam
- Two credits per course module in which there is NO final exam

62
credits

31%

7 Student tasks @ 10 credits each

<i>Vocational Preparation</i>	<i>Vocational Education (x2)</i>	<i>General Education</i>
<i>Contemporary Issue</i>	<i>Personal Reflection</i>	<i>Practical Achievement</i>

70
credits

35%

Final examinations

English & Communication	Vocational Specialisms (x2)	Languages (x2)	Social Education	Mathematical Applications
12 credits	12 credits each	6 credits each	10 credits	10 credits

68
credits

34%

Total

200
credits

100%



Summary of Tasks

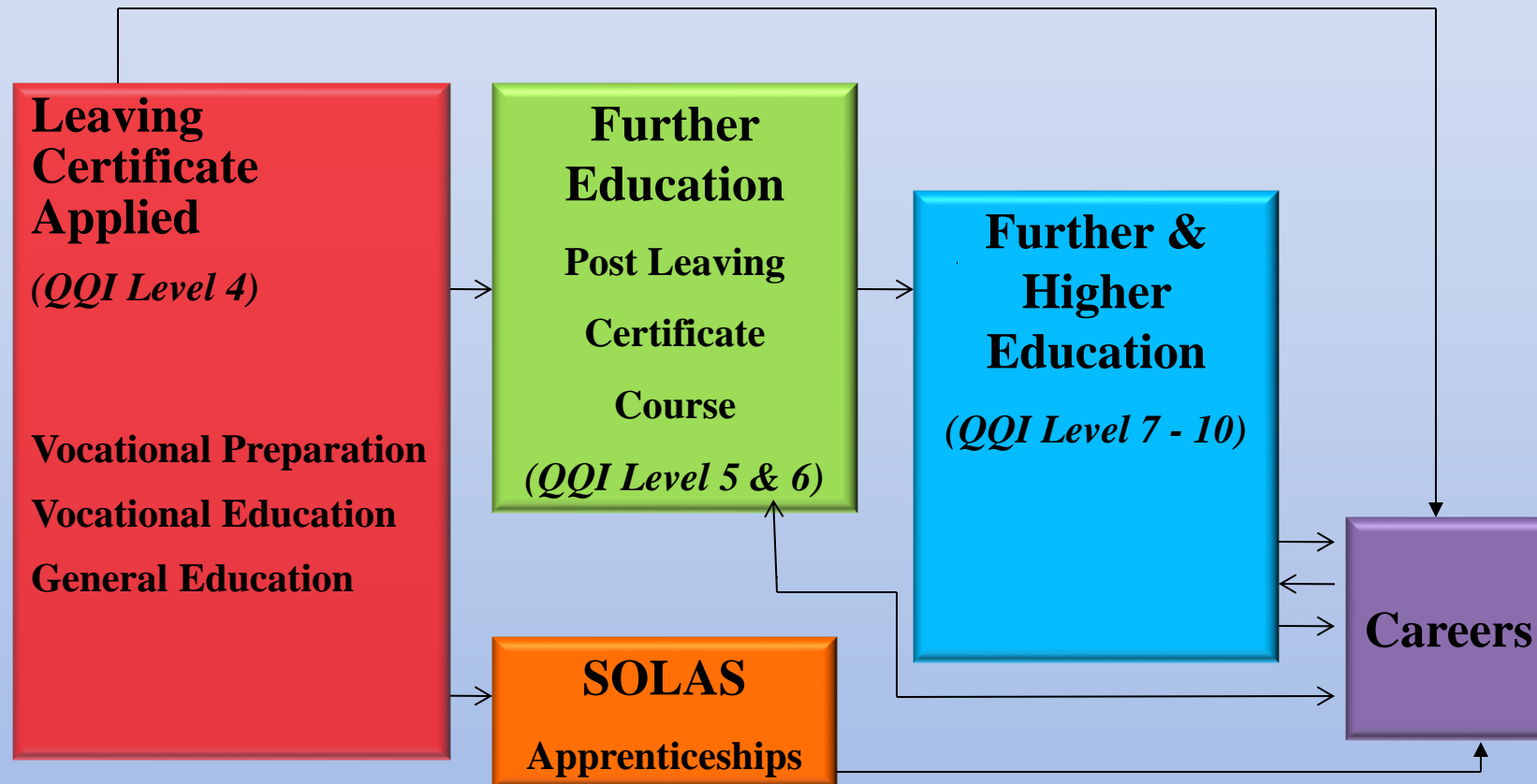


Task	Credit	%	Completed in session	Assessed
1. General Education <i>Originating in Arts Education, Leisure & Recreation, Language or Social Education</i>	10	5	1	Jan/ Yr 1
2. Vocational Preparation <i>Originating in either Vocational Preparation & Guidance or English & Communication</i>	10	5	2	May/ Yr 1
3. Vocational Education - 1st specialism <i>Originating in one Vocational Specialism</i>	10	5	2	May/ Yr 1
4. Vocational Education - 2nd specialism <i>Originating in the second Vocational Specialism</i>	10	5	3	Jan/ Yr 2
5. Contemporary Issues <i>Anchored in Social Education</i>	10	5	3	Jan/ Yr 2
6. Practical Achievement <i>Generally out of school</i>	10	5	3	Jan/ Yr 2
7. Personal Reflection <i>Statement 1 from year one will be stored and returned to SEC when statement two is complete</i>	10	5	on-going	May/ Yr 2

