

***Senior Cycle Options***

***Information Booklet for  
Students/Parents/Guardians***

***March 2016***



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***Overview of Department of  
Education and Skills  
Senior Cycle Programmes  
at Scoil Uí Mhuirí***

## **Senior Cycle Department of Education and Skills Programmes at Scoil Uí Mhuirí**

### ***An Introduction***

Scoil Uí Mhuirí provides all Department of Education and Skills programmes at Senior Cycle and these are well planned and co-ordinated.

*These programmes include:*

- Transition Year (TY)
- The Leaving Certificate Established (LC)
- The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
- The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

Core teams have been established for each of the programmes TY, LCA and LCVP and these teams regularly engage in review of these programmes in collaboration with management in an effort to ensure that all resources are utilised efficiently and effectively in the provision of these programmes at the school. The LCVP continues to be the Leaving Certificate of choice for the majority of Leaving Certificate students. A minority of Scoil Uí Mhuirí students are not eligible for the LCVP due to their subject choice and the DES requirement for students to be engaging in specific Vocational Subject Groupings (VSG's). Those particular students engage however with the content of the programme over the course of the two years in order to acquire the skills and competencies which the LCVP promotes.

The characteristics of each of these programmes is outlined in this booklet.

### **Scoil Uí Mhuirí Contact Details for Senior Cycle Options**

<b>Programme</b>	<b>Personnel</b>	<b>Role</b>
Transition Year	Ms. Miriam Howard	TY Co-ordinator
Leaving Certificate Subject Choice	Mr. Aiden Matthews & Ms. Rachel Mc Garrigle	Guidance Counsellor
Leaving Certificate Established	Mr. Aiden Matthews & Ms. Rachel Mc Garrigle	Guidance Counsellor
Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme	Ms. Miriam Howard	LCVP Co-ordinator
Leaving Certificate Applied	Mr. Alan Hurley	LCA Co-ordinator

# *Transition Year Programme*

### ***Transition Year***

The Transition Year (TY) offers pupils a broad educational experience with a view to the attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study. It provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly-structured environment to one where they take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making. Pupils 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. Transition Year should also provide an opportunity for pupils to reflect on and develop an awareness of the value of education and training in preparing them for the ever-changing demands of the adult world of work and relationships.

In Scoil Uí Mhuirí TY remains an optional programme.

### **Transition Year Subjects/Programmes on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2015/2016**

English	Mathematics
Irish	Home Economics
Biology & Physics	Business & Enterprise
Music & Drama	Religious Education
History	Physical Education
French/German	Creative Media
Geography	Paired Reading
Technology	Personal Development & Guidance
Art	Agricultural Science

### ***What is the Purpose of the Transition Year Programme?***

The purpose of the TY programme is to promote maturity:

- Maturity in studies by making students more self-directed learners through the development of general, technical and academic skills
- 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
- Maturity that will help the student make a more informed choice of subject for their Leaving Certificate studies

### ***TY Curriculum***

Each school devises its own unique programme to meet the needs of its students. The programme will offer students a broad and balanced curriculum based on the following layers:

- **Core subjects** – these are usually those subjects that TY students take for the full TY year
- **Subject Sampling** – may involve giving students a taster module of the Leaving Certificate subjects available in the school to help them make informed choices when making their subject choices later. Subject sampling may also expose students to new subjects that they have not experienced before
- **TY specific layer & Calendar layer** – these layers include modules developed both within the school and by external agencies e.g. Mental Health Matters, Photography, Young Social Innovators, Mini Company and ‘once off’ activities including Work Experience, Educational Outings and Musical Productions

### ***How is the Transition Year Programme assessed?***

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 varied and on-going assessment with students themselves becoming involved in diagnosing their own learning strengths and challenges. Project work, portfolio work and exhibitions of students’ work are also encouraged. Each individual school makes its own arrangements for reporting to parents and for the certifications of students who complete a TY programme.



## **Introduction to content of a selection of Transition Year Subjects/Programmes at Scoil Uí Mhuirí**

### ***Personal Development***

Transition Year Personal Development encourages the development of key skills including time management, leadership, personal motivation, decision making, personal responsibility, group/team work etc. Modules can include GAA, Drivers Education, Health Promotion, Environmental Awareness Campaigns, First Aid, Personal Fitness Programmes, Self Defence etc. A range of teaching/learning methodologies are employed which enable pupils to develop learning strategies to suit their own individual abilities and strengths.

### ***Home Economics***

During Transition Year students take part in the “Safe Food for Life” programme. When they are certified they are then able to work in food establishments. Students also participate in “Chef of the Year” Competition, where the winner is awarded with The Grove Cup. A number of our TY students take part in “Cook-It Programme” where they engage in Home Economics activities with students from St. Mary’s, Drumcar.

### ***Drama***

Each year the Transition Year students perform a play or musical for students in the school, their friends, family and the wider community. This is rated by former TY students as one of the many highlights of their year.

### ***Modern Foreign Languages***

All Transition year students in Scoil Uí Mhuirí continue to study their choice of European language. Students are encouraged to communicate in the target language through the use of role plays, questioning each other, e-mailing students in the target country, film studies and often visiting that country through exchange programmes.

### ***Art***

All TY students study art during the year and take part in many practical projects. In the past, our TY students have painted murals on the walls of our assembly hall, completed the backdrops for our plays/musicals, decorated the walls in St. John of God’s, Drumcar and also helped some local primary schools with their backdrops for musical productions.

### ***Enterprise***

As part of their Enterprise studies, our TY students set up and run a bank in school. This bank has a similar employee structure to a real bank and students participate in the AIB Build A Bank Challenge. Students also set up and run mini-company enterprises and enter the Louth County Enterprise Board Student Enterprise Awards and the Transition Year Get Up and Go Competition. TY students also take part in Scoil Uí Mhuirí Dragons' Den early in their TY year.

### ***PE***

During PE in TY the students have an opportunity to try their hand at a number of different leisure pursuits. We utilise both our own facilities in school as well as outside leisure facilities.

This year the students travelled to Carlingford to take part in team-building exercises. They will also undertake a coaching course in a sport of their choice. Other activities open to them include archery, use of the fitness suite and a water based activity as well as an inter-schools triathlon..

### ***English and Communications***

Transition Year English and Communications offers pupils the opportunity to develop their communication skills while engaging with texts and materials that will also enhance the general standard of their English and prepare them for all aspects of Leaving Certificate English.

Modules completed by other TY groups include:

- Drama –generally involves the presentation of a play/music as well as traditional study of play
- Speech and Drama –Leinster School of Speech and Drama Course on Effective Communications –to include certification
- Poetry – analysis and presentation
- Sign – Language
- Reading
- Language analysis and development
- Debating, Speech Writing, Letter Writing, Choral Speaking and Project Work and Radio

### ***Work Experience***

To enable students to experience the world of work and to give them an insight into some possible career choices, the TY class have two periods of work placement over the course of the academic year. During these three weeks they follow a profession, interview the person and experience the type of work involved.

### ***Gaisce***

All TY students are encouraged to take part in the Presidents' Award or Gaisce. They undertake a challenge in each of four areas over a number of weeks. The four areas are as follows:

- Physical e.g. soccer training, dancing, life saving etc
- Community Service e.g. training a junior team, civil defence, first aid etc
- New Skill e.g. learning a foreign language, learning a musical instrument etc.
- Adventure - undertake an expedition on foot, bicycle or canoe for a minimum of two days and one night.

### ***Social Awareness***

In an effort to show students all sides of life they become involved in many projects and fundraising activities.

- Students often champion a social issue of concern and come up with ideas to make the community aware of these and also some actions to help combat such issues
- Students pair up with our own First Year students to help them improve their reading skills
- Our TY group take part in voluntary work by painting and decorating in St. John of God's, Drumcar
- They raise funds for many groups by selling Shades, Badges and organising activities within the school
- They take part in the "Disability in Sport" programme

***Application for Transition Year in Scoil Uí Mhuirí (extract from Admissions Policy)***

- In Scoil Uí Mhuirí, the Transition Year Programme is an optional year long programme for those students who have completed their Junior Certificate
- Information sessions will be held for students and their parents/guardians prior to the issue of application forms for the programme
- The closing date for applications will be determined each year and will be advertised to those for whom it is relevant
- Application forms will be distributed from the school office
- Students who wish to apply for the programme must return a completed application form to the school. Parents/Guardians should assist students completing this form
- All applicants will be interviewed
- An application may be accepted or refused based on the student's record of behaviour, their application to their studies and their commitment to the proposed Transition Year Programme. The interview process will enable the TY co-ordinator to determine such information
- Students and their parents/guardians may be invited back for a second interview prior to the decision been taken to award a place
- Decisions will be communicated prior to the summer holidays each year
- Late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and if there is room in the TY class
- Unsuccessful applicants may appeal the decision

# *Subject Choice*

Students,

You are about to make a very important decision namely, **Subject Choice**. You will be asked to select a number of subjects, usually seven, for your Leaving Certificate. To make a good decision it is essential to have good information. Here at Scoil Uí Mhuirí to help you make the best decision regarding Subject Choices the following supports are available to you:

- *An Information session on Subject Choice*
- *Individual Teachers will give information on their subjects*
- *Follow up information on request from individual Teachers.*
- *Individual interviews with the Guidance Counsellor.*

I would also recommend that you:

- *Visit the Careers Library/Computer Facility [www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie) [www.careerdirections.ie](http://www.careerdirections.ie) [www.careerportal.ie](http://www.careerportal.ie) all links can be found on school guidance website.*  
*[www.guidanceatscoilumhuiri.weebly.com](http://www.guidanceatscoilumhuiri.weebly.com)*
- *Consult text books and past papers*
- *Talk to students who have or are presently studying the subjects which interest you*
- *Discuss the subject with your teacher, parent/guardians*

Choose your ‘package’ of subjects to satisfy your interests and to keep as many careers options open as possible. Keep the following guidelines in mind:

- *Ensure you have the essential subjects for your job/course (check essential subjects charts or Qualifax for matriculation and course requirements) as they can change annually*
- *Select your remaining subjects to maximise your results. Look back over previous examinations/tests and school reports to see what subjects you did well in*
- *Check college prospectuses and QUALIFAX*
- *A third language and a science subject are usually an advantage*
- *A pass in **Ordinary Level Maths** is essential for entry to virtually all courses, so whatever you do over the next two years do not neglect your work in this subject*

By getting as much accurate and up to date information as possible you will make a good Subject Choice decision. If you require any further assistance, please make an appointment to see me.