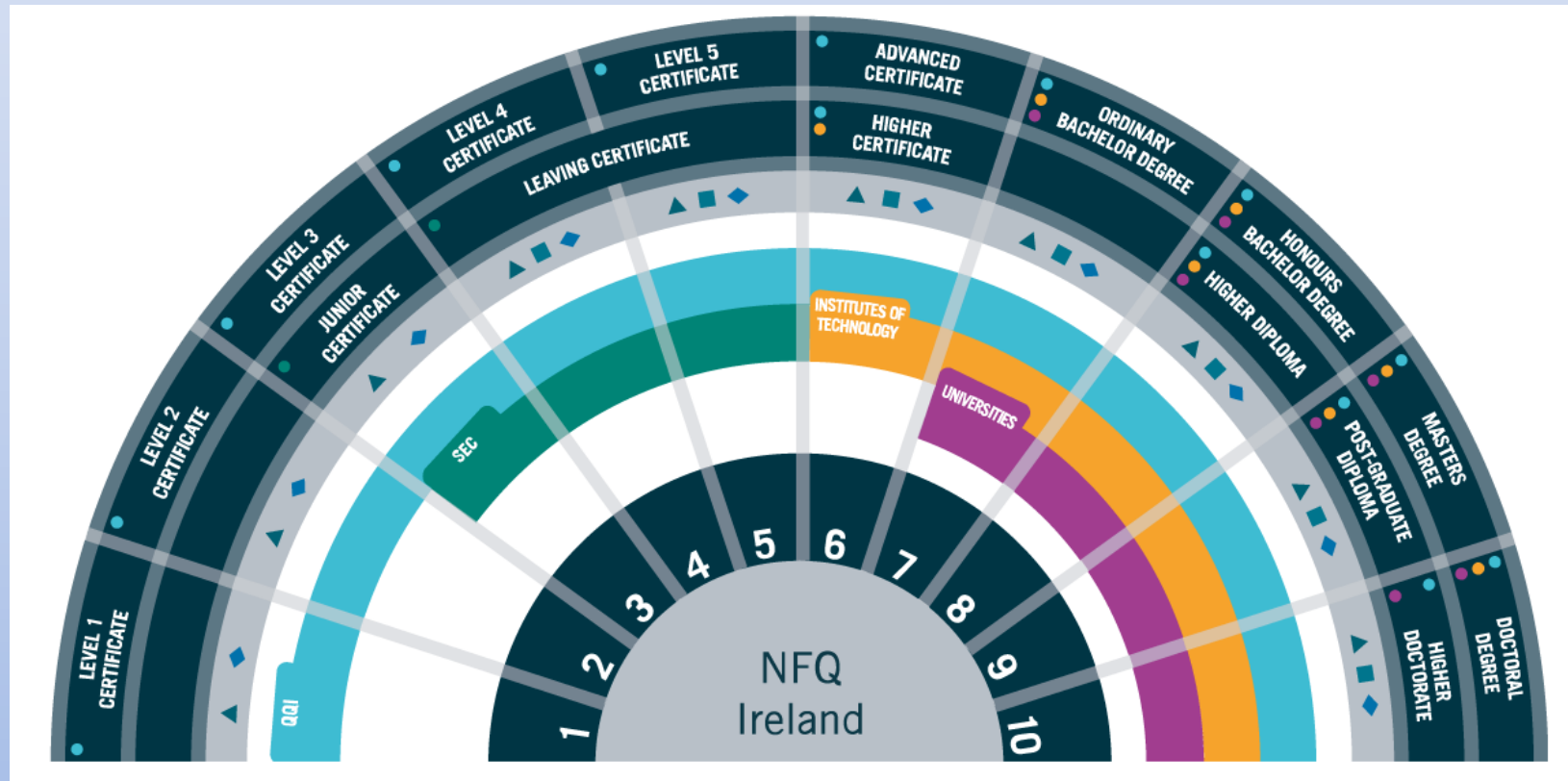


Opening up New Options

The Leaving Certificate Applied Route Map



Irish National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ)





APPLICATION PROCESS



Parent Dashboard



Welcome to the Dashboard

This page is your one-stop-shop to view live notifications on your child's attendance, behaviour, reports and more. If you want to explore further, click into your child's profile.



Your Children



An Other



Your Contact Details



Notifications

[View all](#)

School Mail



New Mail from Alan Cunningham: "Mid term break"



There has been an unexplained absence recorded for the PM bell. [Please see details here.](#)





Child Profile



Pick an area to explore



Attendance

Monitor your child's attendance at a glance, view records from an entire year or specific lesson.

[Learn More](#)



Assessment

View your child's full academic record, track progress over time and download term assessments.

[Learn More](#)



Behaviour

Keep track of your child's behaviour, monitor progress & teacher feedback.

[Learn More](#)



Timetable

View your child's timetable, see realtime data for which lesson they are in at any given time.

[Learn More](#)



Personal Info

Overview of your child's key info. Ensure that this is up to date.

[Learn More](#)



Fees

Overview of school fees for the year, pay directly via card



Student Options

Submit next year's subject preferences directly to the

Option subject or Programme selection for senior cycle is now open. It will close on Thursday 3rd April 2025. If you change your mind, you can edit choices up and until this date. You are reminded that senior cycle subjects still need to be selected regardless of whether you intend to do TY or LCA. In the tables below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc). You must complete all preferences for subjects

On the table(s) below choose subjects in order of the highest priority of preference (1, 2, etc).

Closing date: 03/04/2025

Subject Option Block

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>
2	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>
3	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>
4	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>
5	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>
6	<div>Select a subject ▼</div>

Agricultural Science LC ✕

Biology ✕

Applied Mathematics ✕

Construction Studies ✕

Physics ✕

Business ✕

Visual Art ✕

Accounting ✕

Design & Communication graphics ✕

Chemistry ✕

Engineering ✕

Music LC ✕

Physical Education LC ✕

Home Econ.(Scientific & Social) ✕

Programs Block

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<div>Select a subject</div>
2	<div>Select a subject</div>

TY YES / TY NO

LCA YES/ LCA NO

Language Block

Preference	Subject Choice
1	<div>Select a subject</div>
2	<div>Select a subject</div>

French
German
Geography

Confirm

Applications open on
VSware from now until
3rd April

Transition Year Programme



Mr. Tomás Quealy
T.Y. Co-ordinator

Tom.Quealy@stcaimins.ie



What is Transition Year?

- The **Transition Year (TY)** is a one-year programme designed to act as a bridge between the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate programmes.
- Each school designs its own Transition Year programme, within set guidelines, to suit the needs and interests of its students.
- The school promotes the personal, social, vocational and educational development of students.



ESRI & NCCA Report:



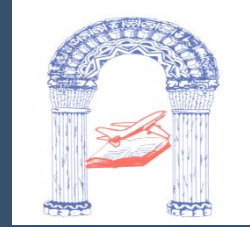
Benefits

- TY students out-perform other LC students by 26 points and repeat students by 5 points.
- Increased maturity
- Informed subject and career choices.
- Develop a wide skill set.
- Positive Experiences.
- Enhanced Teamwork.