Regards

Mr. A. Matthews & Ms. Rachel Mc Garrigle

Guidance Counsellors

### *The Leaving Certificate Established*

The Leaving Certificate Established Programme is a two-year cycle offered to students. All Leaving Certificate subjects are offered at Higher, Ordinary and Foundation levels where applicable. **In general, students study seven or eight academic subjects for examination.**

#### **Leaving Certificate Subjects on offer in Scoil Uí Mhuirí 2016/2017**

English	Design and Communication Graphics
Irish	Art
French	History
German	Home Economics
Mathematics	Link Modules
Business	Religion
Biology	Physical Education
Physics	Career Guidance
Technology	Engineering
Construction Studies	Agricultural Science
Music	Geography

### ***Choosing a Career***

Some people know at an early stage what they would like to be - A farmer, an engineer, a salesperson, a teacher, a builder - but many have no definite idea about the kind of work they would like to do. One of the principal needs of young people in choosing a career is information on: **entrance requirements**, opportunities available and awareness of their own **qualities, skills and potential**. Good decisions are based on good information. Towards the end of Third Year most young people face the first big decision of their lives; the choice of school subjects. The choice is an important because, once made, it **may** affect the course of their working lives.

It is essential to know the following **Entrance Requirements**:

- Matriculation requirements (institution entrance requirements).
- Subjects requirements for your chosen career.
- Academic entrance requirements e.g. Points in CAO system.

### ***Points about choosing a Career***

In choosing a career you must take into consideration a number of factors including:

- Employment opportunities available
- What **you** would like to do
- Your talents and attainments, school exams. etc.
- General intelligence, physique and talent

### ***How to set about choosing a career***

A good way to approach career choice is to list on one side your **interests and talents**: Which school subject are you best at? Do you write well? Are you artistic? Do you get on well with other people? Do you work best with a group or do you like to work alone on an exercise or a problem? Are you a leader, the kind of person your classmates pick as a team captain etc.? Would you like outdoor or indoor, manual or deskwork? Against this, list the **careers** that, at first glance, interest you and the **educational qualifications** and any particular **personal qualities** required for each of them. By comparing your two lists, you should be able to narrow down the choice of occupations that you consider would suit you.

A Careers Investigation/Career Interest Inventory should be completed before final choice of subjects is made. Students can access these quickly and easily on:  
([www.qualifax.ie](http://www.qualifax.ie), [www.careerdirections.ie](http://www.careerdirections.ie) and [www.careersportal.com](http://www.careersportal.com))



## A Guide to Leaving Certificate Subjects

### *Senior Cycle Subjects on offer in Post Primary Schools*

Choosing subjects does not necessarily mean that you will be able to study them for the Leaving Certificate. The School Principal has to match the number taking various subjects with available staff at any given time. It may happen that not enough students opt for a certain subject, so a class cannot be formed. Such a subject is then dropped from the option. **So it is important to have a substitution choice that you have researched and that you are happy with should one of your choices prove not to be feasible.** The school has also to put subject choices in various groupings so you may find that two of your chosen subjects are in the same group and you may only chose one of them. So the message is to be aware of any potential difficulties that may arise and also be aware that different schools may have different subject options available.

### **Choosing Subject Levels**

Having chosen one's subjects the next step is to decide at what level one is going to study them. Having carefully examined one's Mock Junior Certificate results you must honestly assess where your potential lies. If you feel one is an honours student and one is willing to put in the study over the two years required to get a good result then one should start with all your subjects at honours level. Remember it is easier to drop to a lower level if your teacher, parents and above all you agree that it is the right move, than to find that the pass is too easy and one needs to move to honours. Your principal and teachers like to see students work to their potential but sometimes movement between pass and honours classes are restricted simply because there is no place available. So the message is; start at the higher level and keep the head down.

## **Senior Cycle Subjects at Scoil Uí Mhuirí**

The following subjects are compulsory:

*Irish, English, Maths, Physical Education, LCVP, Religion and a continental language.*

During 2016/2017, students choose from the following list of subjects:

1. Art
2. Biology
3. Business
4. Design and Communication Graphics
5. Engineering
6. French/German
7. History
8. Home Economics
9. Physics
10. Technology
11. Construction
12. Geography
13. Ag Science

### **Subject Choice**

Students are invited to vote for the subjects they are interested in studying. Subjects will be run for this cycle depending on staffing allocation, student interest and the availability of resources for the specific subject areas.

It is advised that students select subjects that they like and those that they are good at. Having a genuine interest in the subject that you are going to take for the Leaving Cert. is very important. It can be difficult enough at the best of times to motivate yourself to study, but it can be twice as difficult if you are studying subjects which you don't particularly like. Students are normally expected to choose seven subjects.

## English

At Leaving Cert level, the English course aims to develop:

- The ability to critically analyse information, as preparation for the responsibilities and challenges of adult life
- A respect and appreciation for language used accurately and appropriately, and a competence in a wide range of oral and written language skills;
- An awareness of the value of literature for widening horizons, for enhancing their sense of cultural identity, and for personal enjoyment

Almost all universities, colleges and employers require a pass in Ordinary Level English though some will accept Irish instead (e.g. The Institutes of Technology and DCU). English is required to study Nursing in NUI Colleges. Higher level in English is essential for a small number of courses like Journalism, Communications and Speech Therapy.