Concerns

- Not for everyone.
- A lot of the onus on student participation.
- Reduced homework.
- Different base classes or separated from friends.

Transition Year Programme



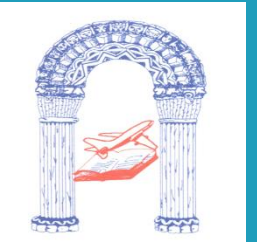
Core Subject

- Mathematics
- English
- Gaeilge.
- Religious Education.
- MFL

TY Specific and Taster Subjects

- Information and Communications Technology
- Physical Education
- Gaisce/Personal Reflection
- Guidance
- Enterprise
- Options Rotation on an 11-week cycle

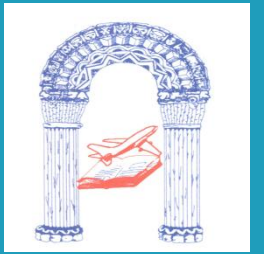




Subject Sampling	TY Specific	Calendar Layer
11-week rotation of LC Option Subjects	Careers	Work Experience
Sciences	Enterprise, Woodcraft	Gaisce
Geography, History	SPHE & Personal Development	Outdoor Pursuits
Construction, Engineering	European Parliament Ambassador Schools	Jnr. Achievement
Home Economics, Crafts	Media Studies	Visiting speakers
Music	Computer Applications	Workshops
PE inc. Coaching and S&C	Public Speaking	Trips & Visits out