## Irish

Leaving Certificate Irish builds upon the language developed during Junior Cycle. All four language skills are further developed in order to enable the learner take an active part in the bilingual society in which we live in today in Ireland. The learner is encouraged to develop and share her/his views on a range of topics. The learner is also prepared during Senior Cycle for further study in or through Irish.

Irish is required for all faculties in the National University of Ireland (UCC, UCD, UCG & NUI Maynooth) and NCAD, but you can be exempt from it under certain conditions e.g. being born outside the republic of Ireland or having a specific learning difficulty (dyslexia). Irish is required to study nursing, and the Gardaí require Irish or a third language. Irish satisfies the requirement of a Modern Language for TCD and the Language other than English requirement for UL and DCU. Primary School Teaching requires Higher Level Irish. ***It is important to check if you need Irish for any courses in which you have an interest and equally important the required level.***

## Mathematics

Maths is one of the core subjects which is compulsory in every school. Project Maths, the current leaving cert curriculum, provides students with the opportunity to gain an understanding of and familiarity with several branches of mathematics, as well as developing their overall appreciation of the subject. The branches, or ‘strands’ in question have been chosen because they have applications in everyday life, are useful in other disciplines, and provide a foundation for further education. As a result, maths is very accessible to students at all levels.

Mathematics is a requirement for a great number of jobs and courses. Employers in all areas, including apprenticeships, tend to look for numeric skills and expect at least Ordinary Level Maths. Institutes of Technology require a pass in Ordinary Level Maths for entry to almost all of their courses. The Universities requirements vary but for many of their Science and Business courses higher level may be required.

Higher Level Mathematics is required by relatively few courses but it’s essential for Engineering Honours Degree Courses:- Engineering, Mathematical, Theoretical Physics and Actuarial, reflecting the crucial roles it plays in these disciplines. Foundation Level Mathematics is accepted by some employers and a very few colleges but it earns no points. Most PLC courses will accept it. But, choose wisely and you can still do an Arts, Law, or Social Science Hons Degree. You can also do courses in Music, Art, Drama Sport or Catering.

## French/German

French/German as a Leaving Cert subject aims to bring students closer to fluency in the French/German language, as well as developing a good knowledge of literature, culture, geography, and national history to provide a context for communication. It builds on the knowledge acquired for the Junior certificate.

In these days of fast international transport and modern communications, knowledge of a foreign language will always be useful. You do not need a foreign language for all third level studies but it is a necessity for entry to the National University of Ireland (UCC, UCD, UCG, and NUI Maynooth) unless you are exempt due to a disability (e.g. hearing problems or dyslexia). There are a few exceptions like Nursing or Engineering at NUI Maynooth and Engineering and Agriculture at UCD. The other Universities will accept Irish as ‘a language other than English’ for entry. However, many colleges have it as a requirement for specific courses such as European

Studies, Languages and Marketing. There are opportunities in the areas of telesales and customer support with many companies locating in Ireland.

45% of Leaving Certificate marks are allocated to aural (tape) and oral parts of the exam.

Higher Level	25% oral	20% aural
Ordinary Level	20% oral	25% aural

**Useful for:** Flight Attendant, Air traffic Controller, Archivist, Au Pair, Secretary, Chef, Courier, Hotel Reception, International Marketing, Export Careers, Interpreter, Translator, Pilot, Travel Agency, Journalist, Waiter/Waitress. Importer, Librarian, Department of Foreign Affairs, Teaching.

### Business

Leaving Certificate business creates an awareness of the importance of business activity and develops a positive and ethical attitude towards enterprise. The learning experiences in business develop students' critical thinking, creative and organisational skills while enhancing literacy and numeracy skills using real-life examples. Business provides students with a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in business, marketing, law, enterprise and management.

Business is concerned with how organisations are formed, financed and run, looking at the services involved such as banking, transport, taxation and semi-state organisations. It provides an excellent foundation for anyone contemplating a business career. Though like accounting it is not an essential subject for any course, it would still be very useful.

**Useful for:** Industry, Business, Accounting, Banking, Bookkeeping, Clerical work, Business Teacher, Administration, Hotel Management, Insurance, Receptionist, Store Management, Stock Broking, Sales Marketing, Merchandising Purchasing Officer, Customs & Excise, Taxation, Law.

### Science Subjects

Not all Science courses available at third level require a Science subject, but you would be well advised to do one if you were at all interested in anything in the Science, Medical, Paramedical, and Nursing, Engineering or Technology areas.

**Science subject required for:**

A Science subject is essential for certain courses: The NUI Universities; UCC,UCD,UCG and

Science	Technology	Nursing	Engineering
Radiography	Physiotherapy	Human Nutrition	Medicine
Architecture	Veterinary	Occupational	Pharmacy
Speech and Language Therapy	Dentistry	Therapy	

Maynooth require a Science subject- Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, or Agriculture Science (usually HC) for entry into the faculties of:

All Engineering and science courses (UL)

Industrial Design (UL and NCAD)

- Environmental Health, Food Technology, Health Care Technology, Environmental
- Resource Management (DIT)
- Medical Laboratory Science (CIT)
- Home Economics Teaching
- Nursing.

***Biology***

Biology is the study of life. Through the study of biology students employ the processes of science to explore the diversity of life and the inter-relationships between organisms and their environment. They become more aware of the use of living organisms and their products to enhance human health and the environment.