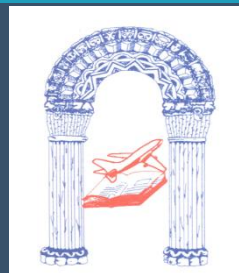


Transition Year Programme





Transition Year Programme

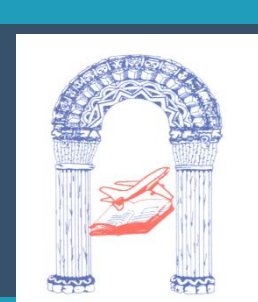


Work Experience will take place every Friday





Transition Year Programme





Transition Year Programme



Inspirational Speakers



Billy Kelleher
**MEP for Ireland
South**



Rob Heffernan
Olympic Athlete
BOI Ambassador



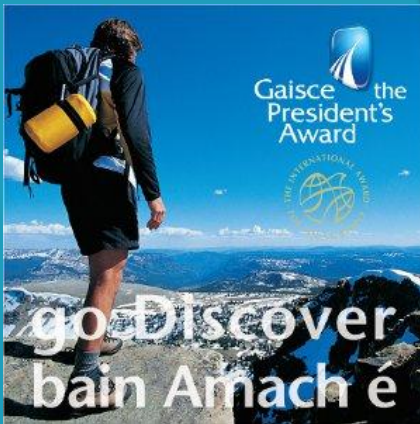
Transition Year Programme



Future Leaders

First Aid

**Junior
Enterprise**



Programmes



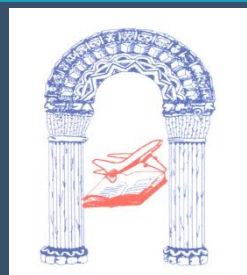
Gaisce

**Accountancy
Bootcamp**

**Junior
Achievement**



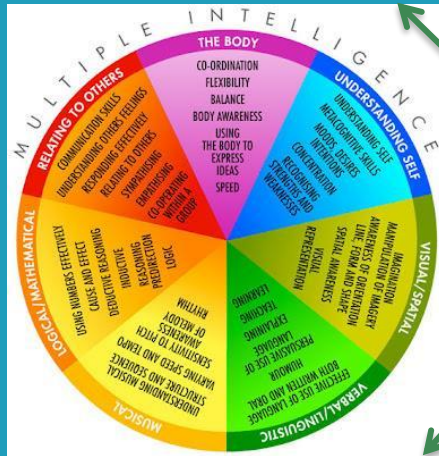
Transition Year Programme



**Eirquest
Testing**

**Subject Option
Fair**

**Guidance
Class**



Careers



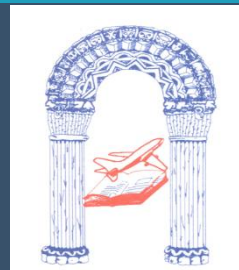
**Work
Experience**

**Visiting
Speakers**

**Irish Hotel Federation
Hospitality Course**



Transition Year Programme



Coaching

**Fencing
Lessons**

S&C



**Physical
Education**



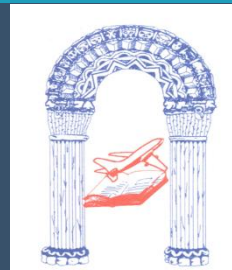
**Killary Outdoor
ed. Centre**

Ice-Skating

Paint-balling



Transition Year Programme



**French Exchange
option**

**European Parliament
Ambassador School**

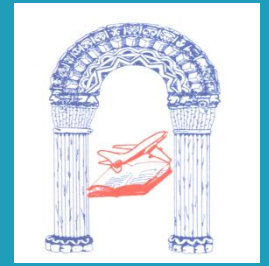
**Barcelona Tour
option**

**International
Experience**



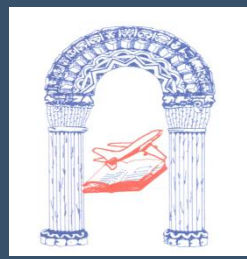


A sample of the many other activities offered to students



<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Future Leaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music Generation Clare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice Skating	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentoring 1st Year students
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Get Go, Get Rowing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Royal College of Surgeons taster days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal Magic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Irish Heart Foundation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• History Trip	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Access to Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clare Sports Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dance Lessons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fencing Lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teen Conflict Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IT for Senior Citizens Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GAA Coaching Course
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bodhran-making course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Radio workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shannon Foynes Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-Scooter Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Road Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Language Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EU Parliament Competition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debating
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RSA Roadshow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Burning House Film Course	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Photography workshop

Transition Year Programme



Students complete an E-Portfolio using Microsoft Teams



Students will be trained on developing their reflective skills and encouraged to apply this to their learning in all subject areas.

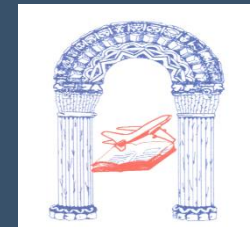


In May students' showcase their portfolio and complete an interview based on the Portfolio





Transition Year Programme



Assessment

Students undertake continuous assessment including...

- Group work, Presentations, written exam, etc
- Participation in class, project work, social work, group work, work experience etc.
- Subject Reports sent home at Christmas & Summer
- End of year interview & student showcase

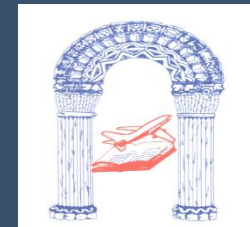
Journals

- Reflective log.
- Review Class-twice weekly.
- Useful in assessing the level of student participation/attendance in Transition Year.





Transition Year Programme



Certification



Students will earn credits in their subjects, E-Portfolio, community involvement, extra-curricular and from their end of year presentation/formal interview.

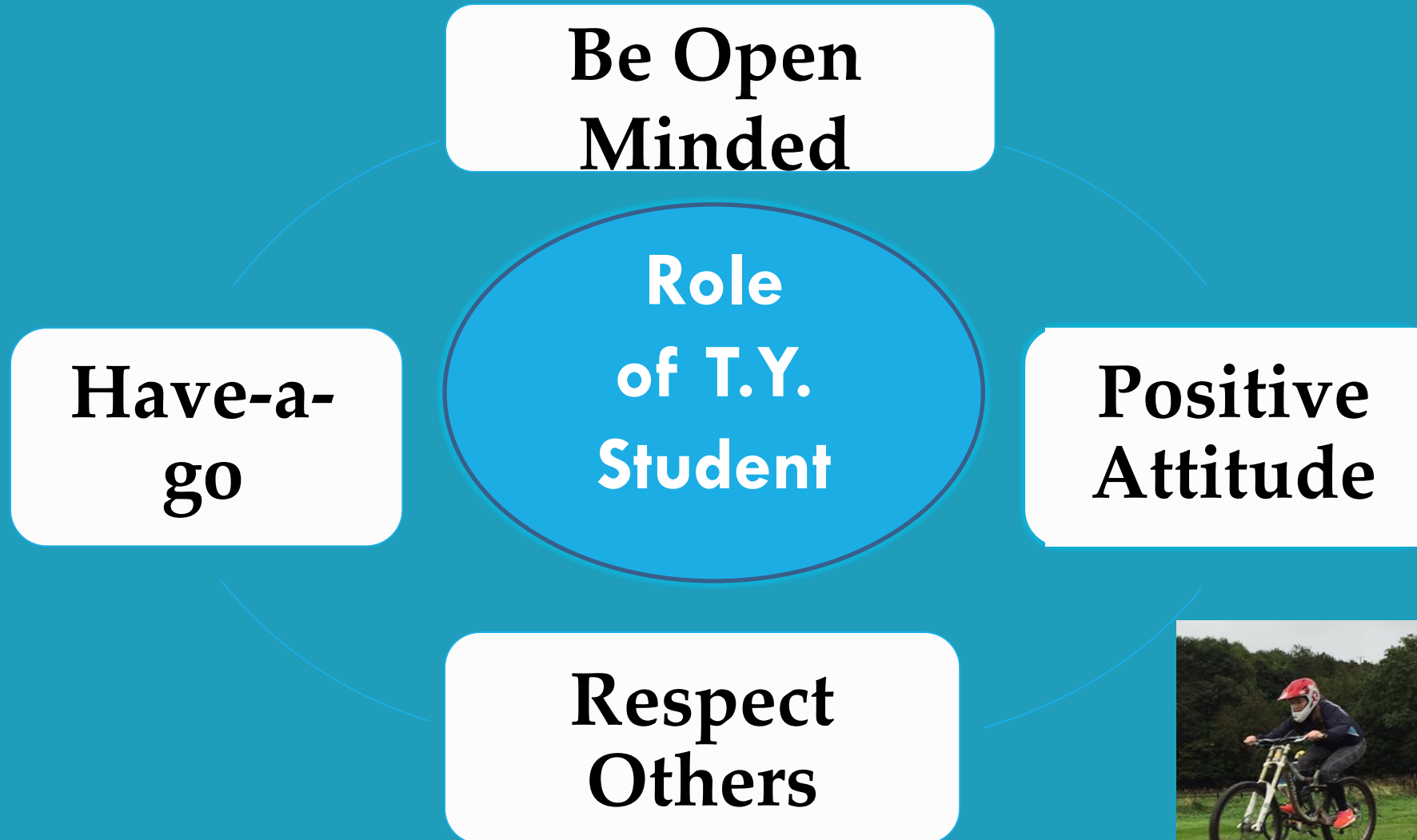
The following standards will apply for certification