It forms a knowledge base for hundreds of careers ranging from oceanography and ecology to medicine biotechnology. Though not a specific requirement for entry to Nursing, a student interest in this career would be well advised to study Biology.

Subject requirements for Science, medical and paramedical courses in Trinity College are quite complex, so it is essential that you check their current prospectus and Qualifax.

**Useful for:** Agriculture, Animal Breeding, Animal Nursing, Ambulance Driver, Beautician, Biochemist, Biologist, Catering Chiropody, and Conservation Work. Dentist, Dietician, Farmer, Food Science, Doctor, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Horticulturist, Laboratory Technician,

Marine Biologist, Microbiologist, Nursing, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Science Teacher, Speech Therapist, Veterinary Surgeon, Zoologist.

### ***Physics***

Physics describes the laws and forces that govern natural phenomena. This subject aims to enhance students ability to think logically, observe and understand scientific method. It offers a general education in physics for all students, enabling them to develop an understanding of the scientific method and their ability to observe, to think logically, and to communicate effectively. Science, technology and society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world.

It is of importance in technology and particularly relevant for those interested in specialising in most branches of engineering. In most engineering courses, one will find a high physics content, while some paramedical careers will involve the study of it, e.g. Radiography, Physiotherapy, etc. It is an essential requirement for theoretical Physics (Trinity College) and Electrical Engineering (UCC).

Anyone considering a career in Electronics should be encouraged to do Physics.

**Useful for:** Architecture, Astronomy, Biophysicist, Computer Careers, Dentist, Doctor, Engineer especially electrical and electronic, Geophysicist, Health inspector, Laboratory Technician, Marine Radio Operator, Meteorologist, Naval Services Nurse, Oceanographer, Optician, Pharmacist, Physicist, Physics Teacher, Pilot, Radiographer Scientific Research, Telecommunications, various trade Apprenticeships, Ventilation and Heating Technicians.

### **Agricultural science**

Agricultural science is the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. Plants and animal types associated with agriculture are studied, and investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics and microbiology.

Agricultural Science is still a very popular subject among students in Ireland and reflects our agricultural background, this subject proves popular among students who are looking to study Veterinary, Science or Medicine in college.

**Useful for:** Green keeping, Horticulture, Food Science, Agricultural Advisers, Agricultural Engineering, Sports Turf Management, Environmental Science, Forestry, Farming, Marine Science, Careers in Renewable Energy and Teaching.

## History

History aims to record and analyses things which have happened in the past, with an emphasis on both how and why events occurred. It deals with human experience and it is often studied out of personal interest, but also develops important skills such as self-discipline and critical thinking which are of life-long importance.

History looks at the world of politics, economics, religion and philosophy and is a most enjoyable challenge developing skills of identifying main issues and select relevant information and arguments. The emphasis is on how and why events occurred. It develops important skills such as self-discipline and critical thinking. You have to pay attention to the evidence presented, and to keep in mind factors such as bias and propaganda. You look at different interpretations to evidence to develop a more balanced and grounded judgment. Research skills including consulting wide variety of evidence (such as maps, public records, political cartoons, and memoirs) are developed through the course. When writing (and you will be doing a lot of it) you have to be focused, logical, and give supported arguments.

You also have to complete a special research topic on a subject of your own choosing and worth 20% of the final mark.

### **A good History student has:**

- An interest in the world as it is now and how it came to be so.
- A thirst for knowledge to explain and explore the current situation.
- An ability to express themselves accurately and to support their arrangements with relevant information.
- An appreciation of Historical sources and geographers understand of causes.
- An interest in reading and watching relevant programmes on TV and DVD.

**Useful for:** Journalism, Local and National Radio and TV. History is valuable as a background to studies in Law, Town Planning, Architecture, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Art, Museum and Library work.

History is also a good training for work in Administration, Management and Business. History is excellent for careers in Tourism, Government and Teaching.



## Geography

Geography is the study of people, their environment, and the interaction between the two. The course follows from Junior Cert Geography, and covers very similar topics (such as rocks, soils, oceans, population movements, map-reading, and economic activities) in a lot more detail. There are a large number of optional sections on the course, allowing students to focus on the sections of the course which they like.

There are a large number of optional sections on the course, allowing you (or your teacher) to focus on the section of the course which they like. The courses includes: Patterns and processes in the physical environment, Regional geography, Geographical investigation and electives of: Patterns and processes of economic activities, Patterns and processes in the human environment and for Higher level one of Global interdependence, Genecology, Culture and identity and The Atmosphere-Ocean Environment . You will have to complete Fiend Study worth 20% as part of your exam

**Useful for:** Civil Engineering Town Planning Architecture, Horticulture, Estate Agency, Market Research, Cartographer, Transport Clerk ,Geography Teacher Guide, Geologist, Development work abroad, Forestry Conservation.

## Design and Communication Graphics

This subject develops the ability to comprehend and problem solving and creative thinking skills are developed through the analysis and solution of both 2- and 3-dimensional graphics. Graphics and design are communicated using freehand sketching skills, traditional draughting equipment and CAD.

Although it is not an essential requirement for those wishing to enter architecture or engineering courses, it is generally essential component of mast technical courses.

**Useful for:** All engineering careers, Architecture Army and Air Corps Apprenticeships, CAD, Cartographer, Construction Studies/Trades, Engineering Trades, Fitter, Industrial Designer, Motor Mechanic, Structural Design, Draughtsperson.

## Technology

Leaving Certificate technology provides students with knowledge and skills associated with technology education. Students apply their knowledge and skills creatively in a design-based approach to solving everyday technological problems, mindful of the impact on natural resources and on the environment. The syllabus comprises core areas of study, which are mandatory, and five optional areas of study, from which students choose two.

The modular structure of the course will enable students to appreciate the daily impact of technological developments, develop a broad range of skills required in the use of new technologies and facilitate students in becoming more creative and autonomous long life learners.

**Useful for:** Technology gives students a basic understanding of the principles of engineering, design and project management. If you enjoyed the technology programme at Junior Cert level, and like hands-on activity, this subject may develop an interest in a career in engineering or technology.

## Home Economics

The Home Economics syllabus (social and scientific) provides students with knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes necessary for managing their own lives, for further and higher education and work. The learning experiences in home economics develop flexibility and adaptability in students, prepare them for a consumer-oriented society and provide a learning foundation for a wide range of careers in food, textiles, science, design, social studies and tourism. All areas of the syllabus are extensions of areas covered in the Junior Cert. Home Economics. It is an applied subject combining theory with practice in order to develop understanding and solve problems. It is concerned with the way individuals and their families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs.

**Useful for:** Catering, Chef, Child Care, Consumer Advisor, Dietician, fashion Designer, Food Science, Hairdressing, Health Inspector, Home Ec. Teacher, Hotel Manager, Nursing Social Worker, Nursery and Pre-School Management.

## Art

Philosophy aside, the Art course for Leaving Certificate consists of two main parts. The **practical** side of the course is about developing the student's ability in a range of artistic fields and disciplines. The syllabus permits a huge number of media, from the fine arts such as sculpture, drawing, and painting, to puppet-making, embroidery, calligraphy, metalwork, and pottery.

Students are expected to spend the duration of the course practicing and developing their skills in several of these areas.

Useful for: Art is useful for careers in animation, art teaching, computer design, architecture, fashion design, interior design, graphic design, painting and decorating, photography and art therapy.

## Music

Leaving Certificate Music involves a series of interrelated musical activities within each of the three core areas of musical experience - performing, composing and listening. In performing, students choose from a variety of individual and/or group performing activities. In composing, students develop an understanding of musical structure and form, while the listening component provides for rich aural experiences through exposure to music of different periods, styles and genres.

Music is useful for media work or studies, primary teaching, sound engineering, public relations, library work, speech therapy, film, physical education, communications, production, performance and music at third level.

Note: Students are required to be able to read music to study this subject. Little knowledge of music theory or history is not a problem but a working knowledge of a musical instrument (piano, guitar, voice etc.) is essential.

## Construction Studies

Leaving Certificate construction studies provides students in the senior cycle of post-primary education with an introduction to the knowledge and skills involved in construction technology and construction materials and processes.

This is achieved through both theoretical study and integrated practical projects which provide a basis for the thorough exploration of materials and processes.

The course is essentially about the study of buildings and the built environment. The theoretical part of the course examines all parts of building from the planning stages to the completed building.

There is three separate components a written examination, a practical test, and an assessment of student project work.

## Engineering

Engineering promotes an educational understanding of the materials and a knowledge of the processes associated with mechanical engineering. This is achieved through the development of skills and initiative in the planning, development and realization of technological projects in a safe manner.

There is a good mix of theory and practice involved in this subject. Many students enjoy the practical aspect but are not too happy when it comes to the theory. You will have to present a project as part of the Leaving Certificate examination, so talk to the teacher involved so that you know exactly the balance between the theory and practical aspect in this subject.

There is three separate components a written examination, a practical test, and an assessment of student project work.

**Workshop Processes:** This section represents all the practical processes which may be applied in the school workshop integral with the related theory. This section carries 300 marks in the exam at both levels. Ordinary & Higher: There will be 150 marks for a practical exam and 150 marks for assessment of workshop/laboratory work and projects.

**Materials & Technology:** This section represents the wider knowledge and technology as a whole. In the written exam this section will carry 200 marks at Ordinary level and 300 marks at Higher level.

## Summary of Points System

The points system is basically a selection system used to select students for a course when there are more qualified applications than places on the course. Qualified here means they have satisfied both sets of 'Entry Requirements' (mentioned earlier) for the course

### *Calculating Points*

- A student's points total is calculated from his/her six best subjects
- **Points are calculated from one sitting of the Leaving Certificate only**, in other words you cannot combine Leaving Certs for the calculation of points
- All subjects give **equal points**, except for Higher Level Mathematics where Bonus points are awarded.

### *The points allocated for Leaving Certificate subjects are:*

These tables show the revised CPS that will be introduced from 2017

New Grades	% Marks
H1 / O1	90-100
H2 / O2	80<90
H3 / O3	70<80
H4 / O4	60<70
H5 / O5	50<60
H6 / O6	40<50
H7 / O7	30<40
H8 / O8	0<30

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
H8	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

### **Bonus points for Mathematics**

25 bonus points will continue be awarded in 2017 for higher level mathematics, at grades H6 and above, in a manner similar to the present scheme.