Distinction	80-100%
Merit	60-79%
Participation	Below 60%



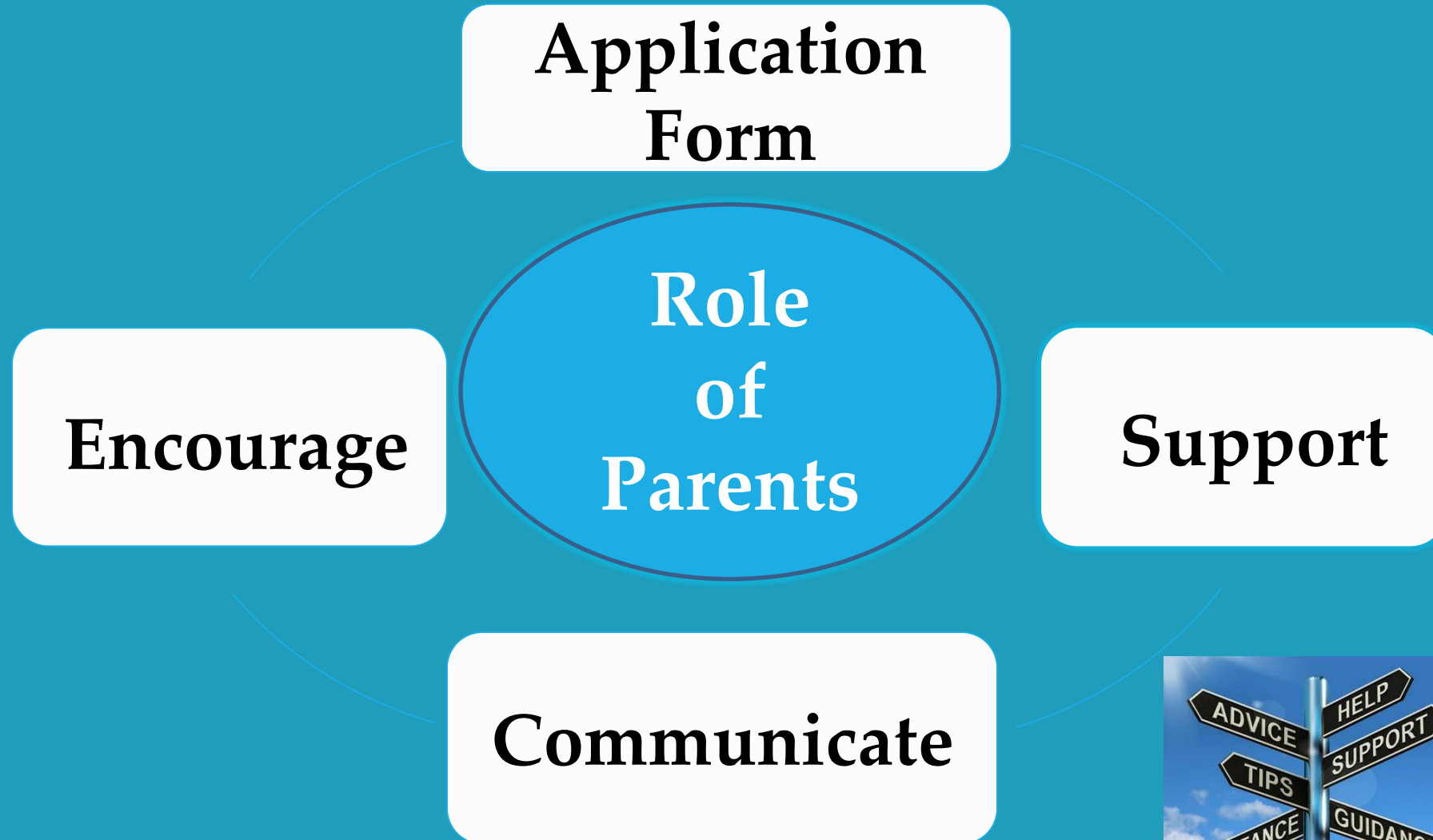
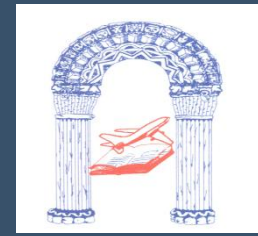


Transition Year Programme



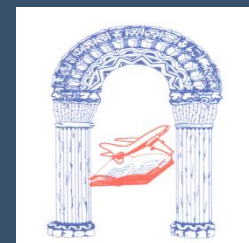


Transition Year Programme





Transition Year Programme



The admissions criteria includes the following.

Students get an opportunity on the application form & at interview to state why they wish to do TY.

Suitability of Student for the programme is decided by the school management as outlined in the Transition Year enrolment policy.

Possible to run up to 3 classes of 24 students.

A shortlist may be created for any remaining applicants.



Transition Year Programme



Transition Year Fee Per Student:

€450

Initial deposit of €200 due with acceptance of place on the course.

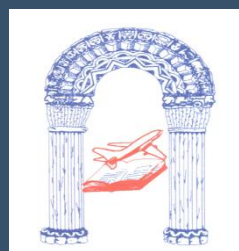
The balance of €250 is due before 1st September 2025

What does the fee cover?

- Outdoor Education activities
- First Aid Qualification
- Industry Visits
- Guest Speakers
- Transport costs for main activities
- Driving Theory Qualification.
- Most TY activities
- Programmes
- Workshops
- Student Services



Transition Year Programme



Míle Buíochas



Contact: Tom.Quealy@stcaimins.ie

Tel: 061 364211