### ***LCVP Link Modules Points***

Points are allocated for the LCVP Link Modules also. **The Link Modules result can be substituted as one of a student's best six subjects.** They are not added in addition to the best six subjects.

<b>LCVP Grade</b>	<b>Points Allocated</b>
Distinction	66 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	28 points

### **Revised Basic Matriculation requirements in 2017**

As a result of the new Leaving Certificate grades, in 2017 the universities and Institutes of Technology will also introduce revised basic matriculation requirements, as follows:

- Where the requirements are currently 5 ordinary level D3 grades, in 2017 these will become 5 O6/H7 grades.
- Where the requirements are currently 2 higher level C3 grades and 4 ordinary level D3 grades, in 2017 these will become 2 H5 and 4 O6/H7 grades.
- Where the requirements are currently 3 higher level C3 grades and 3 ordinary level D3 grades, in 2017 these will become 3 H5 and 3 O6/H7 grades.

**Subject requirements which form part of basic matriculation remain unchanged. Any revised subject requirements specific to individual courses for 2017 will be approved and published by each HEI over the coming period.**

**Recap:** Beyond the core essential subjects of English, Irish and Maths there are relatively few demands in terms of essential subjects for courses and jobs. If you are considering going to any of the National Universities of Ireland (UCC, UDD, UCG, NUI Maynooth) a third language must be among your chosen subjects. Likewise, if you are considering Medical, Paramedical, Nursing, Science or Engineering Hon. Degree you must have a science subject (two for some courses). All Engineering Hon. Degree courses require a Higher Level Maths. What particular grade you need to have in these or other required subjects will be detailed in Qualifax and the prospectus from the college. Make sure you consult these.

When you have made the final selection you should examine them very carefully to see that you have kept your career options open. You should check to see if you have the essential requirements for third-level courses in which you have an interest. It is too late finding you in your Leaving Certificate year that you do not have an essential subject when you come to fill out your CAO form.

# ***The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)***

## ***The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)***

The LCVP is an enhanced Leaving Certificate programme. Students who have specified subject combinations of subjects (VSG's) qualify to engage with the two LCVP Link Modules, Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work. The LCVP therefore combines the established Leaving Certificate with the Link Modules. **Active Learning Methodologies are the key to the success of this programme.** There are many benefits of taking the LCVP for students whether they intend going to college, taking up employment or indeed setting up their own business. A distinction in this programme is the equivalent of a grade 'C' on a higher level paper and is therefore very valuable for students when calculating points for college.

### ***The Link Modules***

#### **Link Module I – Preparation for the World of Work**

Students will research and investigate local employment opportunities, develop job seeking skills such as letter writing, CV presentation, interview techniques; gain valuable practical experience of the world of work; interview and work shadow a person in a career area that interests them

#### **Link Module II – Enterprise Education**

Students will be involved in organising visits to local business and community enterprises; meet and interview enterprising people on site and in the classroom; plan and undertake interesting activities that will build self-confidence, creativity, initiative and develop teamwork, communication and computer skills.

### ***Typical LCVP Students***

Typically, LCVP students take seven Leaving Certificate Subjects plus the Link Modules

### ***Requirements for the LCVP***

- LCVP students must take a minimum of five Leaving Certificate subjects including Irish
- Two or more of the subjects above must be selected from one of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings
- They must follow a recognised course in a Modern European Language (other than Irish or English)
- They must study two additional Link Modules, Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education

### ***Information and Communications Technology***



Students taking the LCVP will have an opportunity to develop and apply their IT skills. Students should also have an opportunity to use audio-visual equipment and computer presentation packages for recording and presentation purposes. During the course of the programme students will develop skills to:

- Enter, edit, store, retrieve and print information
- Word process CVs, letters, reports and create illustrated documents
- Send and receive e-mail messages
- Access and use relevant information from CD Roms and the Internet

### ***Teaching and Learning***

The use of active teaching and learning methodologies is encouraged across the LCVP curriculum. Experiences such as work placement, career investigation, mini-enterprise, business and community visits are an integral part of the programme. The Link Modules encourage students to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired through their Vocational Subjects and in other areas of their Leaving Certificate. Vocational relevance is enhanced by putting in place opportunities for students to plan, organise and engage in active learning experiences inside and outside the classroom.

- Conducting Investigations – businesses, community enterprises, agencies
- Arranging Visits out of school to sites of interest in the context of conducting investigations
- Inviting Visitors to the classroom -adults other than teachers as resource visitors
- Working in Teams – on projects and investigations
- Organising Enterprise Activities – setting up projects as vehicles of learning
- Actively preparing for work – career investigation, job search, practice at interviews
- Experiencing the world of work, work experience, work simulation, work shadowing
- Making presentations to adults and peers
- Using Information and Communications Technology – to access, store, communicate and present information

### ***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%).**

The written examination usually takes place in May of the Leaving Certificate Year. The examination is of two and a half hours duration and consists of three sections which are outline below.

*The structure of the Written Examination is as follows:*

- Section A Audio Visual Presentation
- Section B Case Study (received in advance by students)
- Section C General Questions (4 out of 6)

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. The student's portfolio will contain **six items** as outlined below:

<b>Link Modules – Portfolio of Coursework (Contents)</b> <b>Each LCVP must submit a total of six items for Assessment</b>
<b>Core Items (four)</b> Curriculum Vitae Career Investigation Enterprise/Action Plan Summary Report
<b>Optional Items (any two)</b> Diary of Work Experience Enterprise Report Recorded Interview/Presentation Report on 'My Own Place'

The Portfolio and Written Examination are externally assessed by the Department of Education & Skills/State Examinations Commission.

***Grades for the Link Modules are as follows:***

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Distinction	80% – 100%
Merit	65% – 79%
Pass	50% – 64%

***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.

***Link Modules Points for College***

The Link Modules are recognised for points purposes by the Institutes of Technology and the Universities. The points are allocated as follows:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Universities and Institutes of Technology Award</b>
Distinction	66 points
Merit	46 points
Pass	28 points

*Application for The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) in Scoil Uí Mhuirí*  
*(Extract from Admissions Policy)*

- The entry criteria for the LCVP are determined by the Department of Education and Skills and may be subject to some small changes from year to year
- Criteria for entry to the LCVP will be communicated to third year and transition year students and their parents/guardians each year

# *The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)*

### ***The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)***

The LCA is a modular based Leaving Certificate incorporating a high proportion of Work Experience. It is a very popular route for students who may have more of a vocational orientation. It is an ideal progression route to PLC Courses and is highly regarded in the world of employment. The Leaving Certificate Applied was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and provide opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed. The advantage of Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called 'Sessions' and achievements are credited in each of these sessions. Student engaging in the LCA are also rewarded for their attendance as part of the programme.

### ***Who would benefit most from this programme?***

- Students not adequately catered for by the traditional LC programme
- Students who want to follow a Practical or Vocational orientated programme
- Students who want to follow a course that prepares them for adult and working life

### ***What is the advantage of the Leaving Certificate Applied?***

The advantage of Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called Sessions and achievements are credited in each of these Sessions.

### ***Do LCA students receive a Leaving Certificate?***

Yes. Students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Leaving Certificate from the State Examinations Commission. All credits awarded will be recorded on the Leaving Certificate Applied parchment.

### ***What is the content of the LCA?***

The LCA Programme consists of three main areas:

<b>Vocational Preparation</b>	Vocational Preparation and Guidance (incorporating work experience) English and Communications
<b>Vocational Education</b>	Mathematical Applications Introduction to Information Technology Specialist Subjects (Graphics & Construction, Hotel & Catering, Agriculture/ Horticulture)
<b>General Education</b>	Arts Visual Leisure and Recreation Gaeilge Social Education European Language (French or German) Two Electives (Religion & Craft and Design)

### ***How is the LCA Assessed?***

What's different about the LCA is that students are examined on their work as they go along. Students work towards a maximum of 200 credits over the two years of the course. Candidates who acquire less than 120 credits will receive a Record of Experience. This will also apply to those who leave before the end of the programme. The LCA assessment takes place over the two years under three headings:

- Satisfactory Completion of Modules
- Performance of Student Tasks
- Performance in the Terminal Examinations

### ***Certificate Levels for LCA***

<b>Award</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Pass</b>	60 – 69%	120 – 139 credits
<b>Merit</b>	70 – 84%	140 – 169 credits
<b>Distinction</b>	85 – 100%	170 – 200 credits

### ***Future Careers***

Students who successfully complete the L.C.A. Programme can proceed into many different careers, examples of which are outlined below:

- PLC courses
- Apprenticeships
  - \* SOLAS
  - \* ESB
  - \* Bus Éireann
- Teagasc
- Full - time employment
- Garda Síochanna
- Local Authorities
- Health Boards
- Civil Services
- INTEL
- Banks
- Hewlett Packard
- Aer Lingus



## **Some Feedback from LCA students at Scoil Uí Mhuirí**

What I like about LCA is that it is broken up into 4 sessions over the two years. – Danielle

I really enjoyed work experience. It made me a lot more motivated in school and showed me what I needed to work on to improve my skills for the working world. – Robbie

I really enjoy the practical subjects in LCA. – Shane

I never did cooking until I joined the LCA programme, Now that I have I am really enjoying it because it's fun. – Craig

It's great that with each new session in LCA, it's a fresh start. – Jonathan

As well as having a Year Head, we have a coordinator in LCA. I found this very helpful and supportive throughout the programme. – Robert

I chose LCA because of the subjects it offers. My favourite was Agriculture Horticulture as I really enjoy the outdoors. – Craig

Even though I found the interviews for the tasks a challenge, it was great to pick up credits from each session I completed. – Tara

I really liked that the class sizes are a lot smaller than normal. This allows the teacher to spend a lot more time with each student. - Jamie

*Application for the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) in Scoil Uí Mhuirí (Extract from Admissions Policy)*

- Information sessions will be held for students and their parents/guardians prior to the issue of application forms for the programme
- The closing date for applications will be determined each year and will be advertised to those for whom it is relevant
- Application forms will be distributed from the school office
- Students who wish to apply for the programme must return a completed application form to the school. Parents/Guardians should assist students completing this form
- All applicants will be interviewed
- A commitment to the attendance requirement, work experience and the meeting of deadlines for tasks and assignments is particularly important.
- Students and their parents/guardians may be invited back for a second interview prior to the decision been taken to award a place
- Decisions will be communicated prior to the summer holidays each year
- Late applications will only be considered in exceptional circumstances and if there is room in the class
- Unsuccessful applicants may appeal the decision